

KUTANI CHOEMON × MARUWAKAYA

## “ORIGINS” KUTANI CHOEMON’S Journey in NAKANIWA

“The Creation of ORIGINS” and the potential of Japanese handcrafted products – a project made in Paris



We created NAKANIWA in Paris as a space where Japanese culture can be discovered through the beauty and creativity of Japanese hand crafted products. In the process, we hope that NAKANIWA becomes a place where a dialogue can be cultivated between Japanese and French culture and new forms of tradition can be created with the people of Paris and beyond. This project is a new endeavor launching in 2015 and builds on the “SEEDS of ARITA” project, which started in 2014.

### “Taking a step forward by going back to the beginning”

It’s been a half-year full of new encounters and emotions, introducing KUTANI Choemon’s combined 136 years of history in making handcrafted products to the world. Their philosophy of craftsmanship “pure to its roots,” while “applying the creativity of the 21st century”, is realized through valuable lessons learned from nature as well as from the wisdom of the craft masters themselves.

What is beauty? In answer to this question, our journey leads us to NAKANIWA in Paris in February 2015, where beauty will be on display through the carefully handmade products of Kutani.

#### About the exhibition

Thursday, February 5th, 2015 – Saturday, February 21st, 2015

\*Opening Night Vernissage | Thursday, February 5th @ 18:00

Where: NAKANIWA

Address: 12 Rue Jacob 75006 Paris

Website: <http://maru-waka.com/nakaniwa>

Tel: 01 42 19 96 80

Hours of Operation: Wednesday thru Saturday 11:00 – 19:00



NAKANIWA  
ORIGINAL PRODUCTS #001

In conjunction with the opening of "ORIGINS" KUTANI CHOEMON's Journey, NAKANIWA will be launching its very own series of original hand-crafted products. NAKANIWA's art director, Osamu Saruyama is the product designer, with first edition production by Kutani Choemon.



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**KUTANI CHOEMON**

"KUTANI CHOEMON" was founded in 1879 in Ishikawa, Japan. We have been making tableware and tea ceremony utensils for over 130 years in an integrated system of production from raw material to finished products. Although we are small on a business scale, every piece of work is carefully handmade and hand-painted by experienced craftsmen. Our products feature rich blue and white colors and traditional Kutani color glazes.  
<http://www.choemon.com/>

**Osamu Saruyama**

Born in 1966. Designer with a focus in graphics, housewares and spatial design. Director of the "Saruyama" ceramic and tableware product line, Guillemets Layout Studio, Moto-azabu, Tokyo ([guillemets.net](http://guillemets.net)).



NAKANIWA

Founded by Maruwakaya in June 2014. Located in Saint-Germain-des-Prés Paris. Nakanawa is a gallery promoting heritage products created by craftsmen whose respect for traditional methods combined with ingenuity and creativity has resulted in products that will stand the test of time. Our hope is that these products will be enjoyed as they were intended, for everyday use, and appreciated as a tribute to the legacy of Japanese craftsmanship as well as its application in present day.

PRESS SUPPORT HOW INC.	2-22-14 Fonte Aoyama 401 Minamiaoyama Minato-ku Tokyo 107-0062	<a href="mailto:info@how-pr.co.jp">info@how-pr.co.jp</a>	Tel (+81) 03-5414-6405
MARUWAKAYA CO.,Ltd	6-1-32 Nansei Heights 601 Minamiaoyama Minato-ku Tokyo 107-0062	<a href="mailto:press@maru-waka.com">press@maru-waka.com</a>	Tel (+81) 03-6427-9675