

SHIKO MUNAKATA III

— SACRED FIGURES

SEPT 21ST TO NOV 5TH, 2025

SHIKO MUNAKATA I — INSPIRATION FROM WORDS 6/14 - 7/27
SHIKO MUNAKATA II — EXPRESSION OF RESPECT 8/2 - 9/15

※ Works of Munakata will be exchanged for each period.

※ The ticket stub can be used as a discount coupon for your next visit. (Valid for all 3 periods, not with other discounts.)

<Main Hall and Corridors>

The final chapter of Shiko Munakata's special exhibition. Munakata had felt closer to the existence of Buddha from his childhood. Then he deepened his understanding toward religion through teachings by Yanagi and others, and produced various series of works on Buddhism. Please enjoy Munakata's quintessential world of the Sacred Figures.

<2F 3rd room>

"The Mandala of Avalokitesvara Bodhisattva" (1938) depicts the virtue of Avalokitesvara, who transforms into thirty-three different manifestations in response to the sufferings of sentient beings and preaches the Dharma. This work is the first example in which the technique of *ura-zaishiki* (reverse-side coloring), in which pigments are applied to the reverse side of the print surface, was employed. *Ura-zaishiki* later became one of the signature techniques of Munakata's woodblock prints.

<2F 4th room>

Following works such as "Avatamsaka Sutra (Kegonfu)" (1936) and "The Two Bodhisattvas and the Ten Great Disciples of Shakyamuni" (1939), Munakata created "Mirror of Prince Shotoku" (1940), a work related to the veneration of Prince Shotoku, thereby deepening his understanding of Japanese Buddhism. This piece, which may be regarded as Munakata's own pictorial biography of Prince Shotoku, is presented here together with Japanese Buddhist ritual implements.

Notice for Photographic Area:

The Main Hall (2nd floor) is the ONLY area for photographs.

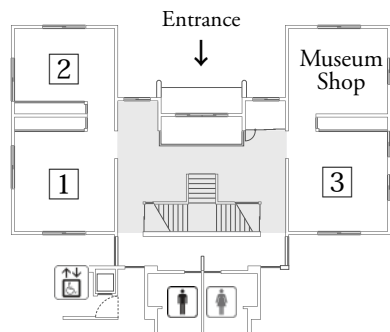
PLEASE

- 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.**

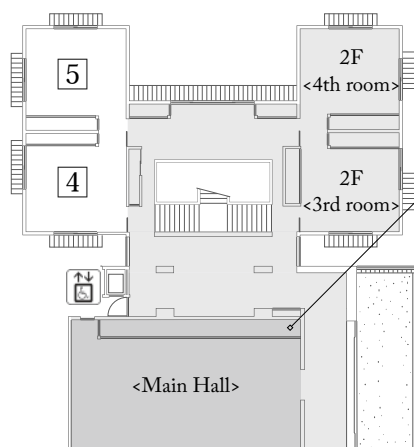
NOTICE

- 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.

FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR



THEMATIC EXHIBITION

1 JAPANESE CERAMICS

The ceramic collection in our museum exceeds around 3800 pieces, encompassing both new and old. Our acquisition philosophy has centered on beauty, irrespective of the period, place of origin or original purpose. We exhibit 50 works from several kilns of Kyusyu, Seto (Aichi prefecture), Tamba (Hyogo prefecture), Tsuboya (Okinawa prefecture), and other kilns all over Japan.

2 CRAFTS FROM TOHOKU REGION

With its challenging climate and geographical remoteness from traditional cultural hubs in Japan, customs and techniques from the past were well preserved, and also by embracing the blessings of a rich natural environment Tohoku region fostered its unique local handicrafts. This room introduces the craftworks from Tohoku 6 prefectures, Aomori, Iwate, Akita, Miyagi, Yamagata and Fukushima.

3 WORKS BY SHOJI HAMADA

Potter Shoji Hamada (1894-1978) alongside Soetsu Yanagi, recognized Munakata's talent and supported him both materially and spiritually. Based in Mashiko, Tochigi prefecture, his artistic practice was nourished by beauty residing in the crafts of places like Okinawa, England and Korea. This exhibition room presents Hamada's wholesome and expansive works, including those previously owned by Munakata.

4 "MUNAKATA IDO" AND KOREAN CERAMICS

Our museum recently received a significant donation of Korean ceramics cherished by Shiko Munakata. These include exquisite pieces such as variety of bowls including an Ido tea bowl which he named "Munakata", magnificent iron-glazed Dragon jar, elegant Moon jar, and distinctive master pieces. This room highlights multifaceted charm of Korean ceramics, centered around works from former Munakata's collection.

5 WORKS BY KANJIRO KAWAI

Kanjiro Kawai (1890-1966), potter who was Munakata's spiritual mentor, guiding and encouraging him throughout his life, was also a poet who left many words. In this room, we introduce Kawai's world of vibrantly colored glazes, a field which he excelled, alongside ceramic panels on which he applied his own words and poems using a *tsutsugaki* (tube drawing) technique.

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