Two Tokyo Temples: Samurai Memorials and Iconic Cats at Sengakuji and Gotokuji
by Steven Heine, FIU Professor and Director of Asian Studies

Monday, November 3, 2014 at 5pm

Many of the prints selected for this exhibit of Koizumi Kishio’s views of Tokyo in the 1930s highlight serene urban landscapes at temples, shrines, gateways, gardens, parks, fields, rivers, and bridges. However, two of the temples have as a legacy the most spectacularly violent deaths in Japanese history: at Sengakuji there are the graves of the 47 Ronin who committed mass suicide after avenging their warlord’s demise in 1703; and at Gotokuji there is a memorial for famed samurai Lord Naosuke who was assassinated in public in 1860 for having signed accords with America. These temples are also known for symbolic images of cats, including the iconic Beckoning Cat now sold in stores throughout the world. Professor Steven Heine, an authority on Japanese religion and society and author of more than two dozen books including Sacred High City, Sacred Low City (Oxford University Press, 2012), explores the fascinating connections between these seemingly contradictory images.

FREE and OPEN to the public!

The Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum
10975 SW 17th Street, Miami, Florida 33199
T: 305-348-2888 | W: thefrost.fiu.edu
Follow us on Twitter and Facebook

The Frost Art Museum receives ongoing support from the Steven and Dorotha Green Endowment; the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture; the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs; the Cultural Affairs Council; the Mayor and the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners; Agustín Venes and the Venes Family; The Miami Herald; and the Members & Friends of The Frost Art Museum.

Image Credit: Koizumi Kishio, Sengakuji Temple in the Snow, March 1932, TD1993.69.1.82