



“People of Taiwan” is the theme of the cultural section of the National Taiwan Museum's permanent exhibition in 2021- *Exploring Taiwan*. It is intended to emphasize the true protagonist of this exhibition: all the peoples who have lived in Taiwan from ancient times to the present, and what they have left behind in their respective times and spaces. Specifically, this section of the exhibition presents a story of Taiwan and her people through the NTM's century-old cultural and historical collections.

The story of “People of Taiwan” unfolds through four themes. The first is “Imprints of Time”: time and artifacts play the roles of warp and weft, weaving a tapestry of the stories of artifacts at different times, outlining a narrative of the people of Taiwan through the museum collection. The second is “What Constitutes Home”; here, instead of showing the “home” of Taiwanese people through individual artifacts, Taiwan's diverse family forms are rendered through the works of two artists, *Sakuliu* and *Chin-pao Chen*. The third is “Spiritual World”, in which the supernatural world of indigenous people and Han Chinese were presented through their continuing relationship with the material world. The fourth is “Encounters and Becoming”, which emphasizes Taiwan as the outcome of long-term mutual influences, and interactions between peoples from different origins in history. The encounters of different peoples have resulted in a special kind of viewing experience and imagination toward others, which in turn shaped the other and defined the self, and is often reflected in the images, plastic arts, and educational models in the collection.

Through this story, the past of Taiwan comes together through a series of material imprints made at different times. By combining the collection with artistic creations, the “home” of Taiwanese people, its form and significance are represented and reflected. The beliefs and spiritual worlds of different groups of people are expressed and examined through museum objects, and the outcome is the narrative of the encounters, interactions, and becoming of Taiwanese. This is the NTM's story of the people of Taiwan.

PEOPLE
of
TAIWAN

博物
台湾
EXPLORING
—TAIWAN—

Venue: Gallery 201-202, National Taiwan Museum

Address: No. 2, Xiang-yang Road,
Zhong-zheng Dist., Taipei City

Telephone: +886-2-2382-2566



Opening Hours

Tuesday to Sunday, 9:30-17:00

- Closed on Mondays, Chinese New Year's Eve and Chinese New Year's Day
- Open on national and consecutive holidays

Ticket Information

- Regular: NT\$30 | Discount: NT\$15
(The ticket is valid for admission of the Main Building and Natural History Branch)
- Combined Ticket Regular: NT\$130 | Discount: NT\$65
- Membership Card: NT\$300

Supervisor |  文化部
MINISTRY OF CULTURE | Organizer |  國立臺灣博物館
National Taiwan Museum

National
Taiwan
Museum



EXPLORING
—TAIWAN—

The Permanent Exhibition
of the New Century
Episode III

English

2024.02



“Nature of Taiwan” showcases the life and environment of Taiwan, describing the past, present, and even future life forms of the place, and the phenomena of the interconnectedness of life in nature and the complex outcomes of disturbances within it. In addition to displaying a variety of natural objects, the exhibition hall opens its windows to capture the scenes outside, thus highlighting both Taiwan's natural environment and its human interaction. Here is a full and authentic picture of the “Nature of Taiwan”.

Apart from varied specimens and exhibits, artistic creations are also incorporated. “The Movement of Nature”, a multi-media installation, begins from algal reef specimens, which are followed by models of algae and fish competing to rise up toward vivid raindrops sculpted from Taiwan's forest materials. Dancing butterfly specimens waste no time to join in as the raindrops pass through the ecological exhibit cabinet; meanwhile butterfly images flutter in relays outside it. The flowing notes of life are finally injected into a soundscape installation at the end of the exhibition. “The Sound of Life” brings together sound data collected from various places and an image of Taiwan carved from camphor wood, and allows visitors to listen to real-life sounds from different places and to feel the vitality of the ocean and the warmth of the land, encouraging the aspiration to live prosperously in symbiosis with the nature of our homeland of Taiwan. Lifelike bronze sculptures of the Formosan Clouded Leopard and Formosan Black Bear wait for us in the exhibition hall. Visitors may sit side by side with them and watch the rhythm of life of our homeland. All of this is not simply something to imagine; it is a mutual expectation for a beautiful homeland.

The reinterpretation you experience here is not simply based on specimen collection and old exhibits; rather, it incorporates newly produced ones while at the same time presenting abundant natural resources and integrating current issues. This is an exhibition that blends the old with the new and intersects with time and space in the century-old museum of Taiwan. It is an attempt to open an honest dialogue between humans and nature. Under such repeated dialectics, the past may remain present to us, while our own innovative present and promising future may both be explored.



Ancient Traces

Through mineral and fossil specimens and simulated animation, “Ancient Traces” depicts the state of Taiwan in ancient times. Its timeline takes us back through the history of the island of Taiwan. An innovative display of geological specimens arranged in concentric circles according to the relative positions of their places of origin provides different perspectives to view the rocks and minerals collected from around Taiwan. And the display of multiform plant and animal fossils unearthed in various locations in Taiwan allows us to examine their characteristics, such as their textures and their toughness or fragility. Rocks, minerals and fossils mingle freely through time and space, revealing the abundant traces of life possessed by a youthful Taiwan.



Diverse rock types of Taiwan



Fossil specimens



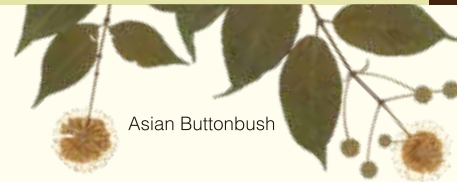
Reconstructed skeleton model of *Rhinoceros sinensis hayasakai*

Island Topography

Video browsing and multimedia interaction reveal the geographical features and environmental conditions of Taiwan, as well as the various topographies and landforms that appear in the three-dimensional space of this young island. Examined alongside each other, large-scale landscape images and the information provided by maps show us the changes of spatial appearances, and help us appreciate the unique climatic phenomena and geomorphic environments of Taiwan, which have resulted from the coincidence of many factors.

Ecological Features

Through the re-display of older collections and exhibits, laced with newly collected specimens and models of animals and plants made by current museum staff, the biodiversity and ecological implications of this land are jointly interpreted. This section of the exhibition starts from the ocean surrounding the island before dealing with the land of Taiwan. The sequence of presentations includes the marginal environment between water and land, the disturbing and entangled low altitude levels, the mysterious yet-to-be-explored middle altitude, the harsh but energetic high altitude, and the artificial and naturally scattered urban settings. They show the various ecosystems nurtured in Taiwan, presenting representative stories of life, including those of biodiversity, endemic species, and species named after Taiwan, etc. It all adds up to a presentation not of an imaginary Taiwan, but of our real homeland.



Asian Buttonbush



Taiwan Panax



Collared Owlet



Formosan Rock Monkey (Taiwan Macaque)

Sustainable Change

Arranged like a boutique showroom, this section organizes and presents the life-sustaining resources given to humans by the land, triggering a resonance among viewers. It incorporates the evolution of resource use and its impact on the environment, proposing environmental issues that must be reflected upon. Life depends on the Earth, and the Earth supports mankind. Allhumankind activities affect this land, and nature can only tolerate the human race to a limited extent. We should stride along the path of understanding nature and strive toward a sustainable and symbiotic homeland together.

Imprints of Time

As warp and weft, time and the artifacts of the museum collection interweave a variety of stories, outlining the narrative of the people of Taiwan embedded among them. The core concept of this section is to tell this story through the museum collection. It highlights sixteen sets of important and unique historical artifacts from the NTM collection, each of which reveals the story of an era through the individual history of each artifact. A “viewable” Taiwan history is thus outlined.

What Constitutes Home

What is “home”? What are the characteristics of the Taiwanese “home” or “family”? “Home” is a concept and entity that everyone feels they know but finds hard to define. As a specific household, home often represents a long-term tangible structure for living in. As a unit of social relations, home can be a long-term life base for a group of people with blood ties. For the people living in it, home is more than a living space and family gathering, it also manifests the expectations of the future as well as the continuation of life.

Instead of showing the “home” of Taiwanese people by individual collections, Taiwan’s diverse family forms are rendered through the works of two artists: *Sakuliu* and Chin-pao Chen. The Paiwan artist *Sakuliu* created *Vineqacan · The Founding Family House* for the exhibition to represent the founding family house of his native tribe. He combines his personal creativity with artifacts from the NTM



collection, expressing masterly creativity and profound traditional spirit. The multi-media artist Chin-pao Chen has delicately captured the diverse appearances of contemporary Taiwanese families through his multi-media creative project, *Ordinary Homes*. Between tradition and modernity, the form and significance of Taiwanese “home” are reflected and represented in artistic creations that incorporate the collection.



Vineqacan · The Founding Family House



Spiritual World

Here, a dimension of Taiwanese supernatural world is presented both through the material world of indigenous people and Han Chinese. Through representation of the material culture, the first three sub-sections: “Every Being is Spiritual”, “Objects and Spirits”, and “To Honor the Ancestors”, respectively demonstrate animism, ritual practices and ancestral belief of Taiwan indigenous people. “Taiwan Four Seasons” shows the annual festivals of various Taiwanese peoples through multi-media. “Twilight of the Gods” displays the “homeless idols” that Taipei Lungshan Temple had taken in over the years, thus offering a dimension of Taiwan’s folk religious beliefs.

Encounters and Becoming

This section underscores that the people of Taiwan are the result of long-term mutual influences, and interactions between peoples from different origins in history. The encounters of various peoples have resulted in a special kind of viewing experience and imagination, which together make up the perception of the outsider or foreigner as “the other”. This perception or “viewing” has both shaped the other and defined the self, and is often reflected in the images, plastic arts, and educational models that people have created. “Imagining the Other: How the Peoples of Taiwan Have Been Viewed Through History” and “The Other in Objects” examine this theme through museum collections and historical images. Meanwhile, “Made in Taiwan” and “The Cultural Mosaic of Taiwan” make use of models and video to explore and reflect on the results of the encounters, contacts and taking root of different peoples in Taiwan.



Racial models of the Japanese Empire