



Leach Pottery

Leach Pottery Announce Collaborative Project to Restore Documentary Film Compendium on Bernard Leach and the Mingei Movement

The Leach Pottery and Marty Gross Film Productions, Canada, announce their collaboration in the restoration and re-release of historically important films from the 1930's to the 1970's which profile key figures in the history of The Leach Pottery and the Japanese Mingei Movement.

The Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation have provided a generous £5000 donation in support of this unique project, and following this initial funding further funding has been pledged or received from The Museum of Ceramic Art New York, Ceramica Stiftung Basel, Warren and Nancy MacKenzie, scholar Dr. Paul Griffith and art collector Dr. John Driscoll.

Film subjects include Bernard Leach, Shoji Hamada, Soetsu Yanagi, Janet Leach, William Marshall and others. Bernard Leach, founder of The Leach Pottery, was an important figure in the history of contemporary ceramics and a key member of the group that founded the Mingei Movement. His writings on Japan and its ceramic traditions are central documents in the history of the Modern craft movement.

Over the next three years, the project will restore and digitize important and never before seen footage which documents the studies of Bernard Leach and his colleagues in Japan as they developed ideas that became central to the *Mingei* movement. The resulting compendium will consist of DVDs and a booklet containing the following films and new documentation:

- *Trip to Japan, filmed by Bernard Leach, 1934-35*
- *Mashiko Village Pottery, Japan 1937*
- *Bernard Leach visit to San Francisco, 1950*
- *The Art of the Potter (1971), by David Outerbridge and Sidney Reichman*
- Excerpts from 10 hours of unseen film footage from *The Art of the Potter*

- An exclusive Video Interview by Marty Gross with Mihoko Okamura, D.T. Suzuki's former secretary
- New video interviews on the history and relevance of the *mingei* idea today
- a booklet including documents newly translated from Japanese, along with new essays on the impact of the *mingei* idea

The compendium will be the definitive audio-visual resource on the lives and thoughts of these renowned artists, craftsmen and thinkers. It will chart the development of core ideas in the Mingei Movement, and examine its roots in Japanese Buddhist philosophy as well as its presentation in the West. **Collaborating Organizations:**

The Bernard Leach (St Ives) Trust Ltd.

Crafts Study Centre, University for the Creative Arts, Farnham

The Museum of Ceramic Art, New York

Gardiner Museum, Canada

The Japan Traditional Cultures Foundation, Tokyo, Japan

The Mashiko Museum of Ceramic Art, Japan

Shoji Hamada Mashiko Sankokan Museum, Japan

Japan Folk Crafts Museum

The Japan Foundation

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