

縄夏生 Nawagesho: Exhibition by BUAISOU

June 1 – July 13, 2025



縄紋松段之段染暖簾 ©2025 BUAISOU, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

In early summer, the garden of Ryosokuin reaches its most vibrant and enchanting state of the year. Around the pond, bunches of hangesho (*Saururus chinensis*) reveal their distinctive transformation—the upper parts of their leaves turning white like flower petals—creating a dreamlike scene, as if the plants themselves are blooming upward toward the sky. To mark this beautiful beginning of summer, Ryosokuin is delighted to present the exhibition “Nawagesho” starting on June 1, organizing with the internationally renowned indigo farmers and dyers, BUAISOU.

Hangesho also refers to a seasonal division in the traditional Japanese calendar, occurring on the eleventh day after the summer solstice (July 1 this year). This period has long been considered the busiest time for farmers. Around the same period, the indigo fields of BUAISOU in Tokushima Prefecture reach a critical stage as the indigo leaves enter their peak growing season, becoming deeper and richer in blue day by day.

The exhibition will feature approximately 15 artworks, including hanging scrolls, sliding door (Fusuma) artworks, and Noren curtains—each embodying a new sensibility into traditional Japanese indigo dyeing by BUAISOU. The pieces prominently feature the “rope” motif expressed through the traditional katazome stencil dyeing technique. Rope is said to be one of humanity’s oldest forms of creation. Here, its patterns emerge in striking white against deep indigo backgrounds, resembling cosmetic adornments. Notably, the plant hangesho was once called “hankesho” (half makeup) for its white-tipped leaves, a term that eventually evolved into its current name. The front garden of the Shoin Hall, where the exhibition will be staged, will also be in the peak with hangesho—creating a poetic dialogue between the artworks and the natural landscape.

For the duration of exhibition, visitors could experience tea ceremony and tea services at Rinchitei, the tearoom situated within the strolling pond garden designated as a Scenic Spot by Kyoto Prefecture. BUAISOU will be installing some special tatami mat dyed in indigo in the tearoom, crafting a unique space where the beauty of everyday function meets contemporary creation—a fusion of seemingly contrasting elements. We invite you to experience this serene time and space, where indigo and tea weave together a tranquil atmosphere, encouraging personal reflection and storytelling.



Nawagesho : Exhibition by BUAISOU

Date : June 1 to July 13, 2025, Open daily throughout the exhibition

Time : 12:00 - 16:00 (Close the door at 16:30)

Place : Ryosokuin / 591 Komatsu-cho, Higashiyama-ku, Kyoto City, Kyoto

Admission : ¥1,000, Highschool students or younger ¥500 (Hondo and Shoin halls visit)

Group more than 20 people ¥900

○ If you wish to stroll through the garden, please apply for the special admission by reservation.

Special admission by reservations (with Garden walk during Hangesho season)

Check-in time : 9:30 / 10:00 / 11:00 (Please make a reservation in advance through the website)

Capacity: 20 people per time slot (first-come, first-served) Admission : ¥2,000

○ You can enjoy viewing the artworks and strolling through the garden during the tranquil morning hours.

Please note that cancellations are not accepted after a reservation has been made.

Reservations : https://www.asoview.com/channel/activities/ja/ryosokuin/offices/1768/courses?language_type=ja

Tea Ceremony • Matcha Serving

A small-group tea gathering and tea service will be held in 'Rinchitei,' a teahouse within the garden designed in the preferred style of Omura Baiken. Normally closed to the public, this special event allows guests to enjoy a bowl of matcha and some sweets while viewing artworks in a uniquely arranged setting curated by BUAISOU.

○Matcha Serving

Date & Time: Daily from 10:00 to 15:00

(Subject to change due to temple events or tea ceremonies)

Fee: ¥1,500 (tax included / no advance reservation required; payment on the day at reception)

○Tea Ceremony

Dates: 6/1, 8, 21, 29, 7/5, 12

Time: 2 sessions per day at 13:00-14:00 / 14:00-15:00,

14:00-15:00 session only on 7/5

Capacity: 5 people per session

Fee: ¥13,200(tax and admission included, plus BUAISOU's tenugui hand towel)

Reservations : <https://booking.exp.is/for/xexe/buaisou-teaceremony>

Exhibition goods and Hangesho special gift items

Indigo dyed tenugui hand towel by BUAISOU ¥6,600 (tax included)

Hangesho-mamori (Amulet) ¥2,000

Water colored Goshuin (Special stamp) ¥1,000

Hangesho shaped sweet (Made by Okashimaru) ¥3,300 (tax included)



Contacts:

BUAISOU info@buaisou-i.com

Ryosokuin communications pr@ryosokuin.com

BUAISOU

In 2015, Kakuo Kaji, a dyeing and indigo master and representative of BUAISOU, started a venture with his team after Japan's Community Revitalization program in Kamiita Town, Tokushima Prefecture, known for its Awa indigo production. They undertook the entire traditional indigo dyeing process — from cultivating raw indigo plants, producing suku (fermented indigo), dyeing, designing, to manufacturing — which had traditionally been divided among specialists. BUAISOU has created original indigo-dyed products, collaborated with various partners, and promoted the natural indigo's appeal through exhibitions and workshops both in Japan and internationally. Their indigo dye, fermented using only suku, wood ash lye, wheat bran, and shell ash, is distinguished by its deep, beautiful color and high colorfastness.

In 2018, realizing a long-held dream, they completed a pair of indigo-dyed jeans dyed by hand, skein by skein. Moving forward, they aim to cultivate cotton, weave fabrics, and manufacture jeans while maintaining vintage sewing machines. In 2022, BUAISOU held a solo exhibition at CHAT (Centre for Heritage, Arts and Textile), an art center in Hong Kong. In 2025, their collaboration with UNIQLO culminated in the release of the "DISNEY IN BLUE" collection.

<https://www.buaisou-i.com>
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Ryosokuin

Ryosokuin was founded in 1358 by the disciples of Zen master Ryuzan Tokken (1284–1358) upon his passing. From his young age, Ryuzan demonstrated exceptional talent in Chinese poetry and prose. He traveled alone to Ningbo, China, where he spent more than 40 years journeying across various regions. During his time there, he revived the Huanglong branch of the Linzai school of Zen Buddhism, which had been on the verge of extinction. At the invitation of the Ashikaga brothers—Takauji and Tadayoshi—founders of the Muromachi shogunate, Ryuzan returned to Japan. He went on to serve as abbot of prominent Kyoto temples such as Kenninji, Nanzenji, and Tenryūji. Through his efforts, he laid the foundation for Ryosokuin to become one of the foremost temples of "Gozan Bungaku" (Literary works of the five mountain temples), which flourished throughout the Muromachi period.

In the Edo period, Ryosokuin continued to play a central role in the academic world. Its 10th abbot, Ungai Tochiku, was awarded the prestigious title of *Sekigakuroku*—the highest honor bestowed upon distinguished scholars among the Five Mountains temples—recognizing his exceptional scholarly achievements. From early on, the temple amassed one of the finest collections of Chinese-style paintings (*karamono*), including works such as *Lesson of 3 great oriental religion* (*Sankyo*), attributed to the monk-artist Josetsu and now designated Japan's Important Cultural Property. During the Muromachi to Edo periods, many cultural luminaries frequented Ryosokuin—prominent artists like Hasegawa Tohaku, and Ito Jakuchu, as well as literary figures like Ueda Akinari. The temple is also located near Gojozaka, an area famed for ceramics. Diary preserved at the temple describe the lending and borrowing of artworks, Zen texts, and ceramics, indicating that Ryosokuin served as a cultural salon fostering exchanges across various disciplines—art, craft, literature, and more—since ancient times.

During the special viewing periods held several times a year, Ryosokuin exhibits artworks by masters closely associated with the temple, such as Tohaku, and Jakuchu. In recent years, the temple has also hosted numerous exhibitions featuring contemporary artists from Japan and abroad, whose works were inspired by Ryosokuin itself. Major past exhibitions include hanging scrolls and sliding door (*fusuma*) paintings etc. by Michaël Borremans (2014), Hiroshi Sugimoto (2021), and Elizabeth Peyton (2024), as well as a large-scale installation spanning the temple's gardens and landscape by Bosco Sodi and Izumi Kato in their joint exhibition (2024). The programs include a wide range of fields—architecture, crafts, design, and fashion—reflecting Ryosokuin's ongoing commitment to exploring new expressions of Zen that resonate with the present day.

<https://ryosokuin.com>
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