

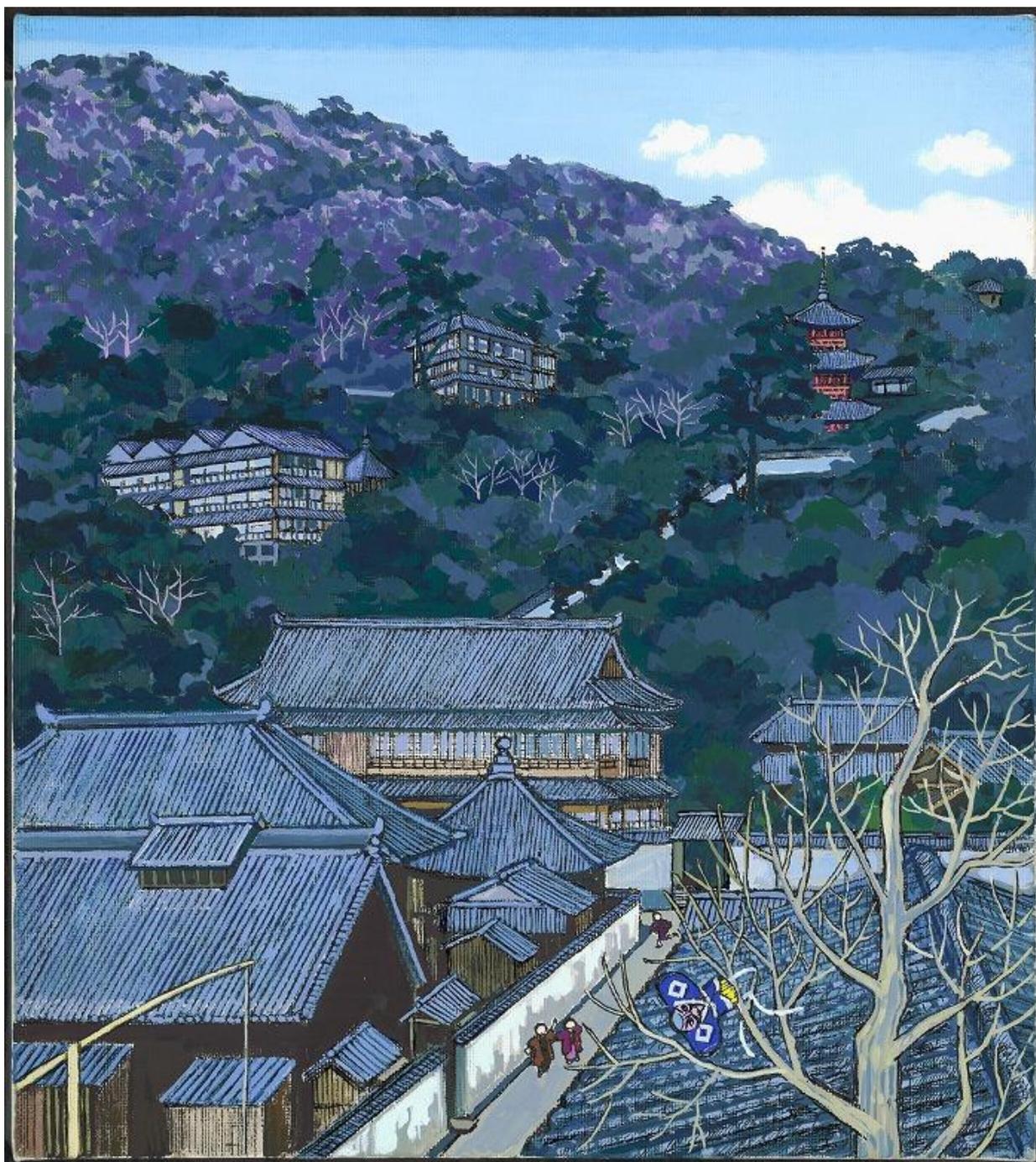
Otakiyama 大滝山

Otakiyama lies at the foot of Mt. Bizan in Tokushima City. This area of the city has long been a temple district, it is a peaceful place where people often go to pray. Otakiyama remains popular in spring when the cherry blossoms are in bloom. A pagoda stood here for almost 200 years until it was burnt down by the US air raid of 1945.

**Teramachi 寺町**

Teramachi, the temple district which faces Otakiyama, is home to many large temples built during the Hansei period. This area can become crowded during the cherry blossom season and for the Gion festival in summer but, throughout the rest of the year, this is a quiet area of the city that people out for a stroll might pass through and stop to visit the *yakimochi* shop for some grilled rice cakes. The rattle of the water seller's

cart and the loud chatter of women doing laundry carry far along these quiet streets.



Taki no Yama 滝の山

In the Hansei period, Otakiyama was always crowded as people from all walks of life prayed there. In spring, people listened to the sound of the waterfall and climbed up the stone steps which were covered in cherry

blossom petals. In autumn, people would look at the red maple leaves and eat grilled rice cakes as they rested their feet. It was a place of rest and relaxation all year round. There were several prosperous restaurants along the mountainside such as ‘Sangi-tei’, ‘Shiraito-tei’, ‘Ume-ya’, ‘Kasugana’ and ‘Tamamizu’.

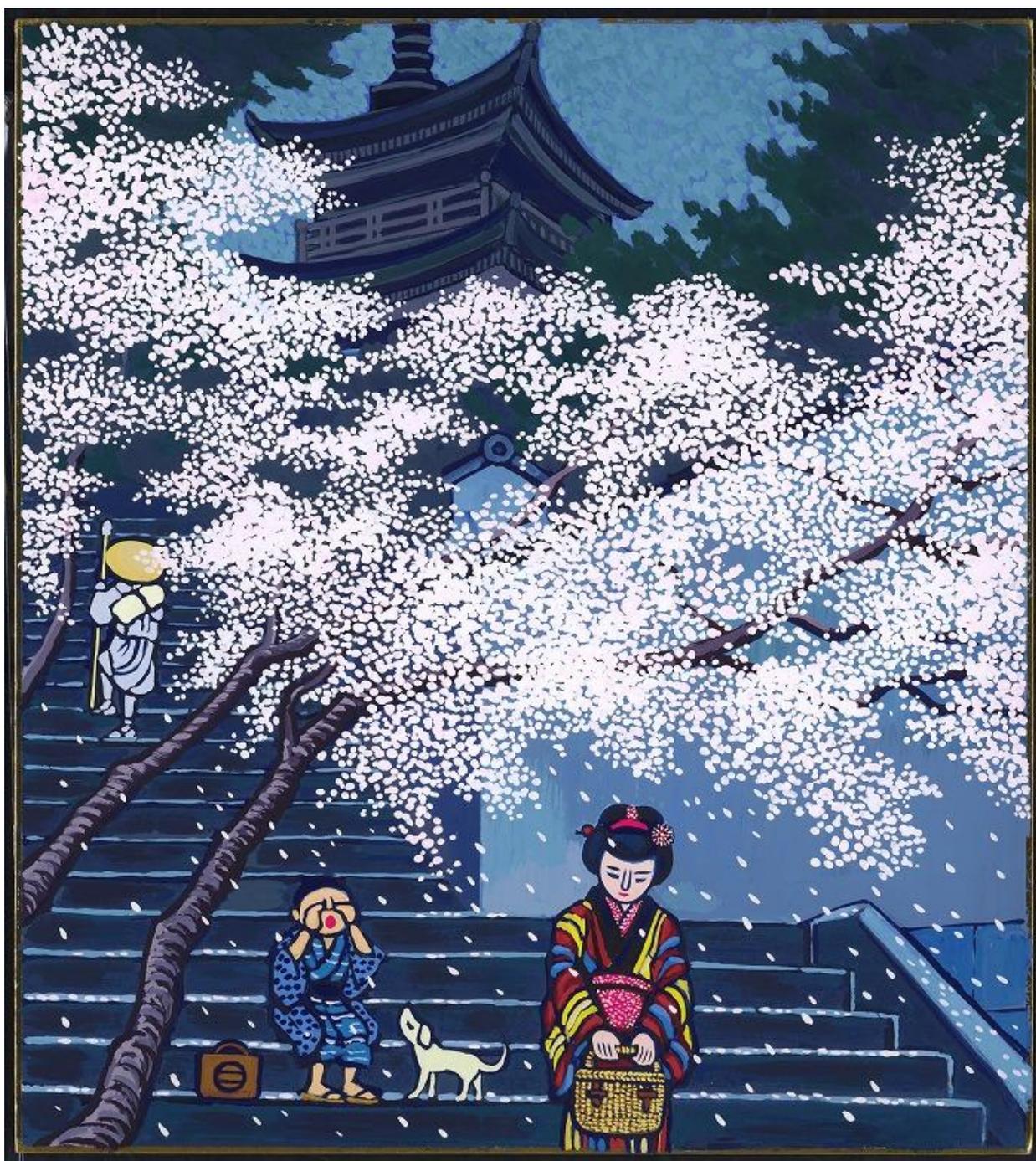


The cherry blossom on Taki no Yama 滝の山の桜

When Hachisuka became feudal lord of Tokushima, the Jimyouin temple at Shozui was moved to the foot of Mt. Bizan and merged with Konji-ji temple, one of the 88 temples of the Shikoku pilgrimage, which stands at Nyuta. It became known as 'Otakiyama Jimyuin Konji-ji'. This temple was disbanded in the Meiji period, but the pagoda, temple gate and deva statue remained, until they were destroyed by US air raid in 1945.

From the top of the mountain the plains of the Yoshino River can be seen,

and, though it is difficult to see where the Kii Channel begins through the spring haze, one can at least make out the white glow of the Yoshino, a white reminiscent of the white walls of the indigo storehouses along the Shinmachi River.



Otakiyama in spring 春の大滝山

Otakiyama was commonly known as *Taki no Yama*. During the mid-Meiji period the area around Shiraito Waterfall, the pagoda and the Gion Shrine was turned into a public park. In spring, when the cherry blossoms start

to bloom, people would climb to the park with large bento boxes.



The three-story pagoda at Otakiyama 大滝山三重塔

Otakiyama Jimyouin Konji-ji is said to have been built in the Kanen period (1748-1751). It included a red, three-storey pagoda. After the abolition of this temple in the Meiji period the pagoda became a symbol of Otakiyama. The pagoda was in harmony with the colors of each season – the pink

cherry blossoms of spring, the fresh greens of summer, the red leaves of autumn and the white snow of winter. The pagoda was enjoyed by the local community for nearly 200 years until it was burned down during the US air raids in 1945. The Yakushi Hall and temple gate, which contained a deva statue, were also destroyed.