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CHAWAN: 50 Tea Bowls by contemporary Japanese ceramic makers

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dai Ichi Arts is pleased to present its inaugural summer exhibition of contemporary Japanese ceramics in London, featuring 50 tea bowls by leading Japanese ceramic artists. Centered on a single, historical and archetypal form, the exhibition highlights the remarkable breadth and expressive potential of contemporary ceramic practice from Japan.

On view: August 20 – September 1, 2026 at 67 York Street, London W1H 1QB, United Kingdom



Three Shino glazed tea bowls by contemporary artists Yamada Hiroki and Kato Ryotaro.

London, UK — Dai Ichi Arts is pleased to present an exhibition dedicated to the tea bowl (茶碗, Chawan), one of the most important and revered objects in the history of ceramics and the Japanese tea ceremony. During the Edo period, tea bowls were especially prized by the samurai class, who regarded them not simply as utensils but as vessels of cultural and aesthetic significance.

The culture of tea, or chanoyu (茶の湯), developed over six centuries ago, shaped by elite Samurai life. What began as the act of drinking matcha evolved into a refined practice centered on presence and awareness. At its core is the tea bowl, the point of direct physical and sensory contact. It is held, turned, and contemplated in the hands, its weight, texture, and warmth



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experienced before the first sip. Samurai were also known to have treasured exceptional tea bowls.

At the heart of chanoyu is the relationship between people and objects. Each chawan connects maker, user, and environment in a continuous exchange in every aspect of its form: from the Mikomi (見込み, interior) to the Shomen (正面, true face), each aspect showcases a new element to meditate upon. Over time the chawan's character deepens, encouraging sustained attention. Traditional tea bowls are designed to heighten the senses. In the tea room, subdued lighting and minimal interiors reduce visual distraction, drawing attention to touch, sound, space, and the objects within it. The tea bowl becomes central to the creation of a multisensorial experience and what can be imagined as a totalized work of art. This summer exhibition places emphasis on that tradition through contemporary ceramic art, encouraging engagement with tea bowls not just as subtle, restrained objects, but as individualistic, unique works of artistic expression, introducing new potential and vitality into the tea context.

Featuring 50 contemporary tea bowls by significant and important contemporary Japanese ceramic artists, this exhibition showcases the expressive range of this singular form. These works present contemporary interpretations through experimental forms, unconventional proportions, and innovative approaches to glaze and surface by gallery artists and more. Expanding the traditional vocabulary of the chawan, they introduce new vitality into the tea room context while elevating the tea bowl's status as an *objet d'art*.

List of exhibiting artists:

古谷 道生 FURUTANI Michio
後藤 秀樹 GOTO Hideki
浜本 洋好 HAMAMOTO Yoko
星野 暁 HOSHINO Satoru
伊藤 秀人 ITO Hidehito
加藤 真美 KATO Mami
十四代 加藤 康景 KATO Yasukage XIV
加藤 亮太郎 KATO Ryotaro
菊池 克 KIKUCHI Katsu
鯉江 良二 KOIE Ryoji
小山 厚子 KOYAMA Atsuko



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中島 宏 NAKASHIMA Hiroshi
大石 早矢香 OISHI Sayaka
大岩 智之 OIWA Tomoyuki
佐伯 守美 SAEKI Moriyoshi
酒井 博司 SAKAI Hiroshi
新宮 さやか SHINGU Sayaka
杉本 貞光 SUGIMOTO Sadamitsu
瀧口 喜兵衛 TAKIGUCHI Kiheiji
辻村 塊 TSUJIMURA Kai
山田 洋樹 YAMADA Hiroki
柳原 睦夫 YANAGIHARA Mutsuo

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