


TOHOKU FUKUSHI UNIVERSITY
SERIZAWA KEISUKE ART AND CRAFT MUSEUM

芹沢 銈 人



Tohoku Fukushi University Serizawa Keisuke Art and Craft Museum

Serizawa Keisuke was responsible for reviving and transforming the traditional Japanese art of *kataezome* (stencil dyeing). A master of many other art forms, in 1956 he was designated a Living National Treasure by the Government of Japan.

Serizawa's work, characterized by lively creativity and bold design, attracted international attention during his lifetime and several major exhibitions of his work have been held overseas to great acclaim. He died in 1984 at age 88.

Although a native of Shizuoka (south-west of Tokyo), Serizawa was very fond of the Tohoku Region and often expressed the hope that a museum could be established in Sendai one day. When Keisuke's son Chosuke became a professor at Tohoku Fukushi University, he learned of the school's existing plan to establish an art museum and eventually donated some 200 examples of his father's work, along with about 1,000 items from his collection of folk arts and crafts from around the world.

芹沢銈介コレクション

The Collections of Serizawa Keisuke

As well as being one of Japan's greatest artists working in a folk-craft idiom, Serizawa was a leading collector of folk art from around the world. The museum owns about 1,000 pieces from his personal collection, with the emphasis on traditional African art, Inca textiles, and the folk arts and crafts of Asia.



▲ Baule Mask, Côte d'Ivoire



▲ Leather-covered Chair, Côte d'Ivoire



▲ Ainu Ceremonial Mat, Japan



▲ Black-lacquered Container in Frog Form, Thailand

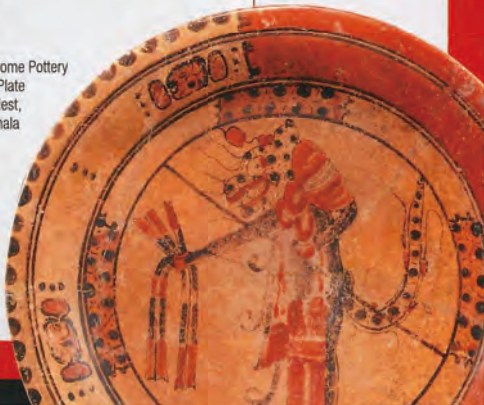


▲ Akua'ba (Fertility Dolls Carried by Young Women), Ghana



▲ Ceremonial Straight-sleeved Dress, Taiwan

▶ Polychrome Pottery Tripod Plate with Priest, Guatemala



A Brief Biography

Compiled by Serizawa Chosuke

1895 Born in Shizuoka City, second son of the draper Oishi Kakujiro.

1916 Graduates from Tokyo Higher Technical School and returns to the family home in Shizuoka.

1917 In February, marries Serizawa Tayo, also from Shizuoka City. Takes employment with Shizuoka Prefectural Industrial Research Institute.

1922 Resigns from his post and returns home. Sets up the Konohana-kai, a group of young local women who use his designs for a range of craft items.

1927 Yanagi Muneyoshi, founder of the Japanese Folk Crafts Movement, visits Serizawa and views his collection of *ema* (votive plaques). Serizawa travels to Korea and on the ferry journey there reads and is greatly influenced by Yanagi's essay "Kogei no michi" (The Way of Craft), which opens his eyes to the potential of the crafts and effects a change in the direction of his life.

1928 Designs and manages the Federation of Shizuoka Prefecture Tea Cooperatives display at the National Industrial Exposition held in Ueno Park, Tokyo, to mark the enthronement ceremony of emperor Hirohito. Struck by a display of Okinawan *bingata* (stenciled) textiles in the exposition's Japanese Craft Pavilion.

1929 His first textile, a wax-resist-dyed linen wall hanging with a blue ground and a design of Chinese cabbages, is shown at the Kokugakai exhibition and wins him a scholarship prize.

1931 The magazine *Kogei* (Craft) is published for the first time and Serizawa designs the stencil-dyed covers for the first year's issues.

1934 Thanks to the generosity of Mizutani Ryoichi, Serizawa moves to Tokyo with his family and staff, setting up his home and workshop in Kamata-ku (present-day Ota-ku).

1937 Designs and manufactures *Ehon Don Kihote* (The Illustrated Don Quixote), published by Kojitsu-an, as well as the cover for Kawabata Yasunari's novel *Yukiguni* (Snow Country).

1939 Travels to Okinawa with Yanagi Muneyoshi and others and learns the *bingata* stencil-dyeing technique at a workshop in Naha.



[1913]
Enters the design department of Tokyo Higher Technical School.



[1948]
Begins teaching a textile-dyeing class at his home in Aoyama.



[1955]
Keisuke and his wife Tayo in front of the Serizawa Paper-dyeing Research Institute.

1945 Loses his house and all his possessions in the U.S. firebombing of Tokyo. In December, designs his first stencil-dyed calendar on the suggestion of Yamamoto Shozo.

1955 Establishes the Serizawa Paper-dyeing Research Institute as a limited company.

1956 Appointed Holder of an Important Intangible Cultural Property or "Living National Treasure." Builds a new workshop.

1957 Moves a traditional clapboard storehouse from Ishikoshi, Miyagi Prefecture, to Kamata.

1963 The Print and Textile Gallery at the Ohara Museum is completed, showing work by Munakata Shiko and Serizawa.

1966 Visits the Cataluna Museum in Barcelona and travels to Egypt, Turkey, Italy, France, and other countries. Receives the Purple Ribbon Medal.

1967 Publishes the first volume of *Jisen Serizawa Keisuke sakuhinshu* (The works of Serizawa Keisuke, Selected by the Artist) and *Kataezome* [Stencil Dyeing]. Awarded the Freedom of the City of Shizuoka.

1968 Invited to teach a summer seminar at the State University of San Diego, holding exhibitions both there and in Vancouver and Los Angeles.

1974 Designs a great ceremonial curtain for the main hall of the Chion-in Temple, Kyoto.

1976 The Serizawa exhibition is held at the Grand Palais, Paris. Appointed Bunka Korosha (Member of the Order of Cultural Merit) by the Japanese Government.

1981 The Shizuoka City Serizawa Keisuke Art Museum opens on 15 June. The French Government appoints Serizawa Officier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres.

1982 Serizawa designs a set of Ten Great Disciples of the Buddha for the Main Hall of the Shakyamuni Temple at Kushinagar, India, the site of the historical Buddha's final enlightenment.

1983 The last volume of *Serizawa Keisuke zenshu* (The Complete Works of Serizawa Keisuke) is published by Chuokoronsha. On August 19 Serizawa collapses at his home in Kamata and is taken to the hospital.

1984 Serizawa dies on April 5, aged 88.



[1976]
The Serizawa exhibition is held in Paris.



[1982]
Serizawa on his 87th birthday, wearing a dancing costume made by the Bamileke people of Cameroon, an item from his collection.



▲ Two-panel Screen with Chinese Characters *Hare* (Sunshine) and *Ame* (Rain), Stencil-dyed Paper, 1962



▲ Wrapper for Volumes of *Kogei* (Craft) Magazine, Stencil-dyed Cotton, about 1932



▲ Dish with Floral Design in Painted Enamels on Pottery, about 1940



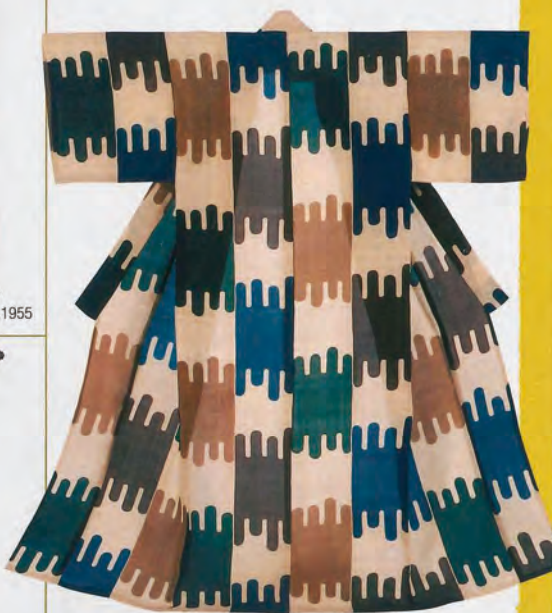
▲ Doll Holding a Seabream, Stencil-dyed Paper, 1969



▲ *Noren* (Entrance Curtain) with *Nawanoren* (Straw-rope Curtain), Stencil-dyed Cotton, 1955



▲ *Noren* (Entrance Curtain) with Chinese Character *Kotobuki* (Long Life), Stencil-dyed Cotton, 1974



▲ Kimono with Design Imitating Glaze Dripping Down the Sides of a Jar, Stencil-dyed Banana-bark Cloth, 1961

芹沢 銑 介 作品

The Works of Serizawa Keisuke

The museum's collections include some 200 examples of Serizawa Keisuke's multifaceted work, including kimonos, *noren* (Entrance curtains), wall hangings, *furoshiki* (textile wrappers), folding screens, hanging scrolls, framed paintings, fabric patterns, lamp designs, and sketchbooks. Some of these pieces are rarely seen examples of "work in progress," illustrating the artist's creative process. In addition to Serizawa's own work, the museum possesses about 10,000 items produced by the Serizawa Keisuke Paper-dyeing Workshop, including calendars, *furoshiki* patterns, fans, greeting cards, postcards, and matchbook covers.

Information

Hours 10:00am—4:30pm
entrance closes at 4:00pm

Closed on Sundays, holidays, during exhibition installations,
and the New Year holiday period.
For information, please contact the museum office.

Admission

Adults 500 yen(300)

University Students Free

() applies to groups of 10 or more.



Museum Entrance



Lobby



Museum Shop



Café

Access

JR Senzan Line

Take the local train to Tohoku Fukushima-mae Station.
The museum is about 10 minutes' walk from the station.

Sendai City Bus

Sendai Station West Exit Bus Terminal :Bus#9
(loop line via Kitayama and Shiheimachi) or (loop line via
Shiheimachi and Kitayama) to Tohoku Fukushima-mae.
The journey time is about 25 minutes.

Taxi

About a 20 minute ride from Sendai Station.



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