

Kushiro Shitsugen Art Museum

Kushiro Shitsugen Art Museum displays the works of Sasaki Eisho (1913–2012). Dubbed the “wetlands artist,” Sasaki’s exquisite artworks were inspired by the landscape and wildlife of Eastern Hokkaido. The museum opened in 2013, coinciding with the 100th anniversary of the artist’s birth. It is open year-round.

Born and raised in eastern Hokkaido, Sasaki enjoyed fishing and spent much of his time outdoors. Through his oil and watercolor paintings, and his drawings and fish prints, he expressed the lessons he learned from nature. The common theme of his work is “biological life.” Beyond featuring captivating portrayals of the local area, Sasaki’s art encourages viewers to reflect on their personal values and emotional responses to his work.

The museum holds approximately 600 pieces, and features a permanent collection as well as special exhibitions that are changed every six months. The museum is located along National Highway Route 240 beside the Akan International Crane Center. Wild red-crowned cranes can be spotted around the museum, especially during winter when the nearby fields become feeding grounds.