

UNRYU-ZU BY OHGUSHI

Background

"Saijo Inari-san Myokyoji Temple" in Okayama City, Japan, has been loved by the local people for over 1200 years. An ink painting artist OHGUSHI has depicted "Hachidai-Ryuo-Son", the god of water, who has been enshrined in this temple since ancient times.



Idea

OHGUSHI, hoping to express the god of water as "pure, bountiful water" itself, presented his work with a "unique and unprecedented style", instead of following the traditional Japanese conception of beauty.



The painting stretches 10 meters long and was painted with traditional Japanese calligraphy tools in a series of meticulously detailed renderings.



The clouds and storms in the background have been depicted with irregular ink smudging to represent the uncontrollable natural phenomena. The result is a majestic and dynamic work of art in which figuration and abstraction coexist.



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Unryu-zu* | Total length: W9.87m x H 1.83m | Production time: 6 years | Painted on 8 panels of fusuma (sliding paper partitions) | Public viewing: 26th June, 2022 – 22nd July, 2022 | *Unryu-zu: painting of dragon and clouds



The storm on the right side portrays the current social challenges (under COVID-19 and the global conflicts), while the blank space on the left represents light. These are a reflection of the artist's wish for a bright future ahead for all mankind. The fusuma painting will be displayed for the public once every year and will be passed down through centuries and centuries to come.