

GEIDAI Museum Collection Exhibition

Metal Art of the Edo and Meiji Periods

2004.7.6-8.29

Closed on Mondays, except for July 19, and July 20th is closed instead

With metal as the keyword, we are exhibiting various metal objects by various techniques and materials, from a buddhist sculpture and sword fittings smaller than ones fingers, to busts by V. Ragusa, who brought the opening of modern Japanese sculptures and graduation pieces of the Tokyo Fine Arts School. The Japanese metal art works that were praised at the International Expositions during the Meiji era are exhibited at the Tokyo National Museum, and at the same time, superior German church metal pieces are exhibited at the National Museum of Western Art, Tokyo. By visiting these exhibitions together with ours, one may be able to enjoy the various expressions made possible by metal art.

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Exhibition List

GOTO Teijo 1603-1673

Kozuka(sword fittings) with crab design

17c. shakudo and gold, chiselwork

The Goto family was a sword fitting metal smith since the 15th century, and Teijo was the 9th generation.

ICHINOMIYA Nagatsune 1721-1786

Menuki(sword fitting) in shape of crab

18c. copper and shakudo, chiselwork

Nagatsune is one of the major Kyoto metal craftsmen compared with Yokoya Somin.

Menuki in shape of crab

18c. gold and shakudo, chiselwork

The crab's body is gold in relief, while its eyes are inlaid shakudo(alloy of gold and copper). Various chiselwork on the body is rendered with elevated technique.

Fuchi-gashira(sword fittings) with design of vegetables

18c. shakudo, shibuichi, gold, silver and copper chiselwork

Menuki(sword fitting) in shape of Ebisu

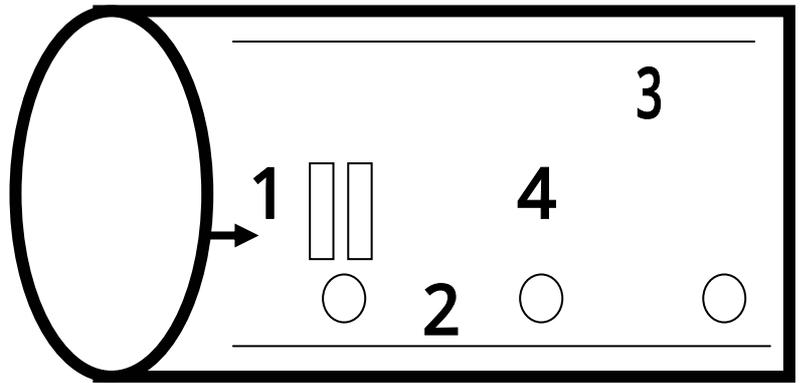
18c. shakudo, gold and silver, chiselwork

Ebisu is one of the Seven Deities of Good Fortune. There is an inscription on its box by Kano Natsuo.

TETSUGENDO Shigemitsu

Fuchi-gashira with scene of horse race at Kamo Wakeikazuchi Shrine

18-19c. shakudo, gold, silver and copper, chiselwork



SHOBAYASHI Takeaki

Kashira(sword fitting) with turtle design

18-19c. shibuichi, shakudo, gold and silver, chiselwork

HAMANO Yasuyuki ?-1836

Fuchi-gashira in shape of frog and lotus

18-19c. shakudo, gold and shibuichi, chiselwork

Hamano was employed by the Hachisuka Family, feudal lord of the Tokushima clan.

ISHIGURO Koreyoshi

Fuchi-gashira with lily design

19c. shakudo, gold and silver, chiselwork

Koreyoshi was superior in high metal relief on shakudo ground with nanako("fish-egg") pattern, shown in this piece with a lily flower and leaves.

KATSURA Eiju

Fuchi-gashira with lily design

18-19c. shakudo, gold and silver, chiselwork

Eiju was a pupil of Yokoya Soyo II, and created Yokoya style relief on shakudo ground with nanako patterns. Comparison between this piece and Ishiguro Koreyoshi's piece of the same title is interesting.

GOTO Teijo 1603-1673

Shishi lion incense caddy

17c. hammered shibuichi, shakudo, gold and silver

KIKUKAWA

Myoken-bosatsu

18-19c. silver chiselwork with gold halo

Myoken-bosatsu is said to protect the land, and abolish disasters, and increase man's happiness.

Artist unknown

Articulated crab incense caddy

18-19c. forged iron, silver, gold inlay

Okakura Tenshin, founder of the Tokyo Fine Arts School, attempted to add the tradition of articulated metalwork within the metal hammering education. This piece was obtained as an example in 1898.

KAGAWA Katsuhiro 1853-1917

Japanese persimon incense burner

19-20c. hammered copper, shibuichi, shakudo inlay

Katsuhiro was the successor of Kano Natsuo as a professor at the

Tokyo Fine Arts School and as an Imperial Court Artist. This piece shows his technique, and was donated by the artist himself in 1899.

MYOCHIN

Crab shaped padlock

Edo period forged iron

Myochin is the family of armour. The technique was applied in various other pieces such as this padlock.

MIKATA

Shrimp shaped padlock

Edo period forged iron, silver inlay

Artist unknown

Shrimp shaped padlock

Edo period forged iron, silver inlay

Artist unknown

Fish shaped padlock

Edo period forged iron, brass

Artist unknown

Padlock

Edo period hammered bronze

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FUJIWARA Michihiro

Helmet

Edo period forged iron, frontpiece lacquered wood

The dragonfly was called "winning insect", popular among warriors.

TSUJI Shigetsugu

Stirrups with peony design

Edo period, cast iron, silver chiselwork

MURATA Seimin 1761-1837

Water basin

18-19c. cast bronze

Objects with the Seimin inscription exist throughout the world. This piece was obtained by Tsuda Shinobu, as a work showing Seimin's technique.

TSUMURA Kamejo

Quail

18c. cast brass

Kamejo is known for her quail incense burners with the wing part as a lid. She was a lost-wax casting craftsman active in Nagasaki.

HONMA Takusai II

Vase decorated with willow, lotus and heron

cast bronze

Takusai is the originator of Sado lost wax casting, and this piece shows his technique.

NISHIMURA Unsho I 1859-1912

Kirin incense burner

cast brass

Nishimura Unsho was a pupil of Vincenzo Ragusa at the Kobu Bijutsu Gakko (Art School attached to the Technical College, the first school in Japan to teach western art), and was superior in lost wax openwork, made for export.

Medallion with goddess design

1878 cast bronze

The inscription on the back side reads, "Entrance examination for Kobu Bijutsu Gakko, 1878, created by Nishimura Unsho"

Artist unknown

Vase

cast bronze

A piece created based on a design of Chinese bronzes edited in the 12th century, or one of the designs in Onchizuroku, created by the Meiji government for objects to be exhibited in International Expositions or for export.

KUROKAWA Eisho 1854-1917

Silver vessel with a dragon

1896 hammered and cast silver

Eisho is considered one of the best metal hammering craftsmen of the Meiji era, but there are very few works that can be attributed to him. This is one of them, but the main technique is casting, not necessarily his specialty.

Artist unknown

Shishi lion incense burner

cast bronze

Stone is used embedded for the eyes, and the top lion's head acts as the lid. The craftsman's name is unknown but this humorous form is interesting.

Artist unknown

Light stand decorated with fatsia

cast brass

EBATA Yoshitada

Ogre vase

cast bronze

Artist unknown

Peony

cast bronze

An object that was added to our collection in 1896, which was just after the three divisions of metal work, carving, casting and hammering were established in the Tokyo Fine Arts School.

MATSUBARA Joho

Lobster in a bract

cast bronze

Joho was a pupil of Oshima Joun, and graduate of an art school in Paris.

SHIRASAKI Hakuzen 1858-1925

Japanese spaniel

cast bronze, brass and shakudo inlay

Hakuzen was from Takaoka, the city of metal casting. He was active in the Tokyo Chukinkai, a group led by Okazaki Sessei, Oshima Joun, and Katori Hotsuma, who were also professors at the Tokyo Fine Arts School.

NOGAMI Ryuki 1865-1932

Tortoise

1932 cast bronze

Each of these turtles are cast separately, with various finishes. Ryuki was a pupil of Oshima Joun, and participated in the finishing of the Saigo Takamori statue in the entrance of Ueno Park.

Tortoises

cast bronze

Nogami Ryuki exhibited similar tortoises in the 1900 Paris International Exhibition.

KINRYUSAI Gido

Parent and child tortoises

cast bronze

KATORI Hotsuma 1874-1954

Seal with auspicious bird handle

cast bronze

These 3 seals were placed on the decorative shelf exhibited by the Tokyo Fine Arts School in the St. Louis International Exhibition of 1904.

YAMADA Yuho 1871-1922

Wagtail on rock

1897 hammered silver, shakudo, and shibuichi

Yamada Yuho's graduation piece was also selected for the decorative shelf exhibited by the Tokyo Fine Arts School in the St. Louis International Exhibition of 1904.

SAKAGUCHI Konan

Brush rest in dragon shape

cast nickel

Sakaguchi Konan graduated the Tokyo Fine Arts School in 1898, and became Associate professor in 1905. This piece was donated by the Masaki Chifuyu, who would later become the mayor of Kamakura city.

SATO Shogo 1885-1983

Bantams

1910 cast silver, shakudo inlay

A graduation work of the metal division, when carving and hammering divisions were merged.

KITAHARA Senroku 1887-1951

Apparition of a Two-storied Pagoda

1911 chiselwork on shibuichi

The graduation work by Senroku, who later acted as the leader of Kojinsha, one for the groups that aimed to innovate Japanese crafts.

NAGANUMA Moriyoshi 1857-1942

Old man

c.1898 cast bronze

Moriyoshi studied in Venice. This piece received the gold prize at the 1900 Paris international exhibition.

YAMAGISHI Shunsai

Lion

cast bronze

Shunsai was active in the Tokyo Chokokai, along with Oshima Joun, Katori Hotsuma, Nogami Ryuki, and Tsuda Shinobu.

YOTSUYA Masami 1876-1941

Tiger

1899 cast brass and shibuichi

The graduation work as a student of the metal carving department of the Tokyo Fine Arts School in 1899.

Artist unknown

Tigers

cast bronze

MASAKIYO Kaho 1874-1956

Ox cart carrying a load

cast bronze

Masakiyo Kaho was a classmate of Tsuda Shinobu, who later became professor of the metal casting division and also one of the leaders of the new type of crafts in the early 20th century.

FUJIKAWA Yuzo 1883-1935

Rabbit

1910 cast bronze

This piece was created while Yuzo studied in France, after graduating the Tokyo Fine Arts School. He later becomes an assistant of Rodin.

Auguste RODIN 1840-1917

Victor Marie Hugo

1883 cast bronze

This was created in the year that Rodin first met Hugo. However, Hugo resisted to take a pose for the sculptor.

TOBARI Kogan 1882-1927

Man's torso

c.1909 cast bronze

Kogan studied painting in New York, but shifted to sculpture effected by Ogiwara Morie.

OGIWARA Morie, Rokuzan 1879-1910

Torso

1907 cast bronze

Morie or Rokuzan studied painting in the U.S. and France, but became a sculptor impacted by Rodin's "The Thinker".

A coal miner

1907 cast bronze

YAMAMOTO Azumi 1885-1945

Vases

1912 cast bronze

Azumi was from the same town as Rokuzan, and helped him in casting. This is his graduation piece, and he later participated in the movements to innovate crafts.

YOKOTA Shuichi 1879-?

Cast Self-portrait

1905 cast bronze

Self portraits were assigned to all of the oil painting students at graduation, but this is a rare cast self portrait, also his graduation work for the metal casting course.

MATUHASHI Somei 1871-1922

Priest Saigyo with a child

1899 cast bronze

The graduation piece of Matsuhashi Somei, who later becomes active in the revival of Nanbu ironware.

HARA Yasutami 1870-1929

Yoshida Shoin

1895 cast bronze

The graduation piece by Hara Yasutami, who left valuable documents on the education he received at the Tokyo Fine Arts School, such as his notebooks on Okakura Tenshin's Japanese art history lectures.

SAKURAOKA Sanshiro 1870-1919

Kannon(Avalokitesvara)

1894 cast bronze

The graduation work of one of the first pupils of the metal casting department of the Tokyo Fine Arts School. He later became professor of the School.

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Vincenzo RAGUSA 1841-1927

Japanese woman (with hair in shimada-mage style)

1876-82 cast bronze

This piece is quite similar to the Kume Conder bust, the wife of the great architect Josiah Conder, owned by the National Museum of Denmark.

A Japanese carpenter

1876-82 cast bronze

Ragusa taught sculpture at the Koku Bijutsu Gakko from 1876-82, and this piece was created then. Don't miss the tattoo on his back.

A Japanese actor

c.1880-81 cast bronze

The model is said to be Ichikawa Danjuro.

Madam Kehler

c.1872-76 cast bronze

This piece was cast from the plaster figure donated to our collection by Kiyohara Tama, wife of the sculptor, but a similar plaster model is owned by the Tokyo University, considered to be used as educational material at the Koku Bijutsu Gakko.

Yamao Yozo

cast bronze

Yamao Yozo studied at London, and then acted to establish the basics of the engineering division of Tokyo University.

Kiyohara Tama

1878 cast bronze

The model at age 18, married Ragusa the next year. She later accompanied him to Italy, and became a painter named Elenora Ragusa.

Kuroda Nagahiro

1881 cast bronze

The lord of the Kuroda clan in Fukuoka, who devoted his life to education.

OGIWARA Morie, Rokuzan 1879-1910

Woman

1910 cast bronze

The inscription on this major work by Rokuzan, "created by Rokuzan, casted by Azumi" shows the relation with the sculptor and the caster.

KITAMURA Seiho 1884-1987

Man

1912 cast bronze

The graduation work by Kitamura donated to his alma mater at age 93.

TATEHATA Taimu 1880-1942

Agony

1911 cast bronze

Cast by his plaster graduation piece.

IKEDA Yuhachi 1886-1963

Tone of a pipe

1907 cast bronze

Cast by his plaster graduation piece. Yuhachi was advised by his teacher Asakura Fumio, to become an animal sculptor, which he was famed for.

FUJIKAWA Yuzo 1883-1935

Morning dew

1918 cast bronze

An expression of the proverb meaning, "Life is transient like morning dew". Cast by his plaster graduation piece

ASAKURA Fumio 1883-1964

Hanging cat

1909 cast bronze

Created the year the sculptor finished his postgraduate course, exhibited in the Bunten (Ministry of Education Art Exhibition). He is known for his animal works, mainly cats, among this is his representative piece.