

The Garden Path

Garden of Resonance

October/November 2022



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Steve Bloom

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FRONT COVER  *Nina Johnson*
 BACK COVER  *Roman Johnston*

HAIKU

In reaching the moon
 The billowing cloud, coming
 Up short this fall day

– Peter Kendall

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THE GARDEN PATH

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📷 Christina Sjogren

Dear Members,

For me, autumn has always been my favorite time of year. The air is so distinct, cool, and crisp, and fall colors will arrive soon, transforming Portland Japanese Garden in its once-a-year show of red, yellow, and orange. Much like in Japan, our fiery maples attract visitors from near and far to experience the fleeting colors. I know I speak for everyone here when I say how lucky we are to have these spectacular views in our backyard!

As fall graces our landscape, I'm very excited for our next art exhibition, *Garden of Resonance: The Art of Jun Kaneko*. We are honored to welcome back Kaneko and his amazing work to the Garden. His glass art was among the first of the Art in the Garden exhibitions Portland Japanese Garden ever hosted back in 2008. Now, 14 years later, Kaneko's large and evocative ceramic statues will be immersed throughout our garden spaces once again for an exhibition that gives us new ways to interact with the Garden (more on page 10).

Following a summer of successful launch events in Portland, in September, the Japan Institute continued its steady momentum of programming, this time in Japan with the inaugural Peace Symposium, "*Peacemaking at the Intersection of Culture, Art, and Nature*," in Tokyo – along with Peace Lantern dedications in Hiroshima, Nagasaki, and Tokyo. Next, we will hop across the Atlantic in December to London, U.K. for the second Peace Symposium of 2022. The London Peace Symposium will be held at the historic Guildhall and includes a compelling schedule of panel discussions, keynote speeches, commissioned poetry readings, garden workshops, and a presentation of a replica of our Peace Lantern to Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

Meanwhile, the new campus of Japan Institute continues its renovation process in NW Portland. As you may recall, back in April this year, we officially acquired the former White Shield Center at the edge of Forest Park, just three miles away from Portland Japanese Garden. We have now entered the "preconstruction phase," which entails renovation design, and determining construction, engineering, and permitting needs. We are proud to be partnering with the woman-owned architecture firm, CIDA for design, as well as Precision Construction (a Hoffman Company) as general contractor. Additionally, I met with Kengo Kuma & Associates on my recent trip to Tokyo, and they are all very enthusiastic about partnering with Bullseye Glass Co. to transform the chapel in a one-of-a-kind theater adorned in glass art.

With the summer crowds waning at Portland Japanese Garden, autumn is the perfect time to come and roam the garden paths and just be in touch with nature, enjoy some art, attend a lecture, or to be with friends or the one you love. Nothing brings inner peace like these experiences. In the coming month, we will be asking you to make a year-end contribution to the Garden that will allow us to continue to be a space that can inspire harmony and peace. This treasured place has the power to transform us and the communities we touch. I hope you will remember the impact that you can make and continue to be a part of this important work.

With Gratitude,

Steve Bloom
Chief Executive Officer



In Japan, the transition of seasons is revered for their impermanence. The fleeting nature of Japanese maples reaching peak color only heightens the anticipation of fall. Along with the stunning show of colors, below are reminders for things to expect for fall at Portland Japanese Garden.

Changing Hours

With the transition of the seasons and daylight getting shorter, our hours will be adjusted:

October 1st-31st: 8am-4pm
(guests out at 5pm)

Starting November 1st: 8am-3:30pm
(guests out by 4:30pm)

When are peak colors?

While factors like temperature, light, and water all affect the onset and duration of fall colors, peak color tends to be towards the end of October. Visit our website (japanesegarden.com/fall-2022/) for a weekly update on the season's status and follow us on social media for regular updates and real-time photos from the garden spaces.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

For inclement weather updates, please check our website, japanesegarden.org, before visiting as we will be updating this source first.

Fall Foliage and Maintenance

In order to maintain our paths and preserve the garden environment, our gardeners perform necessary maintenance, including the use of leaf blowers, while the Garden is open. In the fall, the leaf blowers use may increase in the mornings.

Fall Member Hours

The stunning fall season is one of the most popular times to visit the Garden. Take advantage of your Member Hours to avoid the crowds.

Member Hours:

Wednesday-Monday 8am-10am

Extended Member Hours

October 20th 4-6pm

October 28th 4-6pm

Photographer Member Hours

October 14th 4-6pm

October 17th 4-6pm

October 26th 4-6pm

Upcoming Events

Portland Ohara School of Ikebana Exhibition *Impressions of Autumn - Ornamental Grasses*

October 29-30, 2022

What distinguishes *ikebana* from other approaches to flower arrangement is its asymmetrical form and the use of “empty” space as essential features of the composition. A sense of harmony among the materials, the container, and the setting is also crucial. Members of the Portland Chapter of the Ohara School of Ikebana set the tone for autumn with an array of exquisite designs on display in the Yanai Classroom.

Reciprocal Access to Lan Su Chinese Garden

November, 2022

In November, your Garden Membership grants you access to one of Portland’s treasured gardens – Lan Su Chinese Garden.

Veterans Day

November 11, 2022

Portland Japanese Garden will be offering free admission for active military personnel, military veterans and their families who accompany them on Veterans Day, Friday, November 11.

Veterans Day at Portland Japanese Garden is sponsored this year by The Oregonian.



Mark Your Calendars! *O-Shogatsu*, New Years at the Garden

January 1, 2023

Start the new year right with a visit to Portland Japanese Garden. On January 1, we open for members and their guests and will commemorate the holiday with a tranquil atmosphere and authentic Japanese New Year’s décor. Details to be announced in our next issue of *The Garden Path*!



📷 Julia Taylor

📷 Richard Welander



📷 Roman Johnston

Shinrin-yoku: The Simple and Intuitive Form of Preventative Care

Nature as a Balm for the Mind and Body

In Portland Japanese Garden's Natural Garden, everything lives. Sunlight mills in through corridors of tree limbs and creates pockets of warmth on moss and stone. Water flows in a steady pace, creating an undertone that perfectly harmonizes with the gentle sway of branch and leaf. If a person gives themselves to rest in this green bastion, they will feel refreshed and centered. That's because what they're doing is something people have done to calm themselves since antiquity. Spending time in Portland Japanese Garden speaks to something deep within. You're not visiting an attraction—you're returning home.

In 1982, Tomohide Akiyama, Director of the Japanese Forestry Agency, coined a term to describe this very activity: *shinrin-yoku*, or "forest bathing" (Miyazaki, 2018).

It may feel like we have always lived in this world of steel, concrete, and gasoline, but the truth is that for 99.9% of humanity's existence, we mostly lived among nature (Song et al., 2016). It was not even 250 years ago that we saw the start of the Industrial Revolution and a sea change in the arrangement of humankind, where we slowly dripped away from hither and yon into cities. It was only 13 years ago when, for the first time in human history,

it was determined more of us lived in urban settings than rural (Ritchie & Roser, 2018). We evolved and determined our future in the wild and it will be millennia before this essential thread of our character is altered.

Shinrin-yoku is more than a kind thought, it is a rapidly developing field of research and increasingly recommended form of preventative care. In the time that has passed since Akiyama gave it a name, it has been established as a health program in Japan and inspired the foundation of associations around the world, including the Association of Nature and Forest Therapy here in the United States (Farkic et al., 2021). While there is more work to be done to fully understand how *shinrin-yoku* impacts human health, it does appear to be a balm for the mind and body.

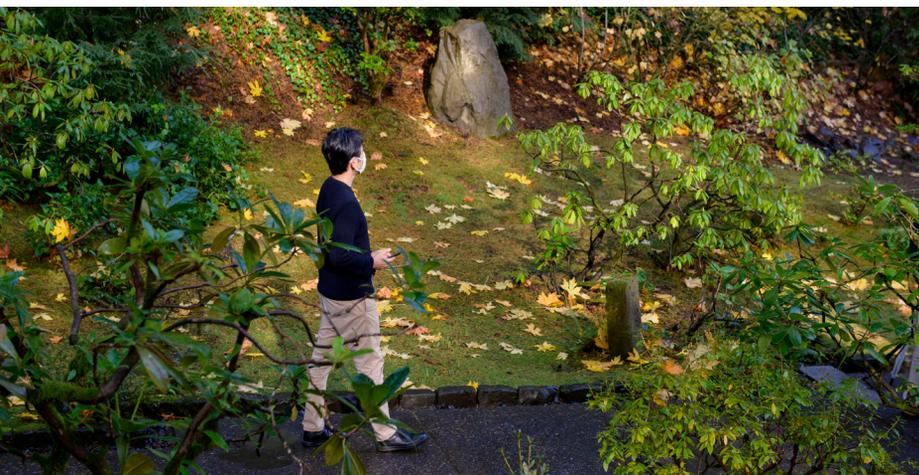
There have been numerous experiments and field studies conducted and the results have been rosy. Forest bathing has been found to:

- Help in the regulation of blood pressure (Wen et al., 2019)
-
- Be beneficial to a person's parasympathetic nervous system (sometimes called the rest and digest system), the toolkit our body uses to balance out the sympathetic nervous system that revs our adrenaline and heart-beat in times of stress. *Shinrin-yoku* in a forested area like Washington Park presses play on the rest and digest system, allowing the body to enter a state of relaxation (Farrow & Washburn, 2019).
-
- Improve the number of natural killer cells, which protect against disease by killing virally infected cells (Yu et al., 2017).

Will forest bathing in Portland Japanese Garden solve all your woes? No, but it can be your bulwark against the anxieties of today's tumultuous times. As our Chief Curator, Sadafumi Uchiyama once expressed in an interview with *The Dirt*, "...We are a place, an occasion in time, to enable them to think and have conversation that otherwise may be harder to have elsewhere...Somehow the Garden brings emotional stability." Visit often as a member of Portland Japanese Garden—inner peace is here, in the green.

To read the full article, see: japanesegarden.com/2022/08/15/shinrin-yoku/

 Nina Johnson





The Glass Theater at the Japan Institute campus will be redesigned by the internationally renowned architect, Kengo Kuma.

Japan Institute Campus Renovation

Groundbreaking Scheduled for Fall 2023

In the spring of 2022, Japan Institute, Portland Japanese Garden's new sibling organization, finalized its purchase of the property that will become its headquarters by the end of 2024. Comprised of four buildings raised between 1914 and 1965, the 3.64 acres of the Japan Institute campus are enveloped by the evergreens of Forest Park and bordered by a sweeping view of Portland below. On this exceptional parcel of land, we will be able to expand our shared experiences in Japanese culture, art, and connection to nature.

The buildings, which will house artist studios, gardener workspaces, accommodations for artists, workshops, demonstrations, and lectures, as well as administrative offices, are a beautiful representation of the time and history they were erected in. However, they must be refreshed, repaired, and renovated to not only fit the needs of Japan Institute's programming but to be made more accessible for modern needs.

The process of transforming the campus has now entered the "preconstruction" phase, which includes construction analysis, identifying engineering ideas, and permitting. Over the past few months, we have been working with Urban Resources, a project management service firm, to select a general contractor and partner architect to bring the spaces to life in a way that realizes the vision of Japan Institute while staying within budget in respecting the investments our donors have made thus far.

We are excited to share that we have retained Precision Construction along with a team from CIDA, a woman-owned architecture and design firm that often works with non-profits like Japan Institute. Precision is a special projects division of Hoffman Construction, an integral partner on Portland Japanese Garden's Cultural Crossing expansion in 2017. These organizations are joining landscape architecture firm Walker Macy, who were brought on board in 2021.

With a modest budget, we are prioritizing artistic and programming spaces, which include studios for pottery, Japanese textiles, and photography and a garden design and resource center. Additionally, now that Japan has softened its travel restrictions, a project lead from Kengo Kuma & Associates has been finally able to visit Portland to scope out what will become the Glass Theater, an event space that was previously a chapel. As you may recall, Kuma and his team are the same internationally acclaimed architecture firm that designed Portland Japanese Garden's Cultural Village. In this new venture, Kuma will work in glass art for the first time in his illustrious career with the assistance of our longtime partners and friends at Bullseye Glass Co.

Japan Institute Heads to London

The Japan Institute will hold the second of its six Peace Symposia on six continents in London, England this December. The symposium, titled "*Peacemaking at the Intersection of Culture, Art, and Nature*" will explore the interplay between and convergence of landscapes, architecture, and arts in shaping new civic conversations and efforts for peacebuilding through cultural diplomacy. In addition to this signature program, the Japan Institute will also hold peace receptions, panel discussions, gardening workshops, and present a peace lantern to our partners at Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

More information on these exciting gatherings can be found at japanesegarden.org/japaninstitute.



Right: Steve Bloom, CEO, officially signs on the purchase of the Japan Institute campus property. Left: Arts and Administration building at the Japan Institute campus.



📷 Laurie and Charles Kay

About the Artist: Jun Kaneko

How the internationally acclaimed artist came to be

Portland Japanese Garden is excited to share that its final art exhibition of 2022 features the work of internationally acclaimed artist Jun Kaneko (b. 1942). Kaneko, winner of the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Sculpture Center, has made major contributions to the field of sculptural art on a global scale, exploring the relationships between art, nature, and people with their bold scale and placement. The current art exhibition, *Garden of Resonance: The Art of Jun Kaneko*, presents a key selection of his mesmerizing, otherworldly sculptures merged into the Garden's spaces, along with a collection of his smaller works on display in the Pavilion Gallery.

From Nagoya, Japan to California and eventually Nebraska—Jun Kaneko's life is as layered as his work as an artist. In 1963, with aspirations to become a painter, Kaneko packed his bags and bought a one-way ticket for Los Angeles. Brazen and determined, not knowing the language and without enough cash to purchase a return flight, Kaneko

embarked on an odyssey that would shape his artistic trajectory and personal destiny. Still fresh in Los Angeles, Kaneko was introduced to the California Clay Movement. Through seeing, touching, and rearranging ceramic sculptures, his interest in the possibilities of clay was ignited. After a motley education in clay arts, Kaneko went on to teach, exhibit and participate in artist residencies across the globe.

In 1982, on the invitation of Ree Schonlau, Kaneko was invited to a workshop in Omaha, Nebraska. Using an industrial-grade beehive kiln on the grounds of Omaha Brickworks, Kaneko began to experiment with giant, hand-built, clay structures. Since his first large scale commission in Omaha in 1983, Kaneko's work has delighted people in several American cities as well as locations around the world.

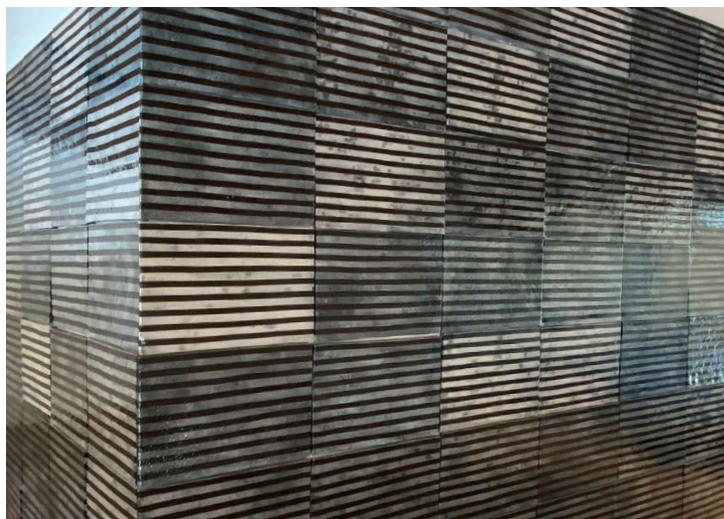
Jun Kaneko eventually settled in Omaha, a place that enabled him to produce on a large scale with few interruptions. With the vision and guidance of Ree, who married Jun and was at the vortex of his career and evolution as an artist and creative brand, the Kanekos have had an unparalleled impact on the city's community. They've created studio and exhibition spaces, established residency programs, and founded KANEKO, a creativity center to inspire future generations.

Walking through Portland Japanese Garden, a space that is at once familiar and filled with a sense of exploration, Jun Kaneko's works accentuate the landscape. As you explore *Garden of Resonance: The Art of Jun Kaneko*, we invite you to consider the Japanese concept of *ma* (間), an awareness of space. *Ma* communicates a sense of place in respect to one's relationship with the whole, making the space around and between things, the silent pauses in speech, or the negative space in a composition, important and meaningful. How does *Garden of Resonance* influence your experience of Portland Japanese Garden?



Jun Kaneko, *Untitled (Heads)*, 2014, hand-built glazed ceramic and steel base

© Colin Conces, © Jun Kaneko Studio L.L.C.



Lines are ever-present in Kaneko's work. On permanent display in the Jordan Schnitzer Japanese Arts and Learning Center are a series of Kaneko's wall tiles, a gift from Portland's Bullseye Glass Company (above). Individually, each tile is an abstract work of art, but in combination they take on the role of an almost site-specific installation that transcends its parts. Kaneko likens the rigid yet organic lines that define some of his work to the ridges of a Japanese rock garden. The tiles together create a feeling of looking at the ripples of a quiet ocean or call to mind the surface of the Sand and Stone Garden.

Exhibition Contributor Dr. Frank Feltens [Japan Foundation Associate Curator of Japanese Art at Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, the Smithsonian's National Museum of Asian Art]

Centuries-Old Gate to Journey Overseas, Find New Home at Portland Japanese Garden

The Zeze Gate Will Be the Only Tokugawa (徳川)-Built Gate in the U.S.

Portland Japanese Garden has been selected as the recipient of a significant cultural property from Japan - a castle gate originally built at the turn of the 17th century just a few years before the beginning of Japan's Edo Period (1603-1868). The Zeze Castle Korai Gate by Tokugawa Ieyasu, or "Zeze Gate" for short, once stood as the southern-most entrance to Japan's Zeze Castle in Ōtsu. In 2023, the gate will be installed at the start of the hill in the Entry Garden, replacing the Antique Gate which has stood there since the 1970s.

How did this treasured piece of Japanese history find its way to the Garden? In 2021, Portland Japanese Garden's International Advisory Board Member, Mimi Gardner Gates – who is an Asian art scholar and Director Emerita of Seattle Art Museum – put Steve Bloom, CEO of Portland Japanese Garden in touch with her friend, Akemi Saitoh. Saitoh, chairwoman of the Yasuhiko & Akemi Saitoh Foundation, was steward of the Zeze Gate by way of the Hosomi family. Saitoh, along with master craftsmen from Japan, were given a tour of the Garden hosted by Bloom. Stunned by Portland Japanese Garden's beauty and authenticity and satisfied that the Garden's mission aligned with their own, the Yasuhiko & Akemi Saitoh Foundation decided to donate the Zeze Gate to Portland Japanese Garden. Embellished with the Imperial Chrysanthemum and the Tokugawa dynasty crests, this is the only Tokugawa gate without the designation of being a national cultural treasure, making it the only of its kind able to be transported beyond Japan's borders.

The Zeze Gate will be placed at the start of the hill in the Entry Garden, replacing the Antique Gate. The Zeze Gate's installation, combined with transplanting of the flora and re-setting of stones, will introduce a notable change to how guests enter Portland Japanese Garden. The Antique Gate was erected in 1976 by then-Garden Director Michio Wakui and our first female gardener, Sharon Riddell. Originally planned to be a passageway to the Pavilion Gallery, it was placed in its current location at the Entry Garden when construction on the Pavilion Gallery was delayed. Now, the Antique Gate will become a cherished addition to the forthcoming Japan Institute campus.

Plans for the Zeze Gate's arrival and placement are currently being developed, with the hope that this project will be finished by the end of 2023. More information will be shared in the coming months!

For the full article, go to japanesegarden.org/zezegate2022



📷 Zeze Gate Rendering at Entry Garden by Walker Macy

The Role of Gates in Japanese Culture

Aside from being physical protection to fend off enemies, gates in Japan have always had special cultural significance. Geomancy, or the art of arranging buildings within a site, was introduced to Japan from China. Incorporating tenants of feng shui, ancient rulers and feudal lords would place symbolic and decorative gates in spiritually important locations. For example, gates that embodied guardian angels would be situated in northeastern and southwestern quarters as they both were within the devil's path. In other contexts, they provided a supernatural defense against evil spirits and ill fortune.

In geomancy, energy flow, known as *ki*, is paramount and is present in all Japanese garden design principles. Gates have been viewed as pivotal because *ki* is believed to come in and out through them. In fact, feudal lords in Japan would pay as much attention to the structure and aesthetics of gates as they did to their *tenshu* (castle keep).

As explained by Arlene Schnitzer Curator of Culture, Art, and Education, Aki Nakanishi



**GOLDEN
CRANE
SOCIETY**

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 Suzanne & Craig Zarling
 Anonymous (1)

Thank you



If you would like to make a donation or have any questions about the Golden Crane Society, please contact Lisa Christy, Chief External Affairs Officer at (503) 328-0050 or lchristy@japanesegarden.org.



📷 Nina Johnson



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PHOENIX
LEGACY
SOCIETY



If you would like to include the Garden in your estate plans, or if you have already done so and would allow us to list you as a Legacy Society Member, please contact Lisa Christy, Chief External Affairs Officer at (503) 328-0050 or lchristy@japanesegarden.org.

Members of the Phoenix Legacy Society have named the Garden as the ultimate beneficiary of a planned gift. We are grateful to the following people for letting us know of their plans to support the Garden in this enduring way.

Ruth Anderson and Michael Beebe
Esther "Ricky" Appleman
Carole Beauclerk
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Ann & John Symons
Drs. Mayho & Calvin Tanabe
Carmen Wong
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Path for Peace Campaign for Japan Institute

Recognizing all those who have made a gift in support of our Path to Peace Campaign for the Japan Institute, helping us be a leading global voice for cultural understanding, in pursuit of a more peaceful, sustainable world.

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*Portland Japanese Garden and Japan Institute CEO Steve Bloom in conversation with Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew Director Richard Deverell.
Photo by Jonathan Ley*



Garden Curator, Hugo Torii, teaching how to tie a bamboo fence knot (otoko musubi) to a participant of Waza to Kokoro Seminar 2022



Waza to Kokoro Seminar 2022 participants stone-setting and working together to select the stones that best works for their design



Japan Institute's artist in residence, Rui Sasaki, takes inspiration from the garden.

Peace Lantern dedication ceremony in Hiroshima, Japan. Left to right: Kazutaka Yamamoto (President, Japan-America Society of Hiroshima), Soukei Ueda (Grand Master, Ueda Soko School of Tea), Jyunkichi Sasaki (Chairperson, Hiroshima City Council), Kenichi Susume (Hiroshima Deputy Mayor), Steve Bloom (Japan Institute & Portland Japanese Garden CEO), Elizabeth Steiner Hayward (Oregon State Senator), Consul General Richard Mei (U.S. Consulate in Osaka-Kobe).

Photo by Toshiaki Takata



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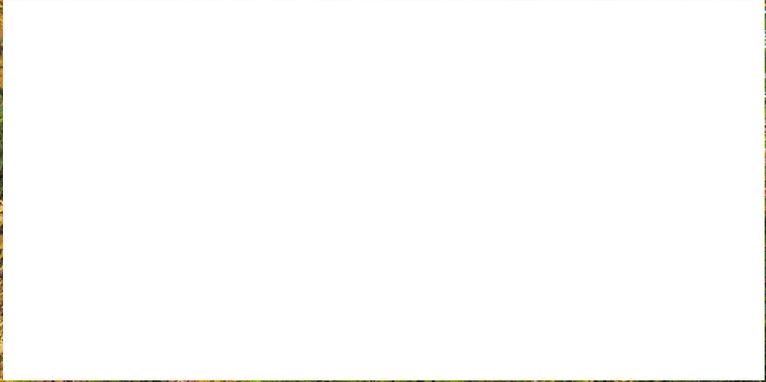
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