Art in the Garden
Northern Lights:
Ceramic Art from Hokkaido

Spring 2008
ART IN THE GARDEN
SPRING 2008

The fascinating history of ceramics in Japan spans more than 10,000 years—from the coil-built, earthenware Jomon pots and the hollow-eyed, cylindrical Haniwa tomb figures to the rustic beauty of ash-glazed Shigaraki and Bizen tea wares and the elaborately decorated porcelains of Arita and Kutani. Arguably, there is no culture on earth with a greater appreciation for the potter’s art than that of Japan.

With a wealth of good quality clay available throughout the Japanese archipelago, numerous villages around the country became known for the production of a remarkably diverse array of ceramic styles and techniques. Early kiln sites such as Bizen, Shigaraki, Iga, Tokoname, Echizen and Tamba have flourished for centuries on the island of Honshu, as have the porcelain centers of Arita, Nabeshima and Imari on the southern island of Kyushu.

Not long after the Portland Japanese Garden first opened its own gates, the Hokkaido Pottery Society was established in Sapporo, Portland’s sister city, in 1968 to foster the exchange of technical information and friendship among potters working in Hokkaido.

The Garden welcomes the work of 24 ceramic artists from the Hokkaido Pottery Society for this special preview of their 40th-Anniversary exhibition in conjunction with the Oregon Potters Association 2008 Ceramics Showcase.

The ceramic arts of Hokkaido reflect the vitality and youth of this northernmost island of Japan. Relatively new to the world of Japanese ceramics, Hokkaido has long been admired for its pristine lakes, virgin forests and unspoiled scenic beauty. It was not until the late 19th century that settlers from all over Japan began moving to Hokkaido, bringing with them a wealth of new trades, including the production of fine ceramics from many of the different kilns around the country.

Much like artists of the American West, Hokkaido potters enjoy the freedom to break new ground in their work, building upon the traditions of the past, while exploring new ideas and directions, lighting the way for future ceramic artists with a creativity clearly visible in the work on display in this exhibition.

PARTICIPATING CERAMIC ARTISTS
Aizawa Kouji
Azuma Kazunao
Bandou Tokoh
Fukumorita Machiko
Ishikawa Shinichi
Kaidoh Shinji
Kimura Hatsue
Kiryu Akiko
Kousai Nobuyuki
Maeno Yuko
Minami Seigoh
Nakamura Hiroshi
Nakamura Teruko
Ogi Minori
Okada Hiroaki
Shimada Masatoshi
Suzuki Masaru
Tajima Yuko
Takahashi Yoshinobu
Takai Hideki
Tokuhashi Hiroshi
Ueda Fumiko
Yamada Shoko
Yamanashi Yasuko
Yoshida Akira
SPECIAL THANKS TO:
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