



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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***Exhibition of Cosmic Art Opens at Museum of Flight  
Fantastic worlds represent Japanese artist's vision of universal harmony***

SEATTLE, August 20, 2008— Japanese artist Toshiro Sawanuki is renowned for his inspiring paintings of peaceful planets in an infinitely diverse universe. His images reflect the artist's devotion to humanity, harmony and joy. *Harmony of the Universe: The Art of Toshiro Sawanuki* is an exhibition of 30 paintings on view in The Museum's Great Gallery beginning Saturday, Sept. 20. The exhibit runs until Jan. 4, 2009. This is Sawanuki's first major exhibition in the United States.

Sawanuki's quiet, tender personality and his strong desire for peace enable him to capture the silence, purity and depth of the universe's vastness. The depth and perspective of his space works project an overwhelming power and dynamism.

His artworks were chosen by Japan Post for commemorative postal stamps celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Japan's accession to the United Nations in 2006. In 2005, one of his artworks was on official display at the Japanese Government Pavilion at the World Exposition, Aichi, Japan. In July 2008, Sawanuki's "Peaceful Planet" was displayed at the G8 summit in Hokkaido, Japan. Earlier this year his "Central Energy" was presented to NASA. The painting was donated to the NASA Art Program and is now displayed at a gallery inside the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex. He is now creating a companion piece of the painting for the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) collection.

Sawanuki is an official artist of the United Nation's Culture of Peace campaign.

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The independent, non-profit Museum of Flight is one of the largest air and space museums in the world. The Museum's collection includes more than 150 historically significant air- and spacecraft, as well as the Red Barn<sup>®</sup> — the original manufacturing facility of the Boeing Co. The Museum's aeronautical library and archival holdings are the largest on the West Coast. More than 100,000 children are served annually by the Museum's on-site and outreach educational programs — the most extensive museum-based youth aviation and space education program in

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the country. The Museum is the only aviation museum in Washington State that is both nationally accredited with the American Association of Museums and a Smithsonian affiliate.

The Museum of Flight is located at 9404 E. Marginal Way S., Seattle, Exit 158 off Interstate 5. The Museum is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$14 for adults, \$13 for seniors 65 and older, \$7.50 for youth 5 to 17, and free for children under 5. Group rates are available. Admission on the first Thursday of the month is free from 5 to 9 p.m. courtesy of Wells Fargo. For general Museum information, please call 206-764-5720 or visit [www.museumofflight.org](http://www.museumofflight.org).