

# THE BEAUTY OF URUSHI

—LACQUERWARE OF  
JAPAN AND THE KOREAN PENINSULA

APRIL 13TH TO JUNE 18TH, 2023

This exhibition features various lacquerware of Japan and the Korean Peninsula from the Museum collection. One of the characteristics of our Japanese lacquerware collection is lacquer painting, which Soetsu Yanagi (1889-1961) especially preferred. In Korean lacquerware, boxes with mother-of-pearl decoration are highly notable. In addition to the splendid works of the two countries, works by Tatsuaki Kuroda (1904-1982) and Taro Maruyama (1909-1985) are also on display, and you can enjoy the quintessence of our lacquerware collection.

## 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.

### Notice for Photographic Area:

This side in the Main Hall (2nd floor) is the ONLY area for photographs.

#### PLEASE

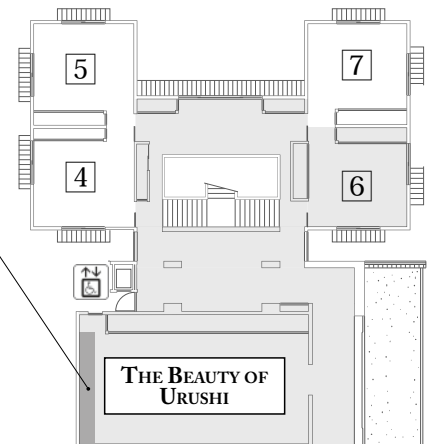
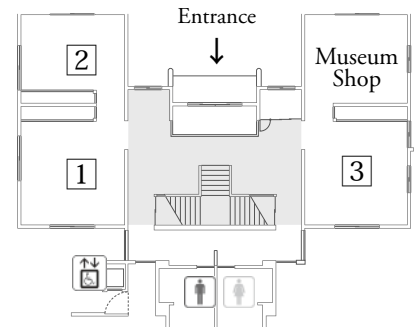
- No flash, no tripods, no video recordings.
- Please respect other visitors while taking photographs.
- Please do not process.
- Please be careful of the portrait rights of other visitors in your photos.
- For non-profit and personal use only.

## THE JAPAN FOLK CRAFTS MUSEUM

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## FIRST FLOOR



## SECOND FLOOR

## THEMATIC EXHIBITION

### 1 DRAWINGS ON JAPANESE CERAMICS

From antiquity people have cherished mother nature. Soetsu Yanagi had pointed design on a square plate and said “This is not a painting from picture but a painting born from the plate itself,” and praised as “painting of autonomy”. Please enjoy the variety of expressions on the utensils.

### 2 UNGLAZED CERAMICS

Excellent “unglazed ceramics” express strongness and beauty of original form due to their non-glazing technique. In this room introduces Jomon potteries, ceramics of Japanese regional kilns, and of other global areas such as China, the Korean Peninsula, North and South America and Africa.

### 3 JAPANESE IKAT

The ikat weaving technique to tie-dye yarns in advance for final woven design was originally born in ancient India, and through South East Asia and Okinawa finally reached in various areas in Japan. This room displays mainly cotton ikat which Yanagi had introduced in “*Kogei* (Crafts)” magazine vol.20 as “every ordinary piece is beautiful” and also silk and hemp ikats.

### 4 PORCELAIN OF JOSEON PERIOD – flowers-and-birds design and plants design

Ceramics in Joseon period configure an important section of our collection. This room mainly exhibits porcelain of Joseon period such as painted plum flowers and birds, lotus, peonies or bamboo in blue-and-white, cinnabar or iron glaze. Please cherish an inherent beauty of design on white porcelain.

### 5 KANJIRO KAWAI

Kanjiro Kawai (1890-1966) was one of the closest friends of Yanagi and also a famous potter in Japan. He used not only pottery wheels but also molds frequently. Some of those molds needed several months to build. This room mainly shows those profound molded pieces of Kawai who was strong in mold forming.

### 6 CRAFTSMEN IN LACQUER WORKS

Tatsuaki Kuroda was the first craftsman who recognized as intangible cultural property holder (living national treasure) in the area of lacquer works. Taro Maruyama was the first director of Matsumoto Folk Crafts Museum and an expert in egg-shell lacquer ware. In this room exhibits their works with Yanagi’s calligraphic works.

### 7 PAPER CRAFTS

Japanese papers (*washi*) are made from oriental paper-bushes and have rich texture. They are very strong and long in life, therefore have been used in fans, lamp-shades, lacquered wares, paper-string wares and even for paper fabrics and clothes. We feature paper crafts mainly made by *washi* in this room.