



Art in the Garden



Northern Lights: Ceramic Art from Hokkaido



With special thanks to the Hokkaido Pottery Society and the Oregon Potters Association Ceramics Showcase.



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Photography by Jonathan Ley



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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 | Ogi Minori |
| Azuma Kazunao | Okada Hiroaki |
| Bandou Tokoh | Shimada Masatoshi |
| Fukumorita Machiko | Suzuki Masaru |
| Ishikawa Shinichi | Tajima Yuko |
| Kaidoh Shiniji | Takahashi Yoshinobu |
| Kimura Hatsue | Takai Hideki |
| Kiryu Akiko | Tokuhashi Hiroshi |
| Kousai Nobuyuki | Ueda Fumiko |
| Maeno Yuko | Yamada Shoko |
| Minami Seigoh | Yamanashi Yasuko |
| Nakamura Hiroshi | Yoshida Akira |
| Nakamura Teruko | |

