

## Message from the Curator

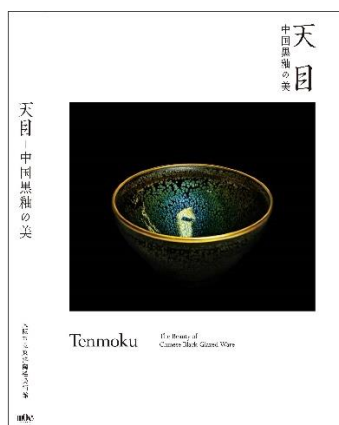
After the temporary closure of the museum due to the global coronavirus crisis, we are delighted that now we are able to present the Special Exhibition: *Tenmoku—The Beauty of Chinese Black-Glazed Ware*. On the reopening of our museum, we are taking all possible precautions against the virus. We apologize for the inconvenience this situation may cause and thank you for your kind understanding and cooperation. The exhibition period has been extended until November 8th to enable more people to visit the exhibition.

One of the highlights of this exhibition is the *Yuteki Tenmoku* (oil-spotted *tenmoku* tea bowl), a National Treasure in the collection of our museum, displayed on a 360 degree-viewable rotating platform equipped with shock absorbent. In response to many requests, we have installed a step stool so that visitors can view the interior of the tea bowl. Explore the beautiful oil-like spots and the iridescent luster from every angle.

Another attraction is the high-definition photographs of some of the works using a full-spectrum camera, which are displayed along with the descriptions. These photographs, also included in the official catalog of this exhibition *Tenmoku—The Beauty of Chinese Black-Glazed Ware*\*, were taken by the photographer Mr. Nishikawa Shigeru. Using the latest, most outstanding equipment, the photographs reproduce the natural colors and texture of the ceramic wares which cannot be captured by the naked eye. Although at first glance you may be surprised or confused by the difference in the colors of the photographs and that of the actual works, as you take a closer look at the objects, you will notice that the colors the objects have are actually as diverse as those in the photographs.

The works are illuminated with the museum's original high color-rendering LED lighting which is closest to natural light. We hope you will enjoy the “*tenmoku* black” and the variety of true colors hidden in the bodies of the works.

\*The official catalog *Tenmoku—The Beauty of Chinese Black-Glazed Ware* (Chuokoron Bijutsu Shuppan, 2020) will be on sale at the museum from June 10 (5,500 yen per copy, tax included). Orders can be made online through Chuokoron Bijutsu Shuppan Co., Ltd. (<http://www.chukobi.co.jp>) or major online bookstores such as Rakuten Books (free shipping) and Amazon.



*Tenmoku—The Beauty of Chinese Black-Glazed Ware* (Cover)