

Fall 2026 Arts of Asia Lecture Series
Unknown Makers, Lasting Beauty: Rethinking Fine Art Across Asia
Sponsored by the Society for Asian Art

Cotsen Basket Collection: From Utility to Fine Art

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Key terms:

- Bamboo species:
madake (Japanese timber bamboo); *mōsōchiku*; *hachiku*; *nemagaridake* (dwarf bamboo); *kurochiku* (black bamboo); *susutake* (smoked bamboo); *torachiku* (tiger bamboo)
- Important Intangible Cultural Properties (better known as "Living National Treasures")
- *Karamono*: Chinese things
- Mingei (Folk Craft) Movement
- *Mitate*: a witty reinterpretation in contemporary terms of a well-known classical theme
- *Otoshi*: a removable water container placed inside a flower basket
- *Wabi-sabi*: an aesthetic that finds beauty in transience and imperfection

Key names:

Lloyd Edward Cotsen (1929-2017)

Fujinuma Noboru (b. 1945)

Hayakawa Shōkosai I (1815-1897)

Higashi Takesonosai (1915-2003)

Honda Shōryū (b. 1951)

Iizuka Rōkansai (1890-1958)

Iizuka Shōkansai (1919-2004)

Kajiwara Kōhō (b. 1935)

Kawashima Shigeo (b. 1958)

Lloyd Edward Cotsen (1929-2017)

Nagakura Ken'ichi (1952-2018)

Sen no Rikyū (1522-1591)

Shōno Shōunsai (1904-1974)

Tanabe Chikuunsai I (1887-1937); II (1910-2000); III (1940-2014); IV (b. 1973)

Yanagi Sōetsu (1889-1961)

2024 winners: Nakatomi Hajime (b. 1974); Kondō Masayo (b. 1978); Watanabe Chiaki (b. 1969)

2026 winners: Ōki Toshie (b. 1976); Aoyagi Keiko (b. 1977); Hasegawa Kei (b. 1986)

Further reading:

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Coffland, Robert T., et al. *Hin: The Quiet Beauty of Japanese Bamboo Art*. Art Media Resources; Faulconer Gallery; TAI Gallery, 2006.

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Cotsen, Lloyd E., et al. *Japanese Bamboo Baskets: Masterworks of Form & Texture from the Collection of Lloyd Cotsen*. Edited by Joseph N. Newland, Cotsen Occasional Press, 1999.

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Marks, Andreas, et al. *Modern Twist: Contemporary Japanese Bamboo Art*. International Arts & Artists; Distributed by University of Washington Press, 2012.

McCallum, Toshiko M., and University of California, Los Angeles Museum of Cultural History. *Containing Beauty: Japanese Bamboo Flower Baskets*. UCLA Museum of Cultural History, 1988.

Moroyama, Masanori, et al. *Japanese Bamboo Baskets: Meiji, Modern, Contemporary*. 1st ed, Kodansha International, 2007.

Rinne, Melissa M., et al. *Masters of Bamboo: Artistic Lineages in the Lloyd Cotsen Japanese Basket Collection*. Asian Art Museum Chong-Moon Lee Center for Asian Art and Culture, 2007.