

## Pyrography: Brown Strange Things

“*Yakie*”—“pyrography” in English—is the art of burning designs such as pictures or letters onto paper, silk, bamboo, wood, or other materials using a heated iron stylus or trowel. Despite being drawn on flammable materials using heat, *yakie* achieves expressions reminiscent of India ink painting—including line drawing, stippling, and gradations of tone—in a manner that seems almost unbelievable.

The earliest documented references to *yakie* date back to the late Heian and Kamakura periods, and while there are a few surviving examples of *yakie* paper decorations from that time, how the art was actually practiced remains unclear. This forgotten technique resurfaced during the late Edo period, a time when art forms such as *kabuki* and *ukiyo-e* were flourishing. *Yakie* was quietly enjoyed among the people for its unusual technique and unique beauty. Records also exist from this period of dialogue about *yakie* with Chinese visitors to Japan, and exchanges concerning *yakie* between Japan and Korea conducted via Korean envoys.

This exhibition explores the rarely-introduced art of *yakie*, presenting a wealth of examples from Japan and Korea alongside a small number of surviving Chinese works. It includes hagoita battledore paddles, once familiar items in daily life, as well as works by contemporary *yakie* artists. While many mysteries surround its techniques and practitioners, *yakie* possesses a rich, captivating charm. We hope that this exhibition will provide an opportunity for many people to discover the beautiful art of *yakie*.

### Admission

#### Adults

¥ 1600 (¥ 1400\*)

#### High school and university students

¥ 800 (¥ 400\*)

#### Elementary and junior high school students

¥ 400 (¥ 200\*)

\*For groups of 20 or more



#### Daruma (Bodhidharma)

Hakuga ( ? ~ ? )  
Edo period (19<sup>th</sup> century)  
Yakiean



#### Swaying Hands

Tsujino Eiichi (1960 ~ )  
2025  
Artist's collection



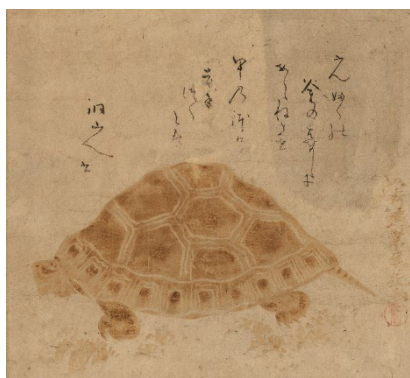
#### Flowers and Birds

Artist unknown  
20<sup>th</sup> century  
Private collection



#### Queen Mother of the West

Chen Da ( ? ~ ? )  
1919  
Murakami collection



#### Turtle

Joshū ( ? ~ ? )  
Edo period (18<sup>th</sup>–19<sup>th</sup> centuries)  
Yakiean



#### Tiger

Seizan ( ? ~ ? )  
Edo period (18<sup>th</sup>–19<sup>th</sup> centuries)  
Yakiean