

Hagi Yaki – An Introduction

Hagi Yaki originated as pottery produced at the Hagi Domain Kiln, patronized by the Mōri Lords. The kiln was established by Korean potters who had been relocated to Japan during Toyotomi Hideyoshi's campaigns in the Korean Peninsula, which came to be known as the "Tea Bowl Wars" (1592-98). The charm of Hagi Yaki ware comes from the changes in color produced by the high temperatures of the flames. A soft, unadulterated texture and a pleasant feeling when held in the hands are particular features of Hagi Yaki. With this intrinsic quality and the changes prized by tea ceremony masters which appear with use, known as the "Seven Disguises," the atmosphere created by Hagi Yaki ware is truly unique. In the Edo period, the Hagi potters were workers at the Hagi Domain Kiln. Following the Meiji period, they became self-employed artisans. Today, the ceramic artists of Hagi embrace change whilst still respecting more than 400 years of tradition.

Besides their famous tea ware, the potteries produce a wide variety of daily use items, pieces for flower arrangements and art objects. Inheriting the flourishing tradition of Hagi Yaki, the members of the Association of Hagi Ceramic Artists make a concerted effort to meet the challenges presented by the modern world.



Shinjō Sadatsugu, Tea Bowl H9.2×W13.6×D12.1cm



Miwa Kazuhiko, Tea Bowl H10.7×W14.3×D14.3cm



Kaneta Masanao, Sculpture
H42.0×W102.8×D29.0cm



Kaneko Nobuhiko
Sculpture H14.0×W98.0cm

Hagi Yaki Technique

The raw materials used for Hagi Yaki are Daidō soil, Mishima soil and Mitake soil. The clay created by the combination of these materials produces body which exudes the warmth and elegance characteristic of Hagi Yaki.

Fundamentally, Hagi Yaki is formed on the wheel, but slab building and other techniques may also be employed. The glazes used are mixtures of feldspar, wood ash and straw ash. Even today, many potteries still use climbing kilns and kindling to fire their pieces.

The Making of Hagi Yaki



From left: Mishima soil, Mitake soil, Daidō soil

1. Raw earth
2. Filtering
3. Drying/Treading



4. Wedging

Enough clay for one use of the wheel is kneaded on the work surface.



5. Shaping

The piece is shaped with water on the wheel, which is kicked clockwise.

6. Drying
7. Finishing Touches
8. Decoration
9. Drying
10. Bisque Firing

Fired at approx. 800°C for 16-18 hours.



14. Removal

Cooling lasts 3-7 days. Pieces are removed sequentially as the kiln cools.



13. Firing

The kiln is fired at a high temperature of approx. 1250°C for about 30 hours (for a three chambered kiln). Japanese red pine is used as fuel.



12. Loading

The kiln is loaded by balance stacking (photo), shelf stacking, or with the use of saggars.



11. Glazing

A compound glaze is applied. Straw ash glazes and earth ash glazes are the most widely used.





12th Generation Miwa Kyūsetsu, Vase H26.5×W40.6×D19.5cm



Okada Yū, Pitcher H21.5×W20.7×D18.5cm



Hadano Zenzō, Tea Bowl H19.0×D14.7cm



Sakakuza Shinbei, Vase H31.3×W26.3×D19.5cm



Nosaka Kōki, Tea Bowl H8.0×W15.4cm



Yamato Yasuo, Ceramic Box H15.0×W36.0×D36.5cm

The Association of Hagi Ceramic Artists

◆ Chairman: 12th Generation Miwa Kyūsetsu

◆ Established 25 November 1993

◆ Purpose of the Association

To promote mutual friendship amongst members of the Association and potters, to nurture successors of the Hagi Yaki tradition, and to contribute to the growth of local culture.

◆ Hagi Yaki and Densan Designation

Based on the law for the Promotion of Japanese Traditional Crafts (Densan Law), Hagi Yaki was designated as a National Traditional Craft in January 2002. The Association of Hagi Ceramic Artists is recognized as the main promotional group for Hagi Yaki.

◆ 102 potters and 165 patrons are members of the Association
(We welcome new members)



The Association of Hagi Ceramic Artists

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Industrial Heritage Sites in Hagi



Hagi Reverberatory Furnace



Hagi Castle Town



Ebisugahana Shipyard



Shokasonjuku Academy



Ohitayama Yataru Iron Works



Hagi Yaki

*400 Years of
Innovation and
Tradition*



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Hagi Ceramic Artists