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Exhibition

Pursuits of Power Falconry and the Samurai, 1600-1900

December 17, 2004-June 6, 2005



The samurai of seventeenth-century Japan faced a perplexing new problem: peace. They needed new outlets for their military skills and energies. Falconry, the sport of hunting using trained birds of prey, suited these new needs perfectly. The fondness of

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early shoguns for falconry, both as a sport and as a way to demonstrate their authority, is reflected in the art they commissioned and their adoption of birds of prey as symbols of their potency.

"Pursuits of Power" offers a new perspective on players, politics, and power in early modern Japan, using this unusual subject to take a fresh look at the MFA's world-renowned Japanese collections and includes several important loans.

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