



# PRESS RELEASE

2008 No.03 October 1, 2008

## Masuda Akihisa Photo Exhibition: Bankoro and Seien Bunko

Saturday October 11 – November 29, 2008

Seien Bunko, Shibusawa Memorial Museum

The Shibusawa Memorial Museum maintains two buildings built in the 1910s and 1920s part of the former residence of Shibusawa Eiichi. Bankoro and Seien Bunko are both designated by the government as Important Cultural Properties. Masuda Akihisa, a prominent architectural photographer, captured the unique beauty of the two buildings with his camera. The exhibition of 20 photos of the Bankoro and 30 photos of the Seien Bunko by Masuda is being held in the Seien Bunko in the Old Shibusawa Garden adjacent to the main museum building. We hope you will enjoy the elegance and peaceful atmosphere of the historical buildings in the autumn garden.

### Bankoro

The Bankoro is a finely crafted Western and Japanese cottage built and presented to Shibusawa Eiichi in 1917 by the Shimizu Gumi (now the Shimizu Corporation) to celebrate Shibusawa's 77th birthday. Shibusawa used the Bankoro as a reception room to welcome his many important Japanese and foreign guests. A wooden one-story building, the Bankoro incorporates the functions and designs of a Japanese tea room and furnished with furniture specially commissioned from artistic craftsmen.

### Seien Bunko

The Seien Bunko is a Western-style reinforced concrete structure presented by the Ryumonsha (predecessor of the Shibusawa Eiichi Memorial Foundation) to Shibusawa Eiichi in 1925 in honor of his 80th birthday and his promotion from baron to viscount. It was initially intended to be used as a library but was instead mainly used to entertain guests. Beautiful stained glass windows and colorful tiles add an elegant touch to the sedate and solidly built structure.

### Masuda Akihisa

Masuda was born in Tokyo in 1939 and graduated from the Department of Photography in the College of Art at Nihon University. After retiring from the Taisei Corporation, he established the Masuda Akihisa Photography Office. He has been taking photos of architecture and the heritage of modern Japan more than 40 years and has published many books.

### About the SHIBUSAWA MEMORIAL MUSEUM

The Shibusawa Memorial Museum collects and displays documents and artifacts from the life of Shibusawa Eiichi (1840-1931), a leader in business and finance who fostered the growth and development of the modern Japanese economy. Throughout his life he advocated for the harmony of morality and economy; playing an important role not only in the business world but in the fields of social welfare, education and private-sector diplomacy as well.



### Masuda Akihisa Photo Exhibition: Seien Bunko and Bankoro

Dates: Saturday October 11 – Monday November 29, 2008  
12:30 – 15:45

Venue: Exhibition Room, Seien Bunko, Shibusawa Memorial Museum  
2-16-1 Nishigahara, Kita-ku, Tokyo  
Tel: 03-3910-0005 / Fax: 03-3910-0085

Admission: Adults 300 yen  
Elementary, junior high school, and high school students 100 yen  
Three Museum Ticket: Adults 720yen / students 240yen  
20% discount for groups of 20 or more

### Related Events:

#### Gallery Concert and Talk

Sunday, October 12 13:30-15:30

Reading Room, Seien Bunko, Shibusawa Memorial Museum

Piano Chinatsu Masuda

Talk Chinatsu and Akihisa Masuda.

\* Due to capacity of the venue, attendance is limited to 40. Please reserve a seat via the internet (<http://www.shibusawa.or.jp>). Reservations accepted on a first come first served basis.

### Contacts

Megumi KAWAKAMI, Curator

Ruri KATO, Public Relations

Shibusawa Memorial Museum <http://www.shibusawa.or.jp>

2-16-1 Nishigahara, Kita-ku, Tokyo

Tel: 03-3910-0005 / Fax: 03-3910-0085

## Application for the Use of Press Images

Attn. Mr. Jun Inoue

Director

Shibusawa Memorial Museum

Date:     /     /

Applicant Name:

Signature

Company/Institution:

Address:

Tel:

I hereby apply for the use of images from the exhibition “Masuda Akihisa Photo Exhibition: Bankoro and Seien Bunko” under the conditions stated below:

1. Images to be used

a. Meeting Room, Bankoro

b. Exterior of the Seien Bunko

2. Purpose of use (title of publication etc.)

3. Media

\*total number of pages:

\*length of the article:

\*circulation:

4. Date of issue

5. Details of usage

6. Conditions

- \* The images must be borrowed in the form of printed media at the Shibusawa Memorial Museum and returned to the Museum immediately after use.
- \* The provenance of the images must be clearly noted.
- \* The images cannot be used for purposes other than those stated in No.2 above.
- \* The applicant must send two copies of the publication to the Shibusawa Memorial Museum.
- \* The applicant must immediately inform the museum of any changes to the above information.