

JAPAN Kingdom of Characters

JAPAN: Kingdom of Characters

Wednesday 14 November –
Saturday 1 December 2012

Chambers@241

241 Moorhouse Avenue Christchurch

Gallery Hours:

Monday, Tuesday Closed
Wednesday - Friday 11.00 am – 5.30 pm
Saturday 10.00 am – 2.00 pm
Sunday Closed

Admission Free

Organised by the Japan Foundation & Consular Office of Japan

For information contact Consular Office of Japan
Email: cultural.info.sec@jpncon.org.nz
Tel: (03) 366-5680



In recent years, a subculture related to Japanese anime and manga has rapidly attracted worldwide attention. To make the most of this trend, the Japan Foundation has organized this traveling exhibition called "JAPAN: Kingdom of Characters" which examines characters as one radical aspect of this subculture.

Used unhesitatingly by both adults and children in private and public spaces, before we realize it, these characters have become a part of our daily landscape. One finds, for example, characters printed on bank passbooks and train commutation passes, and as indicated by the regular and seemingly natural presence of stuffed mascots at local police boxes, they have permeated everyday life in Japan to a degree that would be unthinkable in most other countries.

What exactly is a character? Why are they so popular? What kind of society do these characters reflect and what kind of influence do they exert on that society? And finally, where is Japanese character culture headed? In this exhibition, as we introduce the intimate relationship between characters and Japanese people, we hope that the visitors will gain a better understanding of the cultural and historical background behind the Japanese love of characters as well as the future of characters in contemporary Japan.



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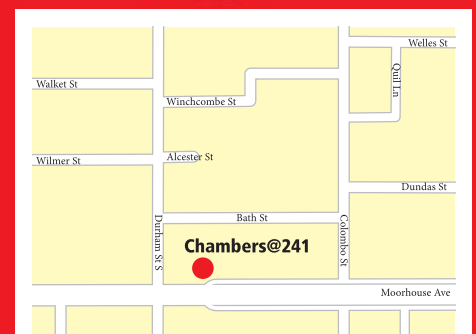
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JAPAN Kingdom of Characters

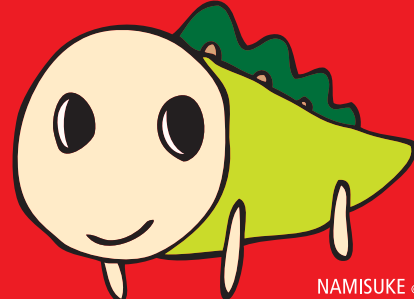


Photographed by Mori Yutaka



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