
2015.07.01 NEWS RELEASE

Kaki Kenkyusho Project #1
「Eight Kunshi」

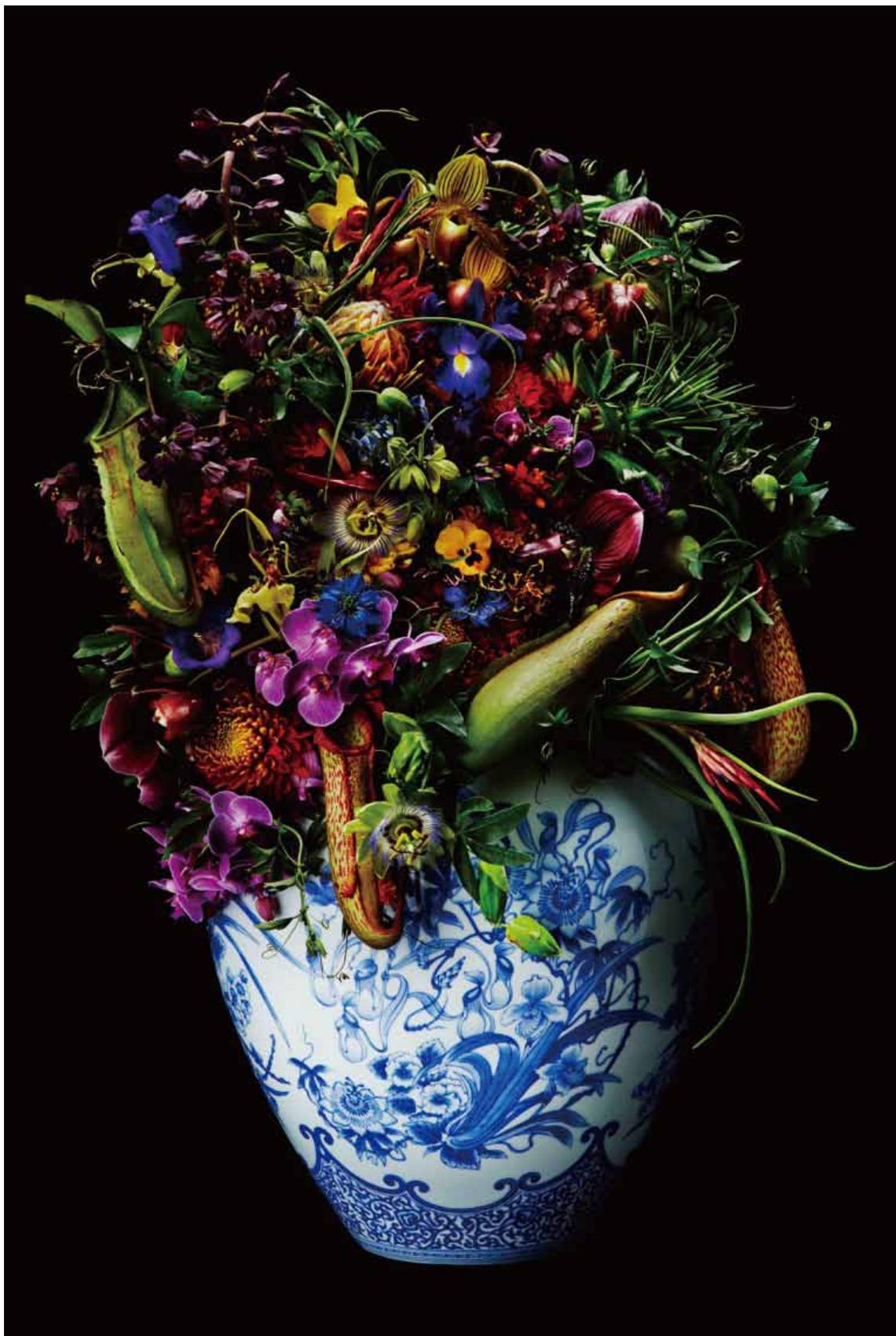


Photo by Shunsuke Shiinoki



Title : BLUE FLOWER REBELLION
Date : July 4, 2015
Place : Izumiyama-Jisekiba, Saga
Time : 17:30 - 19:00

Flower vases can enhance a flower's beauty, or ruin it. In ancient times, vases were considered works of art and were developed by artisans with an appreciation for foreign cultures and bygone eras.

Kaki Kenkyusho, a laboratory for studying flower vases is established by Azuma Makoto, a flower artist who deals with the beauty and life of flowers on a daily basis, and Hirotohi Maruwaka, an expert who pursues and presents the future of Japanese artisanship.

This laboratory attempts to combine contemporary aesthetics and traditional techniques with the aim of rediscovering the essence and universality of artisan-made vases.

For the laboratory's inaugural project, we have partnered with Tsuji Hitachi, the 15th master of Tsuji House, a renowned porcelain kiln in Arita with a 360 year history. The kiln was royally warranted to create porcelain for the royal family and has been producing numerous outstanding pieces for centuries. Among their masterpieces, the laboratory was drawn to one piece in particular, "Four Kunshi (Four Noble Ones)." The classical Oriental motif depicts a plant for each of the four seasons. It was proposed that the 15th master would add motif of four modern plants. "Eight Kunshi" was thus born with four new plants added to the traditional motif.

Sensitivity and passion of the 15th master resulted in an unprecedented fusion of past and present. The large-scale porcelain "Eight Kunshi" depicts delicate and fleeting flowers in vivid blue. The eight plants coexist in peace, each transcending its own significance. Unique masterpiece will be unveiled for only one night here in Arita, the birthplace of Japanese porcelain.

15th master of Tsuji House

During the reign of Japan's 112th emperor Reigen (1663-1687), the kiln was royally warranted to create porcelain for the royal family under the official name of Tokiwa Daijo. Even though their works remained unknown to the general public, the kiln produced numerous outstanding pieces for the royal family.

AMKK

AMKK is a company developing the experimental creation by Azuma Makoto, a flower artist, whose subject is flowers and plants. The activities of AMKK aim to increase the existential value of plants by finding out the most mysterious figure only owned by flowers and plants and converting it to the artistic expression. <http://azumamakoto.com>



MARUWAKAYA

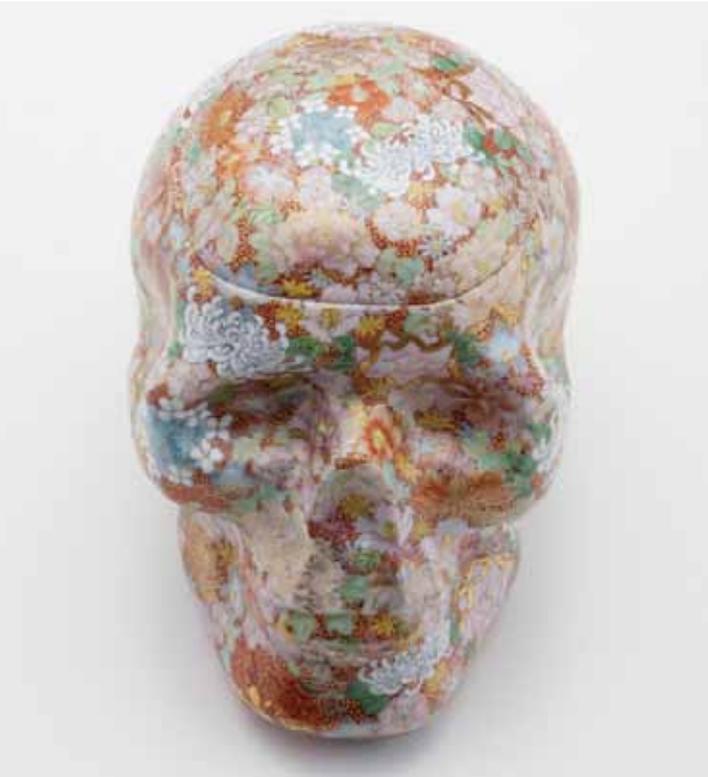
We wish to create a beautiful new tradition to hand to future generations. Seek not the paths of the ancients; Seek that which the ancients sought.

<http://maru-waka.com>



Candy Skull Box

Kutaniyaki open kiln of more than 130 years KUTANI CHOEMON. This work is a Kutani pottery. The part of the head of the skull, candy pot, can be divided. Craftsmen painted beautiful traditional patterns. The Japanese view of life and death can be sometimes very stoic like Seppuku, but can also be very optimistic. We, Maruwakaya, consider that this is the beginning of the Japanese aesthetic.



TOYOKITCHENSTYLE SABURO "Element"

Formal announcement made on December 13, 2014 at product launch event. Toyo Kitchen Style has released two series of knives: The SABURO "Origin" a marvel of traditional craftsmanship and a reissue of a series first launched at the time of Toyo's establishment. The second series is SABURO "Element", the newest addition to the collection that melds the traditions of the past with modern ingenuity. The "Element" series was produced exclusively by Maruwakaya.



PUMA Around the bento box project

Thanks to the "Around The bento box" collection, PUMA® expanded its brand image by fusing fashion and sport, constantly evolving well into the 21st century.

This collection consists in two lines of "Traditional Handicraft" and "Ultra Modern Handicraft". Traditionally, it is known that the Japanese have a great culture of cherishing things and an important food background. This product has been created using the evolving Japanese craft tradition and the cutting edge technology thanks to the sophisticated craftsmanship.



Jaime Hayon × KUTANI CHOEMON

Mere repetition is not considered as tradition, but the development of something new through the repetitive process is, in fact, tradition. Project between Kutaniyaki potteries, typical traditional craft in Ishikawa prefecture, and the worldwidle famous Spanish designer Jaime Hayon. This is a new kind of tableware aimed to reaffirm the "bonds" with traditional Japanese tableware.