

AREThé

Le festival de
L'art et du thé 2017

The preparation and drinking of tea in a formal 'ceremony' is known in Japan as chanoyu ('hot water for tea') or chadō ('the way of tea'). A tea gathering is, essentially, an act of hospitality, in which guests have a chance to withdraw from the stresses of daily life to enjoy a bowl of tea in the peaceful setting of a tea room made of simple, natural materials. It has been practised in various forms in Japan since the 1400s and is thriving to this day. This autumn the Ashmolean Museum and Oxford Anagama Project will be organizing a series of events to spotlight the world of contemporary Japanese tea and the arts that it inspires. These events will be part of the international AREThé Festival, established in Paris in 2016 to explore Japanese art through the way of tea (the name AREThé combines 'art' and 'tea').

In October, Bizen potter and experienced kiln-builder Takikawa Takuma will travel from Bizen to join the Oxford Anagama team to build and fire a new anagama test kiln in Wytham Woods, alongside the two anagama kilns created in 2015 and 2016. He will be joined in November by leading Koishiwara ceramicist Onimaru Hekizan II, highly regarded for his contemporary take on traditional tea utensils. From October until January a special display of contemporary tea wares by leading Japanese artists (and including works fired in the Oxford anagama) will be held in the Ashmolean's Japanese galleries. The Festival will culminate on 5 November in a day of talks and demonstrations, starting at the Ashmolean Museum, moving on to Wytham Woods and finishing back at the Oxford Ceramics Gallery.



Onimaru Hekizan II,
Mizusashi fresh water jar



Oxford Anagama

AREThé Festival event: Japanese ceramics and the way of tea

Sun 5 Nov, 10am - 5pm, Lecture Theatre, Gallery 36 and Wytham Woods
5-7pm Oxford Ceramics Gallery
*To accompany a special display of contemporary Japanese tea wares,
Gallery 36*

10.30 - 11am Discovering contemporary Japanese art through the way of tea
Talk with Mika Obata, gallery owner

11.00 - 11.20am What's happening at the Oxford Anagama Project
Talk with Robin Wilson

11.30am - 12.45pm Talk and demonstration of traditional Takatori-style 'kirei
sabi' throwing techniques
By ceramicist Onimaru Hekizan II

12.45 - 2pm Tea demonstrations in the Ashmolean's tea house (continuous)

2.00pm Coach to Wytham Woods for unloading of the new anagama kiln
and British Raku kiln firing

4.30pm Coach returns to Ashmolean

5 - 7pm Special evening viewing of 'Sake' exhibition at Oxford Ceramics
Gallery

The programme of events is generously supported by the Daiwa Anglo-Japanese Founda-
tion and the Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation

