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University of  
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**“Shiguchi: The Hidden Art of Japanese Joinery”**

**A contemporary art exhibit at The Gamble House, Pasadena CA**

**On view September 27, 2018 - November 4, 2018**

Department of  
the Interior National  
Historic Landmark

State of California  
Historic Landmark

Release Date September 2018

City of Pasadena  
Landmark

Third in a series of bi-annual contemporary art exhibits at The Gamble House, “Shiguchi: The Hidden Art of Japanese Joinery” reinterprets centuries-old Japanese timber-frame joinery as a compelling expression of contemporary art. Originally crafted by anonymous builders for traditional Japanese farm houses, Shiguchi joinery, by its nature, remained hidden from view while it connected the massive structural timbers of farm houses. A new exhibit organized by historian and preservationist Yoshihiro Takishita brings to light the intricate craft of this ancient art, known as Shiguchi.

Since in the 1970s, Yoshihiro Takishita has successfully rescued dozens of Japanese farm houses, or minka, from the increasing threat of development, particularly in the mountains of Gifu Prefecture. By carefully disassembling the houses, timber by timber, and reassembling them in new locations, many of these historic houses have been able to enjoy a second life. Not all of the constituent parts have been able to be re-purposed in the new locations, however. Not wanting to discard any remnant examples of Shiguchi, Mr. Takishita carefully stored the structural “orphans” of unused timber joints. He soon realized that these objects could stand on their own, literally and figuratively, as individual works of art. Over time, Takishita rescued enough structural fragments that a coherent collection of remarkable aesthetic value emerged. Both art and craft, these examples of traditional joinery are now exhibited for the first time in America at The Gamble House, itself a masterpiece of architectural wood craft. Shiguchi joinery, though centuries old, survives as a precise and elegant tribute to a Japanese traditional of building once common throughout the land.

“Shiguchi: The Hidden Art of Japanese Joinery” is an exhibit of 40 examples of timber-frame joinery that formerly fastened massive farm-house posts, beams, rafters and ridges to make up Japanese minka, or farm house, construction. While the original makers’ identities are lost to history, curator Yoshihiro Takishita offers a fresh perspective on their craft, naming the works, if not the workers. In doing so, Takishita has envisioned a new art form, revealed by hidden craft.

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The Gamble House is a National Historic Landmark in Pasadena CA designed by architects Charles and Henry Greene in 1908. It is open for public touring Thursday through Sunday, noon to 3:00 pm. For tour reservations, please visit [www.gamblehouse.org](http://www.gamblehouse.org).

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Additional exhibition details, tour information, lecture and event dates are available on our website at [www.gamblehouse.org/shiguchi](http://www.gamblehouse.org/shiguchi)

For information on sponsorship opportunities, interviews, photo appointments and general inquires please contact, Sheryl Scott, Marketing Manager, [sherylsc@usc.edu](mailto:sherylsc@usc.edu), 213-705-9772

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