

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

Crawling Through the Mud: Sodeisha, Mingei, and Modern Clay

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What was Sodeisha and who were its leaders?

1. Yagi Kazuo
2. Yamada Hikaru
3. Suzuki Osamu

What did the idea of the non-vessel mean?

1. Mingei values and concepts
2. Sodeisha's contrasting philosophy

What were the 'forest of falsehood' and the 'warm bed of dreams'?

1. Global movements in Contemporary art
2. Sodeisha's contemporaries

What was their lasting impact?

For further reading:

Louise Allison Cort, "The role of glaze in avante garde ceramics," *Ceramics and Modernity in Japan*, Routledge Research in Art History, 2020, pp. 169-188.

Isabelle Charrier-Le Mat, "Yagi Kazuo's Pottery Beyond Tradition and Modernity: The 'Self-skin' Expression," *Traditional Japanese Arts and Crafts in the 21st Century: Reconsidering the Future from an International Perspective*, Kyōto: Kokusai Nihon Bunka Kenkyū Sentā, 2007, pp. 231-247.

Amiko Matsuo, "Suzuki Osamu, Sodeisha, and Ceramic Identity in Modern Japan," *Ceramics: Art and Perception*, No. 96, 2014, pp. 3-7.

Daria Melnikova, "Avant-Garde Clay: Sodeisha and Their Legacy in Contemporary Japanese Ceramics," *Ceramics Now*, October 22, 2014.

Bert Winter-Tamaki, *Art in the encounter of nations*, University of Hawaii Press, 2001.

_____, "Yagi Kazuo: The Admission of the Nonfunctional Object into the Japanese Pottery World," *Journal of Design History*, Volume 12, Issue 2, 1999, pp. 123-141.