

RYOSOKU

RYOSOKU was initiated in 2018 by a priest, an architect, and a curator with the aim of achieving a better quality of life through Zen. RYOSOKU is based at the Ryosoku-in Temple. Ryosoku-in is the sub-temple of Kenninji Temple in Kyoto's Gion district, and was founded in the fourteenth century. Kenninji Temple is famous for its nationally treasured *Fujin and Raijin* (Wind God and Thunder God) screen, as well as for being where tea culture was born in Japan. Ryosoku-in Temple was, in a way, the "educational" division of the Kenninji Temple and priests there took charge of hosting the Korean delegation during the Edo period. The temple's priest, a Chinese disciple, interpreted Chinese dim sum as vegetarian manju (bean-filled buns), which are now widely enjoyed throughout Japan.

RYOSOKU aims to build the perfect place to meditate for our time and to foster healthy minds focused on creating a better society. The program consists of two main activities: creative programs and educational programs. Creative programming is geared toward reimagining the temple site, including renovations and the building of new facilities to host meditation, bathing, dining, accommodations, and the graveyard.

Education programs will help rethink the role of the individual and society, and to experience the role of the Zen temple in the community through temple school, *zazen* (seated meditation), and food-based programs.

The programs are for members and are by reservation only.

Ryosoku-in Temple Kennin-ji Temple

RYOSOKU

RYOSOKU Programs — 2019

Zen Self Care with Tea and Sweets

Saturday July 20 and Sunday July 21

A new interpretation of the traditional tea ceremony for our time is reconsidered and realized by ceramic artists Takuro Kuwata and Akio Niisato, and confectioner, Sayoko Sugiyama. Toryo Ito, the priest of Ryosoku-in Temple, will introduce the principles of “holistic care” at this program.

Time: 4–7pm on July 20 and 4–7am on July 21 / Capacity: 8 participants / Participation fee: JPY25,000

RYOSOKU Diner “Noodles” and RYOSOKU Store “Ware”

Saturday September 14 and Sunday September 15

A two-day pop-up event featuring a diner and a shop. Adopting and interpreting traditional and contemporary Asian cuisine, noodles, manju, and tea will be served at the Diner. At the Store, we aim to create a landscape using wares that will fill people's minds and hearts with joy. With the Diner and the Store, we want participants to experience and rethink the happiness of sharing time and the beauty of the five senses in our daily life.

Open hours: 9am–4pm (or when noodles sell out)

Menu (tentative): Vegetarian noodles with a choice of vegetables, tofu, or vegetarian dumpling JPY 1,500~/ / Noodles without any toppings JPY800~/ / Manju (vegetables or tofu) JPY600~/ / Tea (fermented, green or white) JPY400~

RYOSOKU Temple School “Calligraphy”

January 2020

Special guest lecturers Veronica Halim will give participants the opportunity to rethink language as a tool of communication. Veronica Halim, author of *Calligraphy Styling*, is an Indonesian calligrapher, who hosts frequent workshops throughout Asia.

RYOSOKU Art Project “Meditation Corridor: Samson Young”

March 2020

RYOSOKU launches a site-specific contemporary art project in Ryosoku-in Temple. The first project is a soundscape installation by Samson Young.

Samson Young is an artist and composer based in Hong Kong. He received his PhD in music composition from Princeton University, USA, in 2013, and was the inaugural winner of the BMW Art Journey Award at Art Basel Hong Kong 2015. In 2017 he represented Hong Kong at the 57th Venice Biennale.

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Membership

Registration Fee: JPY5,000 / Students JPY2,000

Annual Fee: JPY5,000 / Students JPY2,000

All programs are by reservation for members only.

Please apply for a membership and reserve your space in the programs via application.

About 2019 RYOSOKU Program

Climate change is the challenge of our times, perhaps especially urgent in cities around the globe. Existing urban infrastructure and governance are unable to respond effectively alone to the massive changes wrought by climate change. As citizens, we need to empower ourselves to participate in our local communities to mitigate the dangers threatening our families and livelihoods.

Ryosoku-in Temple aims to be a site of learning by introducing ideas and jumpstarting discussions about the relationship between nature and people, and take big steps toward supporting a sustainable ecosystem for the betterment of society.

One of our first tasks is to rethink the master plan of Ryosoku-in Temple. This is not a restoration, but a redefinition of aesthetic that both present circumstances and the future demand.

This year's programs at the Temple are designed for members to exchange opinions on future activities.

Ryosoku-in Temple

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