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Light and Abundance: Gold in Japanese Art

March 13 - April 17, 2025 | Grand Opening | Inaugural Exhibition Opening Reception: March 13, 5-8PM.

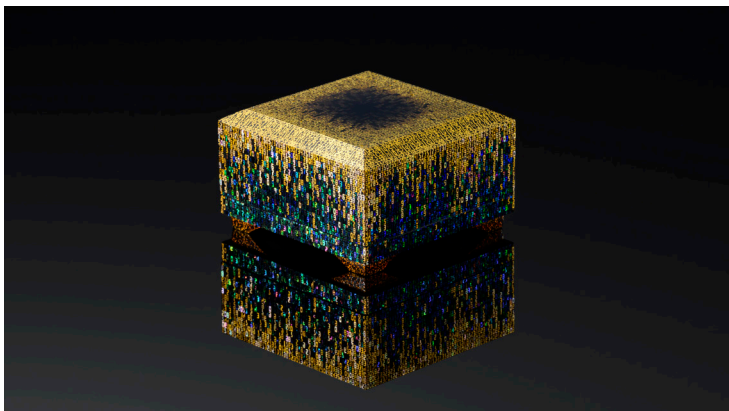
New York, NY — Ippodo Gallery is pleased to present its grand opening of our new flagship location in New York's historic TriBeCa district at **35 N. Moore Street**, beginning a new chapter in the gallery's history as a leading bridge to Japanese kogeï art since 2008. The inaugural exhibition, **Light and Abundance: Gold in Japanese Art**, coinciding with Asia Week New York celebrates the immutable beauty of gold featuring a group of fourteen master artists' latest pieces in lacquer, metal, Nihonga painting, and ceramics from **March 13 to April 17, 2025**.

The pure material, never to tarnish nor rust, is the object of fascination and admiration for more than a thousand years in Japan. Gold represents divinity, the eternal, and symbolizes spiritual enlightenment since ancient times, serving to cover statues of Buddha, temples like Kinkaku-ji in Kyoto, and the feudal lord Hideyoshi Toyotomi's famous Gold Tea Room. Under shadows the gold leaf adorned folding byōbu screen thrives; "in the darkness, where sunlight never penetrates, gold leaf will pick up a distant glimmer, then suddenly send forth an ethereal glow, a faint golden light like the horizon at sunset" (Jun'ichirō Tanizaki, *In Praise of Shadows*).



Kaori Someya, *Singing for the Rocks* (2025), Japanese paper, glue, gold leaf, platinum leaf, mineral pigments, dyes, H28 5/8 x W23 7/8 in, H72.2 x W60.6 cm (A28761)

'Zipangu, the Land of Gold' as Marco Polo named the archipelago more than five-hundred years ago, reminds how the country was once the foremost global producer of gold, which empowered the development of a distinct Japanese visual culture. While modern minimalist and wabisabi philosophies rise, flamboyance remains a quintessential



Terumasa Ikeda, *"Radiant Rain" Incense Container* (2025), Urushi Lacquer, Cypress, Mother-of-Pearl, Turbo Snail Pearl, Silver Lip Oyster, Gold, H20 x W47 x D47 cm

Ippodo Gallery presents fourteen top emerging Japanese artists in contemporary kogeï for whom gold persists as a medium of innovation and virtue.

Rising star lacquer artist **Terumasa Ikeda** leads the tradition of raden inlay with mother-of-pearl and gold leaf towards the timeless. Each bejeweled box, tea caddy, and incense container is the thinnest Kiso hinoki wood enveloped in layers of brushed lacquer. The final hand-laid gold and mother-of-pearl sparkle with iridescence in patterns evocative of electronics and the extraterrestrial.

Noriyuki Furutani elevates the tea bowl to its most formal form as the works from his kiln singularly focus the tenmoku—perfectly rounded walls of equal height slanted outward, culminating in a sublime shaped lip. Golden glaze, his latest advancement, realizes the beauty of the play between light and ceramic. **Hirotomi Maeda** crafts by hand meticulous metalworks that incorporate ancient hand-beaten methods for molding sheets of pure gold and silver into forms of exceptional intricacy and function. The precious metals are inlaid with patterns in scintillating Japanese shibuichi alloy of gold, silver, and copper.

Painter **Kaori Someya** nurtures the deep and rich hues of mineral pigments with the nobility of gold; the rusticity of the powdered earth-based mediums made from precious ore, animal shells, and sumi charcoal set off the subtle details of her gilded figures. The light dances as it strikes the gold, textured washi paper, and voluptuous paints, giving animated life to the woman and kimono; this is her debut showcase at Ippodo Gallery.



Hirotomi Maeda, *Gold and Silver Vessel* 金と銀の器 (2025), Metal, H8 7/8 x W5 1/4 x D5 1/4 in, H22.5 x W13.4 x D13.4 cm (C24446P)



Jihei Murase, *Gold Melon-Shaped Water Container* 金彩阿古陀水指 (2025), Lacquer, H17 x φ26 cm (C28593)



Noriyuki Furutani, *Gold Tenmoku Tea Bowl* 金天目茶盃 (2025), Ceramic, H2 3/8 x W4 3/4 in, H6 x W12 cm (C27854P)

About the Gallery

Ippodo Gallery is a cultural bridge to Japan's living master artists. Founded in Tokyo (1996-), the New York gallery (2008-) presents fine handcrafted and rare works created using traditional materials and methods. Each piece selected embodies Japanese aesthetic sensitivity that is born of a spiritual bond with nature. Ippodo's exhibition program features unique objects — fine ceramics, lacquerware, metal crafts, sculpture, paintings, and works on paper — that celebrate human invention, the natural world, and sublime beauty.

Featured Artists

Noriyuki Furutani	Koji Hatakeyama
Yuki Hayama	Terumasa Ikeda
Hirotomi Maeda	Masahiro Maeda
Ken Matsubara	Jihei Murase
Daisuke Nakano	Junko Narita
Kaori Someya	Hiraku Sudo
Shota Suzuki	Kodai Ujiie

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