

**TEA CULTURE OF JAPAN: CHANOYU PAST AND PRESENT  
RELATED PROGRAMMING**

Yale University Art Gallery offers a diversity of public programming—including lectures, an international symposium, demonstrations, and films—related to its major exhibition *Tea Culture of Japan: Chanoyu Past and Present*, on view at the Gallery from January 20 through April 26, 2009. The exhibition explores the evolution of the Japanese tea service—*chanoyu*—from its antecedents in the ninth century up to the present day, in which tea culture is very much alive. Some 100 objects provide insight not only into the exquisite aesthetics of Japanese tea service, but also into the ways in which tea culture illuminates Japanese religious, political, and social mores through the ages.

All programs are free and open to the public, and take place at **Yale University Art Gallery, 1111 Chapel Street (between York and High Streets), New Haven, Connecticut.**

The schedule is as follows:

Gallery Talks

***Wabi: Savoring the Past and Reinventing the Future***

Wednesday, January 28, 2009; 12:20 PM

Exhibition curator Sadako Ohki, the Gallery's Japan Foundation Associate Curator of Japanese Art, discusses the philosophy, practice, and aesthetic of *wabi* tea culture, established in the sixteenth century. *Wabi*, with its emphasis on restraint, simplicity, and unity with nature, and its spare and elegant aesthetic, continues to be followed today.

***Chanoyu: A Constant Thread in Japanese Art and Aesthetics***

Tuesday, February 10, 2009; 4:00 PM

Followed by a reception

Private collector and tea connoisseur Richard M. Danziger, LL.B. 1963, discusses the *wabi* aesthetic, and the provenance of works included in the exhibition.

***Lee-Nam Lee's New Media Art: Reinterpreting Traditions and Spirit in the Digital Age***

Tuesday, February 17, 2009; 4:00 PM

Lee-Nam Lee, a Kwangju, Korea-based artist whose 2006 video *Bamboo in Snow* is in the exhibition, discusses his work and the emergence of digital art.

## **Tea as Popular Culture**

Tuesday, February 24, 2009; 4:00 PM

Takeshi Watanabe, Visiting Assistant Professor, History and Art History Departments, Connecticut College, offers views on the relationship between tea and larger cultural trends in Japan from medieval to modern times. He describes how, while *chanoyu* has been considered one of the major practices of traditional “high” art, it had and still has elements of what could be construed as popular, plebeian culture. These elements are, based in the diffuse, shared imagination and aesthetics of the public, not just in Japan, but also internationally.

## International Symposium

### **The Journey of *Chanoyu*: An International Symposium on the Tea Culture of Japan, Past and Present**

Friday, April 17, 2009; 9:00 AM–5:00 PM

Robert L. McNeil, Jr., Lecture Hall

Registration Required: 203.432.7379

International tea practitioners, scholars, curators, artists, and art dealers discuss the content and aesthetics of Japanese tea culture. Focusing on not only the past but also the present and the future, the discussion will illuminate the concept of originality in tea culture and address the international character and aesthetics of Japanese tea, particularly as experienced through the materiality of tea utensils, vessels, and other objects for a tea gathering. (Printed English translations will be made available for papers presented in Japanese; these will be also summarized in English by a live interpreter.) Made possible by Yale’s Council on East Asian Studies, with the cooperation of the Tōdai-Yale Initiative.

## Tea Demonstrations

### ***Koicha* Service**

Saturday, April 18, 2009; 2:00–2:45 PM

A *koicha* (thick tea) service is presented by Sen Sō-oku, the fifteenth-generation heir to the Mushanokōji Senke tea lineage.

### ***Matcha* Services**

Saturday, April 18, 2009; 3:00–4:30 PM

Two *matcha* (thin tea) services are presented in the modern fashion, or *Ryūreishiki*. Sen Sō-oku performs the style of the Mushanokōji Senke school, using a modern tea set of his own design, called *Ten’yūjoku* (Table for Playing in the Sky). Ise Tomi presents the style of the *Ura Senke* school, using a modern set called *Misonodana* (Tea Set for Royal Garden).

The tea demonstrations are made possible in part by the Enshū School of Tea, the Ise Cultural Foundation, and Koichi Yanagi Oriental Fine Arts.

Film Screenings

**The Active Art of Tea**

Select Saturdays and Sundays from Saturday, January 24, to Saturday, April 25 (except for Saturday, March 28, and Saturday, April 18), 2:30 PM.

Short films focus on the ways in which different schools of tea handle tea utensils, with care and joy, during the four seasons and on special occasions.

*Yale University Art Gallery is open to the public free of charge: Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 AM–5:00 PM (Thursday until 8:00 PM, September–June); Sunday 1:00–6:00 PM. Closed Mondays and major holidays. For additional information, the public may visit <http://artgallery.yale.edu>, or call 203.432.0600.*

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For additional information about *Tea Culture of Japan: Chanoyu Past and Present* and related programs, contact Ami Potter at: [ami.potter@yale.edu](mailto:ami.potter@yale.edu) or 203.432.7379.