

THE STANDARD OF BEAUTY

—CREATION BY YANAGI'S AESTHETIC EYES

JANUARY 10TH TO MARCH 20TH, 2022

THE JAPAN FOLK CRAFTS MUSEUM

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The collections of the Museum by Soetsu Yanagi have unified beauty regardless of their differences between their ages, regions and purposes. He called such beauty as “non-dual beauty” or “absolute beauty without beauty and ugliness” and proposed its value as “the standard of beauty”. In this exhibition, we would like to display various expressions of “the standard of beauty”. Like *ido* tea bowls which were originally produced as common bowls and treasured by early tea masters, it can be called as creation by Yanagi’s aesthetic eyes.

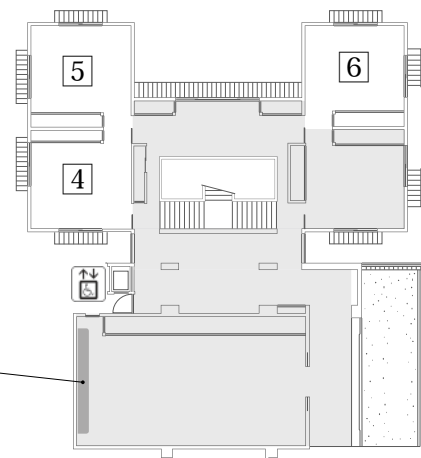
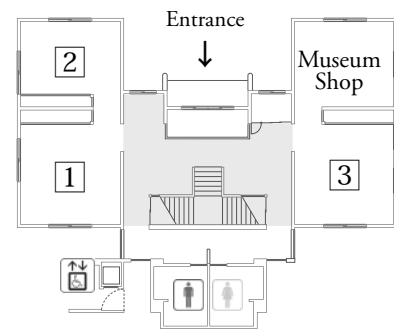
Notice

- Please do not touch exhibited works and showcases.
- The use of tools which can damage artworks such as pens or ink brushes are prohibited.
- Please refrain from using cell phones.
- Please do not take photographs and movies except in designated areas.

Notice for Photographic Area:

- No flash, no tripods, no selfie sticks.
- No movies.
- Respect other visitors while taking photos.
- Do not process.
- Be careful of the portrait rights of other visitors in your photos.
- For non-profit and personal use only.

FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR

THEMATIC EXHIBITION

1 KANJIRO KAWAI AND SHIKO MUNAKATA I

Potter Kanjiro Kawai (1890-1966) and wood print artist Shiko Munakata (1903-1975) were master and disciple on the road of creativity, and also respected each other as fellows. This room introduces ceramics such as tea bowls and ink-stones by Kawai and colored woodblock prints by Munakata such as ‘Nature through the Twelve Months’.

2 KANJIRO KAWAI AND SHIKO MUNAKATA II 〔OPEN ON FEBRUARY 1ST〕

This exhibition room shows Munakata’s masterpiece black-and-white woodblock prints filled with his religious thoughts such as ‘A Series of the Heart Sutra’ and ‘Two Bodhisattva and Ten Great Disciples of Shaka’. Also Kawai’s ceramic works which fully express his original outlook and shaping such as faceted jars, vases, and tiles.

3 PATTERNS OF KEISUKE SERIZAWA

Keisuke Serizawa (1895-1984) was an attractive dyer who had made lively patterns and colors. His motifs came from ordinary things in daily life, his routine sketches produced affluent patterns. This room introduces the world of his various stencil techniques.

4 SHOJI HAMADA’S 77 TEA BOWLS

Shoji Hamada (1894-1978) also produced numbers of tea bowls for use in a tea ceremony and aimed for tea bowls “not made but born”. This room follows his tea bowl catalogue called “Shoji Hamada’s 77 tea bowls” which was issued to commemorate his 77th birthday, and displays 77 tea bowls.

5 DRAWING AND POTTERY OF BERNARD LEACH

Bernard Leach (1887-1979) produced his ceramics mainly in England but also in Japan too. At the same time he was a close life-long friend of Yanagi, Hamada and Kawai. His prior dream was to be a painter, and therefore he made plenty of sketches while making ceramics. This room has his 50 works of sketches and ceramics.

6 SOETSU YANAGI’S CREATION

Soetsu Yanagi (1889-1961) had discovered, collected, and diffused the beauty in various countries, for example in Japan or in Korea. He composed numerous writings, furthermore cared about book bindings, was interested in calligraphy, practiced a new tea ceremony in the Museum and so on. Through these activities, he expressed his philosophy and aesthetics with clear images.