



# California State Library Partners with Google Arts & Culture to Create Online Exhibits

For Immediate Release

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**Sacramento, Calif.** – The California State has released its first online exhibits produced in collaboration with Google Arts & Culture, which digitally showcases the unique treasures of more than 1,400 archives, foundations and museums from over 70 countries.

“The archives of the California State Library remind us of where we have come from, and the places and people which make California unique,” said Rena Davis, Google California State Policy. “We are thrilled to bring these rich and diverse archives online through Google Arts & Culture, so everyone can access the powerful stories they contain.”

As a celebration of California’s unique diversity, the State Library’s first two offerings are: [“Shikishi Haiku”](#) and [“Daguerreotypes: The First Photographs”](#).

“We’re honored to be included in the worldwide network of cultural institutions who are Google Arts & Culture and are eager to share more of the stories that define California and the California Dream,” said Greg Lucas, California State Librarian.

Since its launch in 2011, Google Arts & Culture has worked closely with museums, foundations, archives, and others—from Carnegie Hall to the Musee D’Orsay in Paris and the British Museum in London. Google Arts & Culture puts the collections of more than 2,000 museums at your fingertips. It is an immersive way to explore art, history and the wonders of the world, from Van Gogh’s bedroom paintings to the women’s rights movement or ancient temples. It is accessible to all online, digitally preserved it for future generations.

The State Library’s “Shikishi Haiku” exhibit brings together the works of two dozen leading Japanese haiku poets. In Japan, haiku are frequently written on *shikishi*, which are square poem cards.

These works combine poetry and artful calligraphy on fine handmade paper. Shikishi are typically given as gifts to mark a special occasion, and the exhibit features works gifted from the Museum of Haiku Literature in Tokyo to the [Haiku Society of America](#), whose archives are housed at the California State Library.

“Daguerreotypes: The First Photographs” offers a selection of the State Library’s collection of early photographs. The daguerreotype is a process developed by Louis-Jacques-Mandé Daguerre. Introduced worldwide in 1839, it became the first publicly available photographic

process. Since that process doesn't involve negatives, each daguerreotype is a one-of-a-kind image.

Before daguerreotypes, only those wealthy enough to hire a professional artist could acquire a likeness of themselves or loved ones. . Since the process did not involve negatives, each daguerreotype was a one-of-a-kind image.

Online Exhibits:

[Shikishi Haiku](#)

[Daguerreotypes: The First Photographs](#)

**About the State Library:** Founded in 1850, the California State Library has an extensive collection of documents from and about the state's rich history, ranging from books, maps, miners' diaries, newspapers, and periodicals to photographs, paintings and posters. The State Library also holds federal and state publications, and is home to the Bernard E. Witkin State Law Library, and the Braille and Talking Book Library. [State Library website](#)

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