

International Exchange

Since its opening, the Chihiro Art Museum has been striving to help people learn and appreciate the work of Chihiro Iwasaki and Picture Book culture through various efforts both in Japan and overseas. We participated in the Bologna and Bratislava children's book fairs; we visited numerous artists, Picture Book museums, and libraries around the world; we also received visits from foreign artists. Through

these efforts, we have worked to promote active international exchanges.

In recent years, we have held a number of Chihiro Iwasaki exhibitions in Asian countries, including China, South Korea, and Vietnam. Using PiezoGraphic reproductions, these traveling exhibitions have provided many Asian people with an opportunity to see Chihiro's artwork.



With Binette Schroeder (far left) visiting Japan, 1988



Gallery Talk with Cai Gao a Chinese picture book artist, 2006



Květa Pacovská working on her art in the courtyard, 1990



Hussein Gamaan visits the museum, 1990



With Květa Pacovská, 1999



Mr. and Mrs. Wu Jianhua visit the museum, 2002



Józef Wilkoń, in high spirits in Chihiro Park, 2005



Director of the Picture Book Museum Burg Wissem in Troisdorf, Germany (second from right) signs the guest book, 2005



Autograph session with Lee Uk-Bae, 2006



South Korean illustrators visit the museum, 2006



Park Chul-Meen viewing the works of picture book illustrators from around the world, 2006



Brian Alderson, a British picture book researcher, 2007

2004

PiezoGraph Exhibition

Liaoning Normal University,
Dalian, China

● From visitors' "Comments and Opinions"
"The desire for peace is a timeless and borderless theme. In the works of Chihiro Iwasaki, I feel that there is another world — a world with hope for peace."

"My heart is filled with joy as I come face to face with my childhood memories. How about you?"



Students intently viewing the works and picture books at the venue; for this exhibition, the students arranged everything—from venue preparation to decoration.



The opening ceremony, crowded with some 200 people, including a group from Japan

2005

Exhibition featuring PiezoGraphs and the history of picture books

Paju Book City, South Korea

The exhibition was held in Paju Book City, a publishing community built in the suburbs of Seoul. Along with Korean folk paintings and rare original picture book illustrations from the 1950s, PiezoGraph reproductions of Chihiro's works were on display, as well as reproductions of Japan Picture Book Award-winning works, and precious materials that illustrate the history of Japanese and Western picture books.



A visit by a group of librarians



Preparing for the exhibition

2005

PiezoGraph Exhibition

Vietnam Women's Museum, Hanoi, Vietnam

● From visitors' "Comments and Opinions"

"I was really looking forward to this exhibition because I had never seen pictures by Japanese artists. Coming to the exhibition I was so surprised. After seeing all the pictures, I wanted to appreciate their beauty again, and ended up visiting three times in two days. Using delicate colors, Chihiro Iwasaki's artwork captures the beauty of children very well. Her lines, though not strong, clearly reveal her gentleness to the viewers. I hope I will get the opportunity to view her artwork again."



The colorful opening ceremony, with guest Nguyen Thi Vinh (third from right), also attended by Norio Hattori, Japan's ambassador to Vietnam



Visiting Tam Ngai Village, Tra Vinh Province, setting of the story "Mother is Not at Home" Interaction with the children of Nguyen Thi Ut, the main characters in the story

2005

PiezoGraph Exhibition

Women's Museum of South Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh City,
Vietnam

● From visitors' "Comments and Opinions"

"I was truly moved. I had never seen pictures that depicted children's purity with such accuracy. I don't think, however, that this purity comes only from the various poses of the children depicted in the paintings, or from the simple sketches done in pastel or pencil. Instead, I think it comes from the artist's deep love of children, a love that is expressed in her pictures."

"Chihiro's picture of the sea left a deep impression on me. I think it is very beautiful, realistic, and also unique. I can tell that it is the work of a person who loves nature and peace."



The venue was crowded with students from primary and middle schools in the city



Gallery talk with the museum staff, crowded with attendees

2006

Lectures on picture books and a discussion meeting

Nanjing Art Institute, Nanjing, China

Under the themes “Expressions and History of Picture Books” and “Attractive Picture Books,” lectures and a lively discussion meeting were held at the Nanjing Art Institute, with its students from a newly established Picture Book Department and graduates now active as picture book artists.



Takeshi Matsumoto (left) gives a lecture



2006

PiezoGraph Exhibition

Tra Vinh Museum, Tra Vinh, Vietnam

Inspired by the exhibition that was held in Ho Chi Minh City the previous year, this exhibition was held in Tra Vinh, the capital of Tra Vinh Province, to which Tam Ngai Village belongs.



Venue decoration by the entire staff



Venue beautifully prepared for the exhibition

2006

PiezoGraph Exhibition and meetings

War Remnants Museum, Peace Village, Ho Chi Minh City/Hanoi, Vietnam

● From visitors' "Comments and Opinions"

“Dear Chihiro,
Among the various areas in the War Remnants Museum, the most impressive for me was the room in which your pictures were on display. The children in your pictures reflect many different feelings and emotions, and evoke memories of my childhood during the war and memories of other children. Your pictures are depicted in lines that evoke the most vivid images of things and people. Thank you for your simple but special artwork.”



Opening Ceremony



Visiting the Vietnam Women's Union (cosponsor of the Chihiro exhibitions in Vietnam) in Hanoi



Child victims of Agent Orange looking happy in Chihiro T-shirts at Peace Village (a medical center for children)



With the newly married Mr. and Mrs. Nguyen Duc



Gallery talk with the staff