## THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who helped make this exhibition possible

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#### **SPECIAL THANKS**

FLORIDA TECH FACILITIES **TEXTILE ADVISORY COMMITTEE TIA HARRIS** LAURA FITZSIMMONS KRISTIN WOOD

Image Credit for cover: Nagakura Ken'ichi, Circle (detail), 1990. Bamboo (madake), lacquer.

**Promotional Partners:** Ikebana International, Melbourne Chapter #216 Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens Mounts Botanical Garden

Modern Twist was curated by Dr. Andreas Marks, Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Collection of the Clark Center, and tour organized by International Arts & Artists, Washington, DC. The exhibition was generously supported by the E. Rhodes & Leona B. Carpenter Foundation, Nomura Foundation, Japan Foundation, Los Angeles, and the Snider Family Fund. The local presentation of this exhibition made possible in part by a grant from The Japan Foundation of New York.





## RUTH FUNK CENTER FOR TEXTILE ARTS

at Florida Institute of Technology

## The Exhibition

The Ruth Funk Center for Textile Arts is pleased to present Modern Twist: Contemporary Japanese Bamboo Art (January 31 -April 25), an exhibition exploring the innovative shape bamboo art has taken since the mid-twentieth century. Curated by Dr. Andreas Marks, Minneapolis Institute of Arts and organized by International Arts and Artists, Modern Twist features a stunning selection of works from the Clark Center for Japanese Art and Culture. With rare wall-hung installations and pieces never before seen in the United States, this exhibition both engages and educates audiences about a vibrant cultural art form.

In the last 100 years, the creativity and talent of bamboo basket makers has elevated their status from artisans to artists. These artists have redefined aesthetic conventions by experimenting with nonfunctional forms, and their creations have evolved from functional vessels to increasingly sculptural objects.

## 1955

Founding of the Japan Craft Arts Association (*Nihon Kōgeikai*).

#### 1982

lizuka Shōkansai (1919–2004) designated a Living National Treasure.

# **Brief History of Bamboo in Japan**

The emergence of bamboo as a sculptural art form has religious and cultural roots. In Japan, functional objects have been woven from bamboo for hundreds of years.

By the 8th century, bamboo baskets were incorporated into Buddhist ceremonies, and held flower petals that were offered to deities in sacred rituals. During the 15th and 16th centuries, bamboo vases, tea scoops, ladles, and whisks became important features of Japanese traditions, such as flower arrangements (ikebana) and tea gatherings (chanoyu and senchadō).

## 1985

The exhibition Modern Bamboo Craft: Developments in the Modern Era (Take no kōgei: Kindai ni okeru tenkai) opens at the National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo (February 5 – March 24, 1985).

## 2005

Modern Twist artist Katsushiro Sōhō (b. 1934) is named a Living National Treasure.

#### 1950

A perilous national decrease in the practice of traditional arts and crafts spurs the Japanese government to preserve classic art forms, such as bamboo art, and to enact the Cultural Properties Protection Law.

## 1967

Shōno Shōunsai (1904–1974) is the first Living National Treasure in the field of bamboo.

#### 1995

Maeda Chikubōsai II (1917–2003) awarded the status of Living National Treasure.

#### 2003

Hayakawa Shōkosai V (b. 1932–2011) designated a Living National Treasure.

## 2012

Modern Twist artist Fujinuma Noboru (b. 1945) is designated a Living National Treasure.