

Afterword あとがき

Tokushima Bunri University has provided this digital archive to preserve the work of Professor Kazuo Iihara for future generations. Professor Iihara is an artist who has used his unique style of painting to give an insight into the world around him. These artworks and their accompanying explanations reveal what life was like in Tokushima in days gone by and show how the prefecture has changed over time.

These distinctive scenes of Tokushima are important cultural assets that should be preserved and made accessible to a wider audience. We hope this online digital collection will allow more people to enjoy this body of work, we are sure you will be able to learn a great deal from Professor Iihara's one hundred and seventy scenes of Tokushima. We hope that you enjoy browsing this gallery to experience Tokushima in days gone by.

The motivation for digitising Tokushima's cultural assets was strengthened on March 11th 2011 when The Great East Japan Earthquake struck and a tsunami of unprecedented scale was generated.

Tens of thousands of lives were lost, people's homes were destroyed and vital infrastructure was severely damaged. A great deal of the material history of the Tohoku region, including prized cultural assets, was irreparably damaged or lost.

Our social history and material culture is in constant danger of becoming extinct or forgotten in an ever changing world. However, recent technological innovations have made it possible to digitally store certain aspects of our local culture. It is hoped that this digital archive will give an invaluable insight into the history and culture of Tokushima Prefecture for generations to come.

These English explanations have been written by Austin Smith with the great help of Shinobu Watari and Randall Crossman. We sincerely appreciate their voluntary contributions to this project. Introductory sections and other additional information have been added to aid understanding for the foreign reader.

Please take your time browsing the collection,

Tokushima Bunri University Media Design Department