

Chinese Lacquerware

Carefully preserved in Japan for many generations, Chinese lacquerware has been made with various techniques not found in its traditional Japanese counterpart. As seen in the ancient treasures of the Shōsō-in Repository, lacquer was introduced to Japan from China during the Nara period (710-794). From the latter part of the Heian (794-1185) to the Muromachi (1333-1573) period, Zen temples used lacquerware as utensils and gifts. Over time, this practice spread among warrior families, who incorporated lacquer to decorate their places of gathering. During the Edo period (1615-1868), lacquered utensils were particularly used in the tea practice of *chanoyu*. Due to their popularity in *chanoyu*, Chinese lacquered works came to be increasingly appraised, resulting in many of these objects being given documents of authenticity.

This exhibition showcases outstanding examples of Chinese lacquerware from the Kosetsu Museum of Art's collection, the majority of which once belonged to the founder of the newspaper agency Asahi Shimbun, Murayama Ryōhei (1850-1933). In 2020, the former board chair of the Kosetsu Museum of Art, the late Murayama Michiko (1920-2020), gifted the Murayama Collection to the museum. Included among these objects were many fine examples of Chinese lacquer, several of which required conservation treatment. These works were recently restored, making this exhibition an ideal opportunity to feature these stunning works made in various elaborate techniques.

In closing, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to the lacquer conservator Yoshihiko Yamashita for conserving works from our collection and to those who loaned us their invaluable lacquerware on exhibit here. We also deeply thank all those who supported and cooperated with us to make this exhibition possible.

Admission

Adults

¥ 900 (¥ 700*)

High school and university students

¥ 500 (¥ 350*)

Elementary and junior high school students

¥ 300 (¥ 150*)

*For groups of 20 or more



Carved Red Lacquer *Tenmoku* Tea Bowl Stand with Design of Peonies

Ming dynasty, 15th-16th century

Kosetsu Museum of Art



Table with Design of Waterfowl in Lotus Pond in Mother-of-pearl Inlay

Ming dynasty, 16th-17th century

Kosetsu Museum of Art



Small Table with Inlaid Bone Design of the God of Longevity Shoulao (J. Jurōjin)

Qing dynasty, 18th century

Kosetsu Museum of Art