

THE BEAUTY OF OKINAWA

June 23rd to August 21st, 2022

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF
SIGNING THE OKINAWA REVERSION AGREEMENT

Okinawa, as Ryukyu Kingdom, has formed a unique culture of their own. It was in 1938 when Yanagi visited Okinawa for the first time. Since then, he had visited the island four times in total, conducted research, and collected crafts. Then he introduced its attractiveness through exhibitions. This year marks the 50th anniversary of signing the Okinawa Reversion Agreement, and we will introduce Okinawa as a treasure chest of beauty again by their outstanding works such as bingata, weaving textiles and ceramics from the Museum collection.



Guardian Lion,
Ryukyu Kingdom period, 17-18th century, h.79cm
(This is the only item allowed for photography.)

PLEASE

- No flash, no tripods.
- No movies.
- Please respect other visitors while taking photos.
- Please do not process.
- Please be careful for the portrait rights of other visitors in your photos.
- For non-profit and personal use only.

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 or movies except designated areas.

FEATURE EXHIBITION I

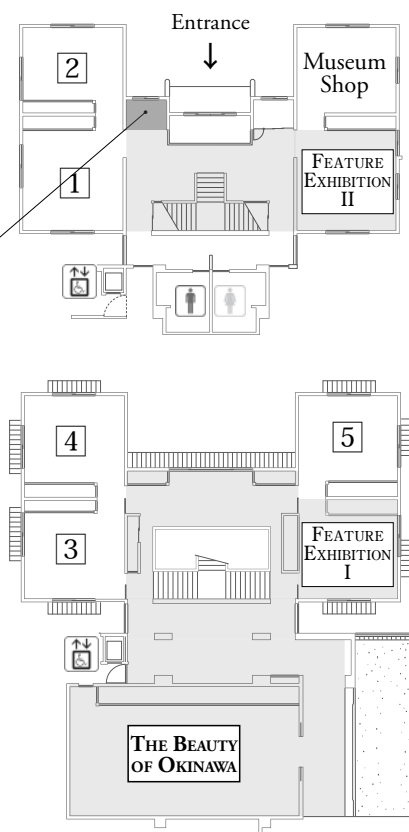
WEAVINGS FROM REMOTE ISLANDS OF OKINAWA

High-quality weavings were treated as taxes during Ryukyu Kingdom period, and distinctive features of the locality were found. Island weavings such as Yaeyama-joufu (high-quality ramies), indigo ikats of Miyako Island, bright yellow silk weavings of Kume Island etc. based on textile patterns *miezu* are on display.

FEATURE EXHIBITION II

OKINAWAN CRAFTS IN SHOWA PERIOD

This room introduces potteries of Jiro Kinjo, weaving textiles of Hatsuko Miyahira, Toshiko Taira and Shizuko Oshiro all made in Showa period. Also, the recreations from our textiles collection are displayed. Please enjoy the works for revival and succession during the difficult times after the WWII.



THEMATIC EXHIBITION

1 BLUE-AND-WHITE PORCELAIN OF IMARI -indigo blue cups

Small cups of Hizen (Kyusyu region) were shipped from the port of Imari to nationwide. They were utensils for ordinary people and used as dipping bowls, drinking cups, small plates and so on. Their lovable drawings caught Yanagi's aesthetic eyes and decorated the cover of *the Announcement for the Formation of the Museum of Folk Crafts*. We would like to introduce Imari ware, mainly small cups.

2 NATIVE AMERICAN CRAFTS

When Yanagi visited Santa Fe, the capital city of New Mexico in 1952, he encountered the beauty of Native American crafts in astonishment and added to the Museum collection. This room demonstrates baskets, earthen wares and weaving textiles of North Native American, and also crafts of indigenous people of South America and Hawaii.

5 CRAFTS OF JAPAN

Our collection includes around 2500 items of woodworks, lacquer works, metal works, glass works and baskets. These crafts were made with familiar materials with succeeded techniques and used for practical purposes in life protected by nature. Please enjoy various craft works which had been fostered by rich environment and tradition.

3 CHARACTER EXPRESSION IN JOSEON CRAFTS

Chinese characters were often treated as a main theme or used as adornments, such as "character paintings (or character figures)" which illustrate eight virtues in Confucianism in the Joseon crafts. We would like to display paintings, ceramics, woodworks and metalworks with notable characters.

4 SOETSU YANAGI AND HIS PROPONENTS

With Yanagi's calligraphies and writings, works by proponents of Mingei Movement such as Bernard Leach, Kanjiro Kawai, Shoji Hamada, Keisuke Serizawa and Shiko Munakata are exhibited. One of the principal works on display is a letter written by Serizawa to Yanagi which was assembled as a scroll. His respect toward Yanagi can be seen through his words and pictures.