

ONE
EXHIBITION

The Way of Tea plays a primary role in the cultural programs of the Portland Japanese Garden and we are honored to have this exhibition of work by former Prime Minister Hosokawa to open the new Cultural Village.

TWO
LOCATIONS

As the first Art in the Garden exhibition in the new facilities, *Hosokawa Moribiro: The Art of Life, A Rebirth in Clay* is on view in both the Pavilion Gallery and the new Tanabe Gallery, located in the Jordan Schnitzer Japanese Arts Learning Center.

IN THE
TANABE

A celebration of seasonality is on view in the Tanabe Gallery with seven seasonal pairings of calligraphy scrolls and ceramics that evoke subtle changes in the seasons as they are observed in the Way of Tea.

Tea presentations will be conducted in the Yanai Classroom during the Grand Opening and in the Cathy Rudd Cultural Corner at various times throughout the two-month run of the exhibition.

IN THE
PAVILION

The exhibition in the Pavilion Gallery includes a variety of ceramic tea wares and bamboo tea scoops (*chashaku*), as well as sculptural objects, such as Buddhist figures, pagoda, and lion dogs. A portable teahouse anchors the installation in the Pavilion, and features a display of tea utensils in place to provide a context for his work.

This exhibition is guest curated by Chief Curator and Deputy Director of Nezu Museum in Tokyo, Dr. Nishida Hiroko, in collaboration with Portland Japanese Garden Exhibition Manager, Mami Takahashi, and Arlene Schnitzer Curator of Culture, Art, and Education, Diane Durston.

ABOUT
ART IN THE GARDEN

“As a work of art itself, the Portland Japanese Garden provides a natural setting for both the creation and display of art inspired by Japan. Beginning in 2008, the Garden has featured the Art in the Garden series of special exhibitions that reflect the intersection of art and nature and celebrate work that has been influenced by the aesthetics of Japan or created in response to the Garden itself by internationally known artists from Japan and the U.S. Both traditional and contemporary works of art are featured in these seasonal exhibitions. Just as evergreens provide the living thread of continuity throughout the four seasons, Art in the Garden is intended to encourage the ongoing exchange of culture, art and ideas between the U.S. and Japan”

—Diane Durston,
Arlene Schnitzer Curator of Culture, Art, and Education

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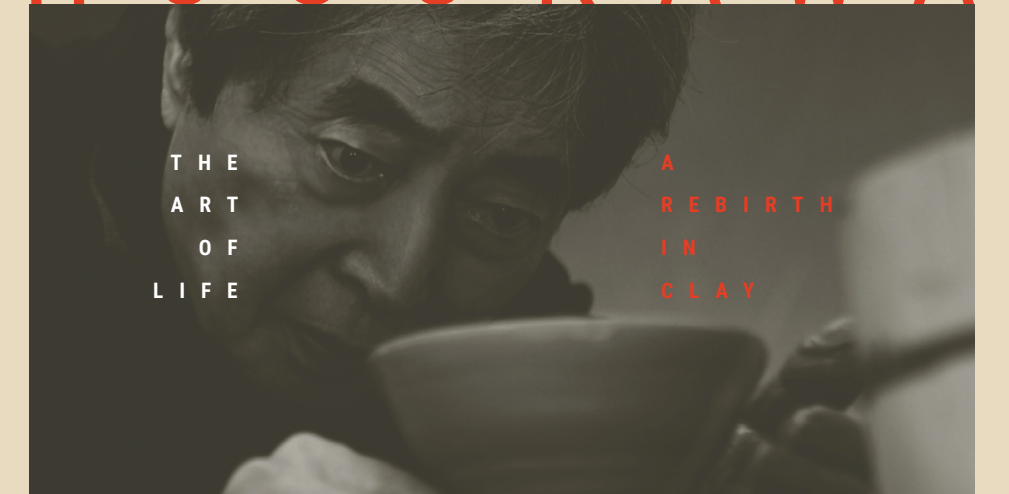


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PORTLAND
JAPANESE GARDEN
PRESENTS

H O S O K A W A



M O R I H I R O

APRIL 2
2017

—
MAY 21
2017

I find making pottery is a bit like Zen meditation. My mind concentrates on the task at hand, although I can't say I become completely detached from everyday life. When working with forces that have always existed, like clay and fire, I feel reduced to something insignificant, and yet completely at ease with myself.

H O S O K A W A M O R I H I R O



In celebration of the Grand Opening of the Cultural Village, Art in the Garden is honored to present a glimpse into the creative life and work of former Prime Minister Hosokawa Morihiro, who left a career in politics behind in 1998 and retired at the age of 60 to Yugawara, a small coastal town in Kanagawa southwest of Tokyo.

As a descendant of some of the daimyo tea masters of centuries past, he follows his own Way of Tea in a uniquely-designed teahouse cum tree house that defies conventional practice. He is guided on the new path by his admiration for some of the great artists and original thinkers of the past—Chojiro (1516-1592), the first generation in the Raku family of potters, and Hon'ami Koetsu (1558-1637), the revered potter, lacquer artist, calligrapher, and founder of an innovative artists' colony in Kyoto whose originality and creativity moved Hosokawa to reinvent his own life four hundred years later. Today, this accomplished artist, calligrapher, painter, and poet expresses a love of simplicity and originality in his work and in his life.

The words of a humble potter?

Or those of a 20th-century Japanese prime minister and 18th generation descendant of a *daimyo* family of feudal lords that dates back to the 14th century?

Remarkably, they are one and the same.

The wisdom contained within the Tea world not only relates to the actual 'ceremony' itself, it also teaches us how to live with beauty and grace. Hosokawa can share these teachings through his *chatou* (tea ceramics) with the world. His work...has the power to bring a small portion of humanity closer together, one sip at a time.

ROBERT YELLIN
Japanese ceramics specialist and Kyoto gallery owner

With 600 years of family history as warriors, tea masters, calligraphers, and poets behind him, this modest Renaissance man spent a year and a half reinventing his life starting with a year-and-a-half traditional apprenticeship with renowned Nara potter Tsujimura Shiro. Today Hosokawa practices the art of life—tending his vegetable garden, writing Zen inscriptions in calligraphy, and spending time in his studio where he makes the simple ceramic tea bowls, jars and rustic Buddhist sculptures that express an inner life of modesty and compassion, far removed from the battlefield of modern politics.

My main interest is pottery for the tea ceremony. In fact, the only thing I make is bowls used for drinking matcha green tea. Cups and bowls made in other countries are symmetric all around, but traditional Japanese tea bowls are often a little irregular in shape, and they may have scorch marks or some other 'imperfection.' It's important that each bowl have its own personality. That's what makes them fascinating.

H O S O K A W A M O R I H I R O

His inheritance of the samurai's respect for *Bunbu-Ryodo*, the Twofold Path of Pen and Sword, reveals itself subtly in his expressions, for example that "being cultured means being sympathetic" and "modesty is the virtue of all virtues." Reflecting the spirit of Zen Buddhism and of *Bushido*, the warrior's code of honor, he embraces the simple art of life with ideals that have meaning for us today, beyond borders and time.