

**Tada Chuun 多田忠雲 (b. 1959)**

*Tea Caddy with Silver Dew Droplets*, 1980s

Showa era (1926-1989)

*Maki-e* gold and lacquer on wood

Private Collection, courtesy of Erik Thomsen

**Wakashima Ryōhei III 若島量平 (d. 1986)**

*Tea Caddy with Plum Blossoms*, 1970s

Showa era (1926-1989)

*Maki-e* gold lacquer on wood

Private Collection, courtesy of Erik Thomsen

**Takeuchi Kōsai 竹内幸齋 (b. 1944)**

*Tea Caddy with Maple Leaves*, 1980s

Showa era (1926-1989)

*Maki-e* gold lacquer on wood

Private Collection, courtesy of Erik Thomsen

Ōe Ryōki 大江良起 (b. 1874-unknown)

*Kinkakuji*

Taisho (1912-1926) or early Showa era (1926-1989)

Hanging scroll, ink and slight color on silk

On loan from Ronald M. Davidson

This early 20th century painting is related in style to the screen with the *Eight Views of Ōmi Province*. It depicts Kinkakuji, the Golden Pavilion, built in the north of Kyoto in the waning years of the 14th century as a retirement villa for the shogun Ashikaga Yoshimitsu (1358-1408), and turned into a Buddhist temple complex after his death. The shogun held poetry gatherings and tea ceremonies at this retreat, displaying his extensive collection of Chinese ceramics, lacquer, calligraphy and paintings.

## *Woman's Formal Five-crested Tomesode Kimono with Waves and Pine Islands Motif*

Showa era (1926-1989)

Colors on silk

The main color of black, the five family crests dyed into the fabric, and the motif confined to the lower portion indicate that this kimono is of the highest formality, for ceremonial wear. Kimono like this might be worn to a wedding by close family members of the bridal couple. The motif of stylized blue waves with pine covered golden islands evokes Rinpa-school screen paintings of the 17th century. Tiny, square golden flakes sprinkled on the textile echo techniques used in *maki-e* lacquer decoration.

Tea caddies are containers for powdered green tea (*matcha*) used in the Japanese tea ceremony, a choreographed process for preparing and serving tea that takes many years of study to master.

Traditionally, the host will choose a ceramic caddy for the preparation of thick tea (*koicha*), and a lacquer caddy for preparing thin tea (*usucha*). Lacquer caddies in this shape are called *natsume* for their resemblance to the jujube fruit.

The tea caddy is one of the key objects admired by guests during and after the ceremony, and the choice of caddy must harmonize with the other utensils - including the tea bowl and fresh water jar - and with the season. The monochrome interior of many caddies contrasts beautifully with the green of the powdered tea.