Kaikei
Timeless Beauty from the Kamakura Period

2017
4.8 Sat. – 6.4 Sun.

Museum Closed: Mondays (with the exception of May 1)
Exhibition Hours: 9:30 am – 5:00 pm (last admission 4:30 pm)
Special Extended Hours: On Fridays and Saturdays, open until 7:00 pm (last admission 6:30 pm), and the Exhibition from the Permanent Collection open until 8:00 pm (last admission 7:30 pm)

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Nara National Museum
Special Exhibition

The Buddhist Master Sculptor

Kaikei

Timeless Beauty from the Kamakura Period

Kaikei is one of Japan’s most representative Buddhist sculptors. Along with his colleague Unkei, he is said to have played a major role in perfecting the Kamakura-era style of Buddhist sculpture. The number of confirmed works by Kaikei is remarkably large, and they are indispensable in gaining a concrete understanding of trends in early Kamakura sculpture. Nevertheless, many of the details of Kaikei’s personal background and his atelier remain unclear.

This exhibition is an attempt to assemble the representative works of Kaikei under a single roof in order to trace his outstanding achievements as preserved within the history of Japanese Buddhist art. In addition, by displaying paintings that have an intimate connection with the creation of Kaikei’s sculpture as well as source materials that demonstrate his relationship with high-ranking Buddhist prelates, we hope to approach the real Kaikei, whose portrait has long remained veiled in a series of mysteries.

Nara National Museum

50 Nishi-kujo-cho, Nara 630-8213 Japan
http://www.nara-art.jp

Access: 20 minutes walk east from Nara Station, or take the City Loop Bus to “Higashinara/Kosansuji” station.