

### III. Guided by the Way of Tea

Murayama Ryohei once said that he initially had no interest in the traditional Japanese practice of tea *chanoyu* (also known as *chado*, or the “Way of Tea”). Contrary to those words, Murayama gradually became devoted to *chanoyu* through his appreciation for art and even became one of the originators of a tea group known as *Juhachi kai*, or the Group of Eighteen, whose core members were industrialists centered in Osaka. Guided by his tea practice, Murayama collected an impressive set of exquisite tea utensils, some of which are exhibited in this exhibition, and hosted various tea gatherings. Based on records from the time, this exhibition also introduces the selections of utensils Murayama used for his third gathering for the Group of Eighteen, which he held at his home in Osaka in 1902; a Jinjutsu Koetsu gathering at Koetsu-ji Temple in Takagamine in Kyoto in 1922; and a Gennan Nagori tea gathering held at his Mikage residence in Kobe in 1924. This exhibition also features Murayama’s prized tea containers and teabowls, which appeared in *Taisho meiki kan*, a catalogue of celebrated tea utensils published in the Taisho period (1912–1926).



Tea Bowl, Kuroraku Type, named “Furugitsune”  
Chojiro (n.d)  
Japan, Momoyama period, 16<sup>TH</sup> century

Openwork Bowl with Hollyhock Design, Overglaze  
Polychrome Enamels  
Ogata Kenzan (1663-1743)  
Japan, Edo period, 18<sup>TH</sup> century

