



Onishi Gallery Presents:
“Chashitsu” – Japanese Tea Room

Onishi Gallery: 521 West 26th Street, New York, NY 10001

Exhibition Dates: March 13-23, 2019

Tea Ceremony: Thursday March 14, 4:30-5:30pm

Opening Reception: Thursday March 14, 6-9 pm

Open House Weekend: March 16-17, 11am-5pm

Hours during Asia Week: Mon-Sat 11am-6pm (otherwise by appointment)

In celebration of the 10th anniversary of Asia Week New York, Onishi Gallery is proud to present a unique new exhibition to Western audiences, ***“Chashitsu” – Japanese Tea Room***. This exciting new show focuses on metalwork and ceramic pieces specifically necessary for the Japanese tea ceremony tradition. With the goal of recreating a contemporary Japanese tea room, this exhibition will not only feature the material creations required for the ceremony, but will also include a live demonstration of the special tea ceremony. In addition to our *kōgei* artwork, Isamu Noguchi’s *Akari* light sculptures from The Noguchi Museum illuminate the *chashitsu*, creating a perfect environment for a Japanese tea room in New York City.

Shining a light on the beauty of the material manifestation of the tea ceremony are six stunning Japanese artists: Sako Ryuhei and Hata Shunsai III, working in metal; Ohi Chozaemon V and Ohi Chozaemon VI, working in ceramics; Noda Akiko, working in glass; and KISUI, a calligrapher. Sako Ryuhei is known for creating pieces using *mokume-gane*, a Japanese metal technique that dates back to the 17th century. Bonding together paper-thin layers of differently-colored alloyed metal sheets, Sako Ryuhei creates contemporary pieces that have earned his artwork a place in the permanent public collection of the Victoria and Albert Museum. His angular vases highlight the tension between the delicacy and strength of metal. Hata Shunsai III carries on his family’s tradition of making tea kettles, but incorporates contemporary design elements with time-honored traditional techniques. His subtly decorated vessels balance the sturdiness of metal in their form, with the fine detail of perfectly polished features in ornamentation.

The remaining four artists exhibit daring work in their own media—ceramic, glass, and calligraphy—that equally and distinctly challenge assumptions about the material through innovative design and use. Bridging ordinary functionality with extraordinary artistry, these pieces elevate the Japanese tea ceremony to astonishing heights. Visitors to this exhibition will have the opportunity to realize the power of both the physical and ritual elements of the Japanese tea ceremony as refined aesthetics and creative intention come together in uniquely beautiful form.

This is the seventh year that Onishi Gallery is participating in Asia Week New York. For the duration of this Asia Week New York 2019, we will be conveniently located at our usual location at 521 West 26th St New York, NY 10001. For more information, please contact Nana Onishi at 212-695-8035, or by email at nana@onishigallery.com. Or, please visit the gallery website at www.onishigallery.com.