

## Leafhopper

A man is examining insects in the rice paddies. Insects shaped like a boat are leafhopper, and dragonfly-like ones seem to be Plecoptera.

For farmers, the leafhopper is a natural enemy because it spreads rice disease.



↑ Huang Qigeng (China)  
*Eliminate all pests*, 1977  
offset on paper

## Cockroach

In Japan, cockroaches have been living in human houses since the Jomon period. Since people use fire, a warm place is very comfortable for cockroaches to survive.

The cockroach is a hated creature, but in this work, it imitates Jesus Christ by wearing a cross around its neck and a crown of thorns on its head.



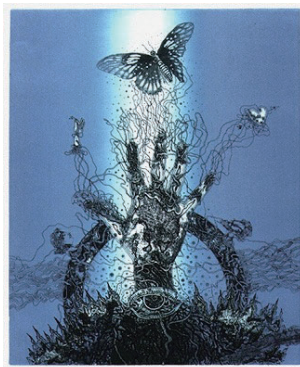
↑ Manuel Ocampo (Philippines)  
*Paradise Open to All*, 1994  
acrylic and collage on canvas

## 3: Elegant world of butterflies

Butterflies are known for the patterns and bright colors of their wings. As auspicious creatures, they often appear in artworks in different regions. Also, butterflies are depicted as a symbol of freedom because of their graceful fluttering motion.

### Butterfly

Butterfly wings are fledged with tiny feathers called 'Scale.' These various colored feathers make bright patterns on their wings.



← Kalidas Karmakar (Bangladesh)  
*Image-II*, 1985  
color etching on paper

I Dewa Putu Sena (Indonesia)  
*Nuri Birds and Coffee Trees*, 1985  
acrylic on cloth

Ismail Mohd Zain (Malaysia)  
*This Door Leads to the Other Doors No.2*  
1989, acrylic on canvas

Anupam Sud (India)  
*Tribute*, 1989  
etching and aquatint on paper

Yu Huali (China)  
*Let one hundred flowers blossom.*, 1962  
offset on paper

Luo Brothers (China)  
*I Love Tiananmen Square, Beijing*, 1996–97  
photograph, computer graphics, water color,  
lacquer on board

BRAC (Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee)/Aarong (Bangladesh)  
*Lotus and Pattern of Animal and Plant (Bedspread)*  
2000, embroidery on cloth

Shanti Devi (India)  
*Sawan Puja*, 1997  
ink and pigment on paraconcrete wall

Ni Gusti Ayu Natih Arimini (Indonesia)  
*Cremation*, 1985  
watercolor on cloth

# Collection Exhibition Bug Catching in Asian Art!

Thu 24 June - Tue 21 September 2021

## Foreword

Summer is the season when many insects become active. As temperatures rise and plants grow, summer offers insects a habitable environment. To coincide with the summer, this exhibition compiles artworks from throughout our museum collection that features insects. Some of them are depicted as leading actors, and others appear as supporting casts. From cool insects to beautiful, cute, and even weird ones, let's find your favorite one!

## 1: A variety of insects

In this section, from popular insects, such as Mantis and Dragonfly, to unpopular ones, we showcase many types of insects depicted in the artworks. Even you may see many bugs in a piece. Let's see how many different insects you will find!

### Mantis

Mantis, a born hunter, uses sickle-shaped forelegs to catch prey items.

Orchid mantis, a name deriving from its flower-like appearance inhabiting South East Asia, hunts under cover of flowers.



↑ Sumi Takamasa (Japan)  
*Armored Cross: Mantis*,  
2002-03, FRP

Wayan Darsana (Indonesia)  
*Insecta (Insects)*, 1984  
acrylic on cloth

Zong Xitao (China)  
*Insect Series No.5 (Mantis)*, 2005  
ink and watercolor on paper

### Future insect

What is this creation? It seems that two creatures are holding each other. Each has wings and antennas of insects, but their bodies and arms look alike to a human. This is a future creation imagined by the artist.



↑ Thawan Duchanee (Thailand)  
*Future*, 1989  
oil, enamel and gold leaf on canvas





## Dayfly

Dayfly is known for its ephemerality. Some of them have a life of only several hours. Although Mayfly has large wings, it rides on the breeze to fly.



↑ Kim Seongyoun (South Korea)  
*Dayfly*, 2004/2009  
video (2 min.10sec.)

## Dragonfly

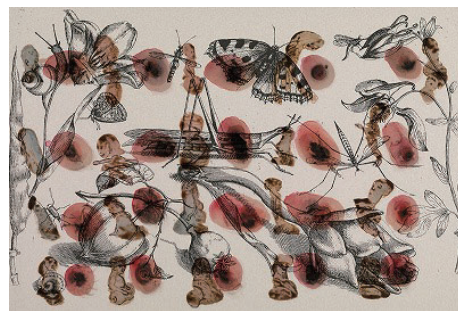
Dragonflies are famous for their high ability to fly. They can make a sudden stop and turn around in the air.

Another feature of dragonflies is their big eyes, which are helpful for them to spot flying tiny bugs.

John Frank Sabado (Philippines)  
*Mediator*, 2001  
pen and ink on paper

## Grasshopper

Looking at its hind legs. With these long, thick legs, it can jump long distances. The grasshopper depicted in this artwork seems to be an *Acrida cinerea*.



↑ Nalini Malani (India)  
*Cassandra's Gift 7: The Sense of Touch*, 2009  
digital pigment prints on archival Hahnemuhle bamboo paper

## Snail

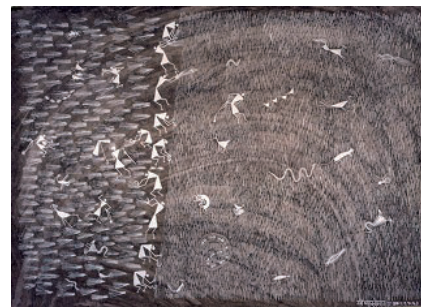
Snails, also known as 'Den Den-Mushi' in Japanese, are a group of shellfish. Generally, snails fall into land snails with shells (Slug has lost its shell through evolution). The antennae of the snail depicted in this piece have rounded tips, and these are their eyes.

Douangdy Khanthavilay (Laos)  
*The Orphan's Flute*, 1996  
oil on canvas

## Insects in Paddies

As depicted in *In the Water*, there are primitive insects such as paramecium in rice paddies. Some insects also gather there to eat them.

Let's take a look Warli Painting made in the Warli region, India. You will see spiders, scorpions and ants in the rice paddies in this area.



↑ Jivya Soma Mashe (India)  
*Warli Painting 2*, c.1985  
rice juice, cow dung on paper

Tran Luong (Vietnam)  
*Under the Water*, 1994  
oil on canvas

## Ant

All ants belong to a single family. They share food each other and work together to raise their larvae.

To tell the location of food, they exude a specific scent from their abdomen. Other ants follow this scent and form a queue.

Wah Nu (Myanmar)  
*Tea Time in Spring*, 2003-04  
video (12min.)

## 2: Insects inhabiting familiar places

This section showcases insects inhabiting familiar places, such as houses and gardens. Some insects take advantage of human life, while others are bred for the sake of it.

## Cabbageworm

Cabbageworms are the larvae of butterflies and moths, and the most common one would be imported cabbageworm. They feed on cruciferous plants (such as Chinese cabbage, cabbages, and bok-choy) and are often seen in fields.



↑ Rui Guangting (China)  
*Study 2-7 (Writing after looking at the picture)*, 1973  
offset on paper

## Fly

Flies, especially those known for houseflies, depend on human living conditions to survive and are not found in nature.

There are at risk of carrying pathogens, be careful when you find them.



↑ Artist Unknown (China)  
*Cholera, cholera, cholera: Prevent cholera, diligently wipe out all flies*, c.1940s  
offset on paper

Artist Unknown (China)  
*Fly Eradication Team*, 1959  
offset on paper

Tao Qi (China)  
*An expert at killing flies*, 1959  
offset on paper

## Bee

Depicted in the piece seems to be honeybees. Honey bees are raised by beekeepers working for honey. The title of the work is *Sewing a Small bag*. Perhaps, the artist drew bees holding needles by associating with a sewing needle.



↑ Shen Daci (China)  
*Sewing a little pouch*, 1958  
offset on paper

## Spider

Spider often breaks into the house to search for food. By spinning thread from its hind-quarters, it makes a web to catch preys. Female spiders also use the thread to make a pouch to protect her eggs. In this piece, there is no spider depicted, but a beautiful lace as the spider's web is used in the piece.



Anoli Perera (Sri Lanka)  
*In the Entangled Web I*, 2001  
↑ *In the Entangled Web II*, 2001  
wire mesh, paper, cloth, lace, thread, acrylic paint, iron frame, etc.