



The Japan Foundation traveling exhibition Japanese Pottery: The Rising Generation from Traditional Japanese Kilns opened on Friday 1 July in the Aigantighe Art Gallery in Timaru, its only South Island venue in New Zealand.

This exhibition consisting of 70 works created by 35 artists active in seven major traditional kiln sites in Japan – Arita and Karatsu, Hagi, Bizen, Kyoto vicinity and Tanba, Kutani and Kanazawa, Seto and Mino, Tokyo vicinity and Mashiko. The theme focuses on "vessels".

Mr Damon Odey, Mayor of Timaru District Council, gave a speech, followed by Mr Mitsuru Murase, Consul, who read a message from the Mayor Hiroshi Harada of Eniwa City, Hokkaido, Timaru's sister city.

His Excellency Mr Toshihisa Takata, Ambassador of Japan, officially opened this exhibition which will continue until Sunday 7 August.

New Zealand potters have been greatly influenced by Japanese potters and this exhibition will provide further inspiration and enjoyment to all who appreciate beautiful vessels.

国際交流基金巡回展「現代日本の陶磁器」のオープニングセレモニーが、7月1日(金)に南島唯一の開催地であるティマル市のエッグアンタイ美術館にて開催されました。

この巡回展は、在ニュージーランド日本国大使館、在クライストチャーチ領事事務所、ティマル市エッグアンタイ美術館(Aigantighe Art Gallery)及び国際交流基金が共催しています。

特色のある窯をもつ、有田・唐津、萩、備前、京都、久谷、瀬戸・美濃、益子で窯の伝統を引き継ぎつつ、優れた作品を制作している35名の現代若手陶芸家による70点もの作品を紹介しています。

オープニングセレモニーは、Damon Odey ティマル市長の挨拶に続いて、ティマル市の姉妹都市である北海道恵庭市の原田市長から寄せられたお祝いのメッセージを在クライストチャーチ領事事務所の村瀬所長から披露し、最後に高田大使の挨拶で展示会が開幕しました。

ニュージーランドの陶磁器は日本の影響を多く受けており、陶器好きの皆様にもお楽しみいただける展示会になっているのではないかと思います。

巡回展は8月7日(日)まで開催しておりますので、皆様のご来場を心よりお待ちしております。



SPEECH OF H.E. MR. TOSHIHISA TAKATA FOR OPENING OF THE JAPANESE CONTEMPORARY CERAMICS EXHIBITION

“THE RISING GENERATION FROM TRADITIONAL JAPANESE KILNS”

FRIDAY 1 JULY 2016 AT 5.30PM AT AIGANTIGHE ART GALLERY IN TIMARU

Your Worship Mayor Damon Odey,
Chief Executive Officer of Timaru District Council, Mr Peter Nixon,
Ms Cara Fitzgerald, Gallery Manager of Aigantighe Art Gallery,
Ms Kate McKenzie-Pollock, Exhibitions Curator,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you very much, Mayor Odey and Ms Fitzgerald, for your kind words. It gives me much pleasure to see you all here tonight for the opening of this very fine exhibition in



such a beautiful gallery of Aigantighe. Congratulations to everyone at the Aigantighe Art Gallery on celebrating its sixtieth anniversary this year. We are very grateful for the assistance and the provision of the exhibition space by the Aigantighe Gallery.

Allow me here to mention the very close connections between Timaru and Japan. In October last year I met Mr Harada the Mayor of Eniwa, your sister city, and in December I visited Timaru for the first time and met Mayor Damon Odey and others involved in the international exchange activities.

While the Timaru-Eniwa sister city relationship was formalised in 2008, well before then in 2001 an exchange was set up between the Eniwa Chamber of Commerce & Industry and Timaru. I am overjoyed that such very friendly relations between the two cities have deepened over the years and I do hope they will continue to flourish.



Thanks to this close sister city relationship, this Japan Foundation travelling exhibition is made possible happen here in Timaru to introduce to you modern Japanese pottery from traditional kilns.

Ceramics has been at the heart of the culture of all civilisations since very early times contributing to the enrichment of our lives. The earliest pottery in Japan was made around the 11th millennium BC. It was of soft earthenware and fired at low temperatures. The potter's wheel and a kiln capable of reaching higher temperatures and firing stoneware appeared at around the end of the B.C., 2,000 years ago.



Potters in Japan today have a rich heritage and there is a high level of interest and support of the general public with frequent exhibitions and spot sales. Once-remote pottery towns are now lively tourist destinations.

The Japanese Tea Ceremony as a ritual of preparing and serving tea to guests is designed to bring peace of mind, as well as to appreciate the ceramic utensils – the tea bowls and vases.



In New Zealand too ceramics are very much appreciated and I believe that over the years a number of excellent potters

from Japan and other countries have come here to demonstrate, stimulating artistic inspiration and stimulating friendships.

I do hope that many people will come to enjoy these works of art. The works of these fine artists draw on the traditions of well-known pottery areas all over Japan, using a variety of techniques, materials and processes, which challenge and lead into new and exciting directions.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Ms Fitzgerald, Ms McKenzie-Pollock and all the staff of the Aigantighe Art Gallery for their wonderful work in installing and organizing this exhibition.

Now I am delighted to declare "The Rising Generation from Traditional Japanese Kilns" open.

Thank you very much.



Photos Courtesy of Ron Lindsay Photographer