

ishoken

Tajimi City Pottery Design and Technical Center

2023

Work by Usami Kensuke



Outline

Greetings from Director

Ishoken (Tajimi city pottery design and technical center) was established in October 1959. Since the first students who graduated in March 1960, around 1000 students have graduated and have contributed to the ceramic industry and ceramic art culture at large.

Tajimi City is part of the largest ceramics producing district in Japan with neighboring cities, Toki and Mizunami is called Mino, and the ceramics produced in this area is called "Minoyaki" or Minoware. "Minoyaki" consists of a wide range of ceramics which includes mass produced tableware, tiles, to traditional tea bowls and ceramic artistic practices. The history of the "Minoyaki" starts at the beginning of the 7th century. Since then, kilns have been firing ceramics for over 1300 years.

Furthermore, one of the largest ceramic competitions, the International Ceramics Festival Mino, was held in Tajimi in 1986. Many works were submitted from countries all over the world. Since then the Festival has been held every three years with the theme of "From You, From Now, From Here." In 2014, it celebrated its 10th anniversary. In the past competitions, 25 graduates of Ishoken won various prizes including the grand prize.

Tajimi City aims to promote "Minoyaki" to people who are interested in ceramics and are willing to engage with the culture. If you are interested in ceramics please join us at Ishoken to pursue your passion for ceramics.

NAKASHIMA Harumi
Director

Ishoken (Tajimi City Pottery Design and Technical Center)

Business Overview

- Human resource development

We provide a ceramics education curriculum based on the Mino production area, to young people from all over Japan and overseas, who aspire to be ceramic artists or be part of the ceramic industry.

- Industry Support

We provide ceramic design consultation and tableware safety testing and consultations for the local ceramics industry.

- International Relations

We are actively engaged in international relations through face to face and online lectures, and welcome international guests to Tajimi City.

History

- 1959 The Mino Overglaze Research Institute was transferred to Mikasacho, Tajimi city and was established as the Tajimi City Pottery Design Research institute (Ishoken).
- 1960 Tajimi City Pottery Design Research Institute's first batch of students graduate.
- 1967 Completion of the current main building
- 1973 Completion of 2nd year training building
- 1980 Completion of plaster training building
- 1982 Completion of 1st student training building
- 1983 Completion of research and kiln building
- 1990 Completion of Training building 2 extension
- 1992 Completion of Lecture building
- 1993 The two-year ceramic training curriculum is divided into Design Course and Craft Course.
- 2002 Closed the Open Ceramics Technology Center and opened it as the Pottery Cultural Information Center.
- 2003 Established a new course [Ceramics Lab] for research students
- 2011 Closure of the Pottery Cultural Information Center
- 2015 Ceramics Lab course opens for international research students

Staff

NAKASHIMA Harumi / Director of Ishoken
ISHIDUKA Shinichi / Vice Director

MIZUNO Yoshihisa / Technical support
YAMASHITA Naho / Design support
International Exchange
KIKUMOTO Mei / Technical support
YATSUGI Miho / Design support (3D modeling)
FUKAZAWA Ion / Request test
International Exchange
INOMATA Ikuyo / Request test

KOMAI Masato / Human resource development
DOI Yosuke / Human resource development
OGINO Yuri / Human resource development
USAMI Kensuke / Human resource development

Human resource development

What is Ishoken (Tajimi City Pottery Design and Technical Center)?

Ishoken is a public (Tajimi municipal) ceramics research institute that also offers educational curriculums for people who want to have a career in the ceramic industry. Ishoken takes advantage of the fact that it is located in the largest ceramic production area in Japan by producing an education that is both traditional and contemporary. The direct connection to the area allows Ishoken to provide a highly specialised curriculum compared to other educational institutions.

65 years in the land of Minoyaki

Tajimi City is located in the southeastern part of Gifu Prefecture. Together with the neighbouring cities of Toki and Mizunami, it forms the largest ceramic production area in Japan called "Mino". Ceramics from this area are called "Minoyaki" or "Minoware".

Minoyaki accounts for about half of Japan's ceramic production. Tajimi City has been promoting Minoyaki to the world and aims to be a city that attracts ceramic industries and creatives who inspire them to become ceramic artists. Nearly 1000 graduates have gone through Ishoken's curriculum since 1951, first as an overglaze research institution and now as a ceramic research institution.



Wide variety of skills and knowledge

Today, the "Minoyaki" region has a wide variety of production techniques and styles, from traditional tea bowls to contemporary ceramics and from tableware to tile manufacturing. "Minoyaki" also uses a variety of clay bodies, such as earthenware, stoneware, and porcelain. This wide range of techniques and styles is the unique feature of "Minoyaki". Ishoken prepares training courses to acquire various techniques and knowledge based on our regional characteristics.



Creativity to open up new eras

People may have an impression of ceramics being a traditional craft that is passed down through the generations. However, at Ishoken we not only teach traditional skills and knowledge but also encourage students to consider ceramics from a contemporary perspective. The underlying ethos in all our courses is to take into account the inherent features of ceramics and explore the potential of clay. We believe that students will be able to create original works that express the beauty of the material by exploring these potentials during time at Ishoken.



Curriculum

AM 9:00 -12:00 / PM 1:00 - 4:00

Monday - Friday

We offer a Design Course and a Craft Course that are both two-year courses for those who can speak Japanese and a research program called Ceramic Lab open to Japanese and overseas students. The Design Course and Craft Course courses are conducted in Japanese using Japanese textbooks and learning materials. In the first year both courses will learn the foundational skills of ceramics and have lectures together. After the first year of training, students can decide if they would like to move to the Design course or Craft course. In the second year, assignments will be given out based on the course, as well as self driven assignments to help develop your own unique skills. Students can then continue their self-driven research further in the Ceramics Lab course.



Design Course [2 years]

Design Course students will be taught to use the materiality of clay and consider the function, environment, and lifestyle to bring a sense of joy to everyday life.

Craft Course [2 years]

Craft Course students will research individual techniques and different expressions of clay through a Japanese craft oriented practice.

Design Craft Course

basic skills
2 years

1st year

- **Forming Techniques**
Hand-building, Slab making, and other forming techniques

- **Wheel Throwing Techniques**

- **Plaster Mould Making**
Plaster moulding methods, mould making, casting

- **Glaze Painting Practice**
Stroke, overglaze painting, underglaze painting techniques

- **Design Basics (selective class)**
Graphic design

- **Design Practice**
Wall decoration tile production

- **Digital modelling practice (selective class)**
Practical training using digital modelling equipment

- **Portfolio Practice**
Photographing and Portfolio Creation

- **Introduction to Ceramics**
Lecture on history and knowledge of ceramics and design

- **Glaze Practice**
Lecture and practice on basic knowledge of glaze preparation

- **Firing practice**
Lecture and practice on basic knowledge of gas kiln firing

- **Advancement work**

Ceramics Lab [1 or 2 years]

Ceramics Lab is a one to two year program open to International Students and Japanese speakers. The course is intended for applicants who have already acquired basic knowledge and skills in ceramics and are looking to expand their expertise. Students will be required to create a body of work based on their own research topic that has been approved by the faculty. The course intends to create an international environment to nurture the next generation of ceramicists.

Ceramics Lab development 1 years

- **First semester assessment**
Creation of artwork based on each student's research theme and exhibition of research results

- **Graduation work assessment and exhibition**
Independent work based on each student's research theme

2nd year

Design Course

- **Design Practice (Production)**
Design Course students will be taught to use the materiality of clay and consider the function, environment, and lifestyle to bring a sense of joy to everyday life.

Craft Course

- **Forming building practice (Production)**
Through the study of materials and the practice of techniques students will refine their individual techniques and different expressions of clay through a Japanese craft oriented practice.

Shared curriculum

- **Workshop by invited artist at ishoken gallery.**
- **Lecture by invited artist at ishoken gallery.**
- **Graduation work**
Assignment work and independent work based on each student's research theme

for all students

- **Lectures and practical training**
Lectures and practical training by guest lecturers and staff lecturers
- **Open Public Lectures**
Special public lectures by invited ishoken gallery artist and other lecturers from within and outside ishoken.

※As an example, the training subjects for 2021 are posted. The contents of the training subjects are subject to change.

Work by Kato Masaki

Application Guidelines

Design Course, Craft Course
Ceramics Lab
(For Japanese Speakers)



Application Guidelines
for international student





ISHOKEN GRADUATE EXHIBITION 2022

2022.2.18 fri. - 3.6 sun.

work by Kato Masaki, Sato Mitsuki, Usami Kensuke
Mukunashi Hinako, Miyachi Shingo, Tanabe Yusuke, Takatori Kana

観覧制作

第13回
アソシエーション・松尾キース
「観覧・土曜と夜更け」



@ gallery VOICE

Industry Support

Design Support

Ishoken / Tajimi City Pottery Design and Technical Center introduced a high-precision 3D scanner and 3D modeling technology in 2020 with the aim to improve ceramic manufacturing technology. In 2021, Ishoken held collaborative study groups with the mosaic tile, ceramic tableware, and plaster mold industries in Tajimi to explore effective uses of 3D modeling technology.



Technical Support & Tableware Safety Check

We provide technical food health and safety consultation for the domestic ceramic tableware industry. We problem solve for product defects in the manufacturing process through to defaults in management systems. Initial consultation is free of charge. However, if you require official consultation documents or examination test result documents fees may apply based on our guidelines.



Spalling test (thermal shock test)



Lead and cadmium elution test



International Relation

Offline Lecture



Online Lecture



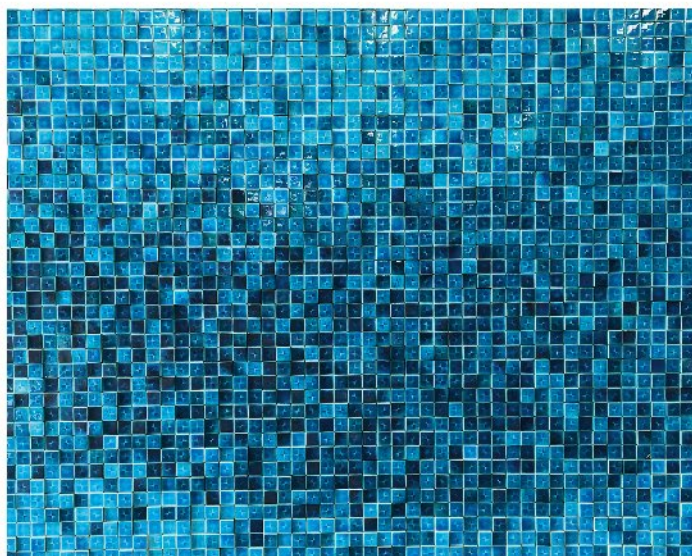


International Relation



Visitor Relations





ishoken  

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