

From Tea Gardens to Tea Cups: The Enshu Aesthetic



Monday, October 26th @ 6:30 pm

Arrive early for a chance to taste frothy, powdered green tea whipped to perfection by Grand Master Soujitsu Kobori!

As the 13th Grand Master of the Enshu Sado School, Soujitsu Kobori has inherited his forefathers' 400 year long legacy of Enshu *Sado*, or tea ceremony, a Japanese art form steeped in history and tradition that continues to thrive in the 21st century. Since becoming the head of the school in 2001, he has devoted himself to preserving the value of traditional arts and spiritual culture with the motto of "Enriching the mind through the way of tea." As well as organizing classes for young children and high school students, he actively collaborates with musicians and contemporary artists from around the world.

Kobori Enshu (1579-1647), founder of the Enshu Sado School and a driving force in Edo period culture, was renowned in the fields of architecture, garden design, and ceramics, not to mention poetry and calligraphy. His greatest claim to fame, however, came as a tea master. With an emphasis on elegance, Enshu developed a style of tea known as *kirei-sabi*, or 'elegant simplicity', which aspired to fuse classical court aesthetics with those of the Edo period's military elite. His role was pivotal in the evolution of the tea ceremony as it is known today, and his *kirei-sabi* aesthetic continues to be used in the design of tea houses, garden and ceremonial tea cups.

Join us as his direct descendent, Master Soujitsu Kobori, explores the origins of the Enshu Sado School, the relevance of tea today, the philosophy of *kirei-sabi* and its importance in garden design and ceramics. Afterwards the master himself will demonstrate the Enshu style of tea, giving 25 lucky guests a chance to taste it for themselves!

This event is free and open to the public. Seating is limited and granted on a first come, first served basis. **Reservations required.** Please send your name, affiliation, the number in your party, and the names of your guests, to: jiccrsvp@embjapan.org

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