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TEACHING TUESDAY

SHINO WARE

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Shino ware was one of Japan's first high-fired white-glazed pottery, and were made almost exclusively for tea ceremony. Before shino, most decoration on Japanese pottery had been carved, incised, or applied. Shino was unique because of the glaze, which ranges from snowy white to deep orange, as well as the characteristic pinholes known as yuzuhada, which tea masters favor.

Shino ware first appeared in the Momoyama era (1568 – 1600), but fell out of favor in the early 18th century when the earthy colored Oribe glazes became popular. As Japan's first white glaze, it was made using ground feldspar mixed with clay. Where the glaze is thin, the feldspar would sometimes stain the clay with *okoge* or *hi-e* marks, deep brown or bright red marks that looked like scorch marks. These accidental marks were particularly loved by tea masters and were looked for when using shino ware for tea ceremonies.

Shino has recently experienced a resurgence in interest thanks to master potter Toyozo Arakawa, leading to new techniques and forms. Dozens of factors can affect the outcome of a shino pottery. This includes everything from how thickly the pot is glazed, how long it is allowed to dry, how hot or cold the outside temperature is, and of course how the pot is fired. Other types of shino include e-shino, which include drawings painted in iron oxide, and nezumi shino, which have etched drawings.