

MINGEI: The Beauty of Everyday Things opens on July 8 Exhibition merchandise and points to look out for

Dates: July 8 – September 18, 2023

Venue: Nakanoshima Museum of Art, Osaka (4-3-1 Nakanoshima, Kita-ku, Osaka, Japan)

Nakanoshima Museum of Art, Osaka (located in Kita-ku, Osaka City, and headed by Director Sugaya Tomio) will mount a folk art exhibition, MINGEI: The Beauty of Everyday Things, from July 8 to September 18, 2023. Ahead of the opening on July 8, we are pleased to release additional information about limited edition merchandise and other points to look out for in connection with the exhibition.

About one century ago, philosopher Yanagi Soetsu founded the mingei (folk crafts) movement. This show examines mingei items based on the themes of clothing, food, and home, presenting about 150 beautiful mingei works used in daily life and introducing people creating mingei works as well as the works that are being passed down.

Point 1: New work created by dyer and artist Miyairi Keita



Upcoming dyer and artist Miyairi Keita has created a new stencil work for the exhibition.

This handmade katazome stencil-dyed work is unique. It will be displayed at the venue. Check it out!

New stencil work created for the exhibition



MIYAIRI Keita

Dyer and artist. Attracted by Yanagi Soetsu's thinking, Miyairi studied mingei, and now pays attention to folk crafts in the creation of his own works. He was the subject of a special feature and on the cover of the fall/winter edition of Uniqlo's LifeWear magazine in 2022, followed in January 2023 by an exhibition of his works at Isetan Shinjuku department store.

★ Keita Miyairi talks about the meaning of his work and hopes for the exhibition

What sort of meanings are embodied in Miyairi's attractive but somewhat strange motifs? "When I was asked to create a new work for the MINGEI exhibition, my first thought was an educational poster for use in schools and children's centers. This design is the result. It uses simple symbols to express Yanagi Soetsu's teachings on Buddhist aesthetics and bishin-ichinyo*."

Miyairi's creative work is strongly influenced by Yanagi Soetsu's thinking. "I hope that visitors to the exhibition will take this

opportunity to gain a deeper understanding.” Miyairi also talks about the attractions of katazome stencil dyeing and his thoughts about Yanagi Soetsu. Follow the links on the exhibition’s official Twitter and Instagram sites.

* Bishin-ichinyo (beauty and mind as one): A phrase coined by Yanagi Soetsu to express the way that a great power beyond human comprehension that acts on our hearts and minds also acts on in the same way on material objects.

Point 2: Merchandise available only at the exhibition (examples)

Original merchandise produced under Miyairi Keita’s supervision. Only on sale at the exhibition venue.

Take a look when you visit the exhibition.

* These are examples. Other merchandise will also be available. The visuals are artist’s renderings; actual products may be slightly different. Prices are to be finalized.



T-shirt



Tote bag



Small box of boiled sweets

Limited edition ticket set with merchandise: Sacoche bag with original art by Miyairi Keita

This set comprises an exhibition admission ticket and a sacoch bag (a small bag worn diagonally across the body) with artwork by Miyairi, on sale at Lawson Ticket for 3,200 yen (including tax, numbers limited). The sacoch bag with this design is not for sale at the event venue. See the official exhibition website for details.



Original art by Miyairi Keita

Limited edition ticket set sachoche bag

* The sachoche bag in this set is not on sale at the exhibition. A sachoche bag of the same size but a different design will be on sale for 1,800 yen (tax included) in the exhibition shop.

Point 3: Special shop at exhibition venue with items from MOGI Folk Art (Koenji, Tokyo)

In Chapter III of the exhibition (Expanding Mingei – Past, Present, and Future), Terry Ellis and Kitamura Keiko of MOGI Folk Art present an installation with the theme of living with mingei. It will be a good example of how mingei can be incorporated into contemporary life. In the 1990s, Ellis and Kitamura began working as buyers for a multibrand clothing store in Japan, introducing mingei items in curated collections with clothing and Scandinavian interior goods, and becoming a driving force behind the current mingei trend. In autumn 2022, they opened their own shop, MOGI Folk Art, in Koenji, Tokyo, presenting folk art from around the world in conjunction with mingei items from Japan.

For this exhibition, in addition to presenting an installation of interior goods and items from Ellis and Kitamura's collection that they use in their own home, a special shop at the exhibition venue will sell items from MOGI Folk Art selected from around Japan and produced through their relationships with creators. The shop provides an opportunity to touch and hold such items, including some created specifically for this exhibition, before buying.

Jugs produced by Sakamoto Koji's Onta ware pottery in Oita Prefecture, with handles inspired by the works of British potter Lucie Rie. Mugs from the Hamada-gama Pottery at Mashiko, Tochigi Prefecture. Kokeshi dolls from the Sendaikiji workshop in Miyagi Prefecture (Sato Mashiro, Sato Yasuhiro). Saon tumblers from Kurayoshi Glass. And many more items order-made by creators around Japan with colors and motifs following MOGI's production requests. See the actual products at the venue.



Terry ELLIS and KITAMURA Keiko



* Photos are for illustrative purposes only. Products are handmade, so designs and specifications vary to some extent. Dates of availability also vary according to the product.



Special items in preparation for the exhibition. See the actual products at the venue.

Talk Event: How to create the good life, according to the directors of MOGI Folk Art

Speakers: Terry ELLIS/KITAMURA Keiko (directors of MOGI Folk Art)

Interviewer: KITAIRO Maki (Curator, Nakanoshima Museum of Art, Osaka)

Date and time: Saturday, July 8, 2023, 14 : 00 – 15 : 30 (Doors open 13:30)

Venue: Nakanoshima Museum of Art, Osaka 1F Hall

Capacity: 150, admission free of charge

with a ticket (or ticket stub) for this exhibition, to be presented on the day.

* Advance reservation is required. Apply using application form on official exhibition website (<https://mingei-kurashi.exhibit.jp/>).

New information: Application method

Workshop information

Make a coaster or mini-pochette with Tamba cloth: Tickets including workshop on sale (limited numbers)

This set comprises participation in the “Touch and make your own Tamba cloth crafts” workshop and an exhibition admission ticket.

Tamba cloth is made in the Tamba region of Hyogo Prefecture, but had fallen out of fashion before its beauty was rediscovered and revived by Yanagi Soetsu. In this workshop, you can hear from one of its makers and make a small item to take home while enjoying the special texture of hand-spun thread and the colors created by vegetable dyes. Facilitator is ERASMUS Chihiro, an officially recognized practitioner of Tamba cloth techniques.



ERASMUS Chihiro

Tamba cloth artist. While living in Okayama, she encountered wool spinning, dyeing, and weaving. After moving to Tamba, she came to know of the existence of Tamba cloth, and studied cloth-making at the Tamba City Nuno Denshokan (Museum & Training Center of Tambanuno Hand Woven Textile). She has served as a lecturer at that museum, and now creates her own works in her home workshop, placing importance on spinning, dyeing using vegetable dyes, and weaving, all by hand.

Photo: Yuki Ogawa



A. Make a coaster: 3,000 yen (tax included)

Saturday, July 22, 2023

(1) Begins 13 : 00, (2) Begins 15 : 00

(Each workshop lasts around 1 hour, and is limited to 20 participants)

Coaster



B. Make a mini-pochette: 3,500 yen (tax included)

Sunday, August 20, 2023

(1) Begins 12 : 00, (2) Begins 14 : 30

(Each workshop lasts around 90 minutes, and is limited to 20 participants)

Mini-pochette (card-case size)

Venue: All sessions at Nakanoshima Museum of Art, Osaka, 1F Workshop Room

What to bring: Sewing kit (sewing needle, scissors)

- If you are unable to view the exhibition on the day of the workshop, the exhibition admission ticket may be used on another day.

- Sales will end when the designated number of participants is reached. Please see the official exhibition website for more details.

The patterns and designs of the examples in the photographs are both for illustrative purposes only.

MINGEI: The Beauty of Everyday Things exhibition overview



NAKANOSHIMA
MUSEUM OF ART. OSAKA

Exhibition title: MINGEI: The Beauty of Everyday Things

Dates: July 8 – September 18, 2023

Venue: Nakanoshima Museum of Art, Osaka 4F Galleries

4-3-1 Nakanoshima, Kita-ku, Osaka 530-0005 Japan

Opening times: 10:00 – 17:00 (last entry 16:30)

Closed: Mondays (except for July 17 and September 18)

Admission: Adults 1,700 yen (groups 1,500 yen), University/High school students 1,300 yen (groups 1,000 yen) * Junior high school/Elementary students: Free admission

* Prices in parentheses indicate per person prices for groups of 20 or more.

Official website: <https://mingei-kurashi.exhibit.jp/>

Contact us: Osaka City General Call Center 06-4301-7285 Hours: 8:00 – 21:00 (365 days)

Organizers: Nakanoshima Museum of Art, Osaka; The Asahi Shimbun; TOEI COMPANY, LTD.

Sponsor: TOPPAN Inc.

Special collaborator: Japan Folk Crafts Museum

Collaborators: Shizuoka City Serizawa Keisuke Art Museum, Katolec Corporation