

The Teabowls of Chanoyu: The History and Allure of Tea Practice

Teabowls hold special significance as tea utensils used to serve tea to guests. These vessels also reflect the aesthetic sensibilities of tea practitioners in any given period. The tradition of tea drinking using matcha, or powdered green tea leaves, whisked with hot water first began in China in the Northern Song dynasty (960–1127). During the early Kamakura period (late 12th century), Japanese Buddhist monks who studied in China and Chinese merchants who traveled to Japan introduced matcha to Japan, together with Chinese *tenmoku* and celadon teabowls. In the later part of the Muromachi period (16th century), the practice of *wabi* tea, which utilizes simple tea ware, centered on the affluent townspeople of Sakai, became popular. During this time, Korean (*Kōrai*) teabowls from the archipelago were also used. In the Momoyama period (second half of the 16th century), various styles of bowls such as reflecting the taste of Sen no Rikyu (1522–1591) came to be made. Thereafter, Japanese teabowl came to be made.

For this exhibition, approximately 70 teabowls from the collection of the Kosetsu Museum of Art will be presented. Also highlighted here will be two extraordinary works—one from the Kitamura Museum and the other from the Yuki Museum of Art.

Admission

Adults

¥ 1200 (¥ 1000*)

High school and university students

¥ 700 (¥ 500*)

Elementary and junior high school students

¥ 400 (¥ 200*)

*For groups of 20 or more



Jian ware
"Oil-spot" Tenmoku Teabowl
China, Southern Song dynasty, 12th-13th century



Mino ware
Shino Teabowl, named *Asahikage* ("Morning Glow")
Japan, Momoyama period, 16th-17th century



Important Art Object
Chōjirō (n.d.)
Black Raku Teabowl, named *Kogitsune* ("Ancient Fox")
Japan, Momoyama period, 16th century



Nonomura Ninsei (n.d.)
Teabowl with Hare's-foot-fern Motif in
Overglaze Polychrome Enamels
Japan, Edo period, 17th century