

Activity Guide

CONTEMPORARY JAPANESE CERAMICS

Nature Nurturing Art

Traditional Japanese ceramic design and process are influenced by the natural world and embrace the four elements – earth, air, water, and fire. In that spirit, Taijiro Ito's nature photographs are paired with contemporary ceramic vessels.

Haiku – a traditional Japanese poetic form – describes the breathtaking beauty and power of nature. Haikus are brief . . . just three lines and a total of seventeen syllables. The first line is five syllables; the second line is seven syllables; and the final line also is five syllables.



Taijiro Ito, *Snow on Rocks*, 2008, digital file;
photo courtesy of Taijiro Ito

Write a haiku inspired
by these photographs.



Taijiro Ito, *Kegon Falls*, 2008, digital file;
photo courtesy of Taijiro Ito

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Dressed for Tea

The Japanese tea ceremony is a peaceful, orderly custom involving a special room or house, specific actions, and utensils including the tea bowl. As ceramic design embraces four elements – earth, air, water, and fire – a well-orchestrated tea ceremony also has four qualities: harmony, respect, purity, and tranquility.

Kimono – the Japanese word for clothing – often

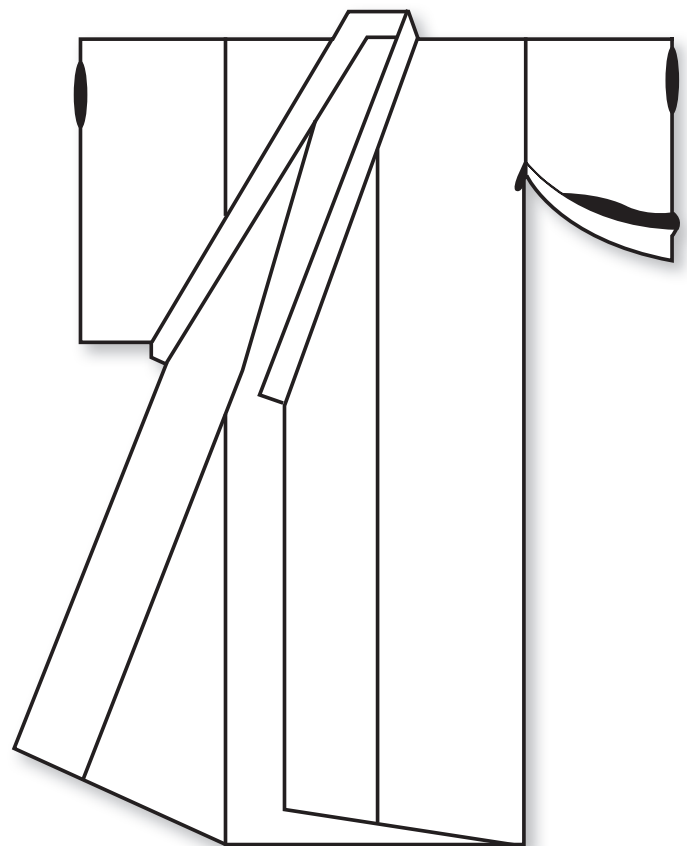
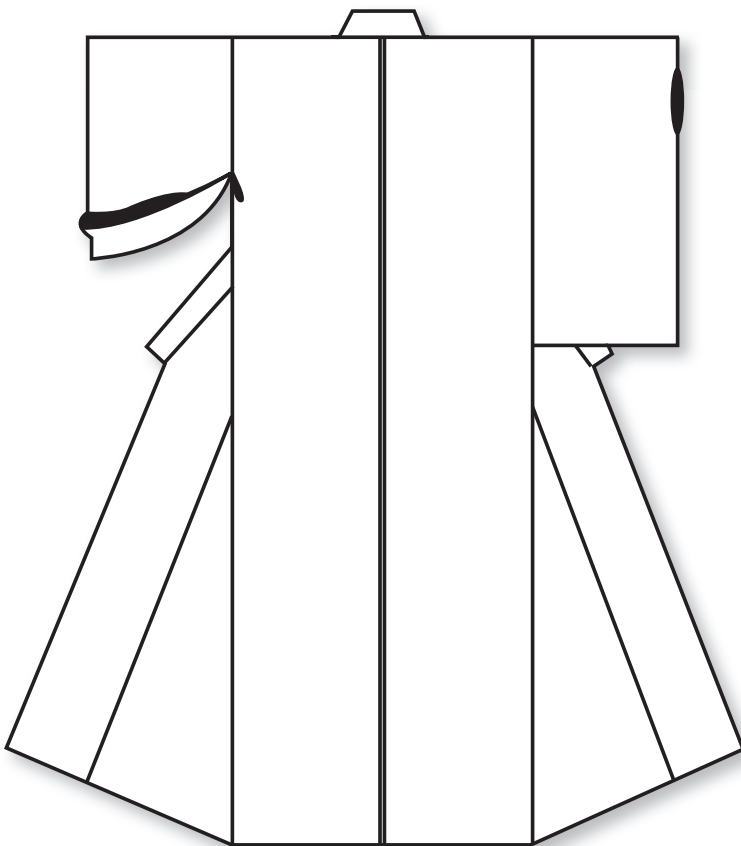
is depicted as a traditional robe with many layers, details, and sashes worn in a particular manner. Today, people in Japan rarely wear kimonos in

everyday life. Rather, kimonos are reserved for weddings, funerals, festivals, and tea ceremonies.

Imagine you are in a village in the majestic Japanese mountains. You are invited to a tea ceremony and will wear a kimono.



Design and decorate the kimono below.



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Nature, Tradition & Innovation: Contemporary Japanese Ceramics from the Gordon Brodfuehrer Collection was developed by Mingei International Museum, San Diego, and toured by International Arts & Artists, Washington, D.C.

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The exhibition is on view June 3 through August 27, 2017.

Above: Toen Shusen, *Tea Bowl*, glazed stoneware, Collection of Gordon Brodfuehrer, photo courtesy of Katie Gardner.

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