

2026 Special Exhibition

Gengensai Seichū Sōshitsu, the 11th Urasenke Iemoto: Commemorating the 150th Anniversary of His Death



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2026 marks the 150th anniversary of the death of Gengensai Seichū Sōshitsu (1810–77), Urasenke’s 11th-generation iemoto, and to commemorate this milestone occasion, this exhibition introduces his achievements and his relationships with the people who supported his work.

Gengensai was born as one of the sons of Matsudaira Noritomo (1760–1824), the fourth lord of the Okudono domain in Mikawa (area around present-day Okazaki city, Aichi prefecture). At the age of ten, he became the adopted son of Urasenke’s 10th-generation iemoto, Nintokusai. Following Nintokusai’s death in 1826, Gengensai married Nintokusai’s eldest daughter, Machi (1810–1845), and succeeded as Urasenke’s 11th-generation iemoto that same year. As head of the family and its chadō tradition during the days from the end of the Edo period and into the Meiji era, when the nation underwent significant changes, Gengensai played a leading role in the chadō world of that time. His was an era of revival for Urasenke. In keeping with the influx of foreign culture following the Meiji Restoration, he devised the *ryūrei* method of chanoyu, in which chairs are employed for the seating. Chanoyu methods and items he designed resonated with the new era. We honor the legacy of Gengensai, who laid the foundation for the post-Edo-period Modern development of chadō.

Exhibition period

2026 September 29 (Tue) – December 6 (Sun)

Term I: September 29 (Tue) – November 1 (Sun)

Term II: November 3 (Tue, National Holiday) – December 6 (Sun)

Hours

9:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. (admission ends at 4:00 P.M.)

Days closed

Every Monday, but if it is a national holiday, closed the next day, Tuesday, instead.

Closed August 8 (Thu)–August 16 (Sun). Open Monday September 14.

Admission fee

Regular, ¥1,000; college students, ¥600; jr. & sr. high students, ¥350. Elementary school students and under, and students of membership schools, free.

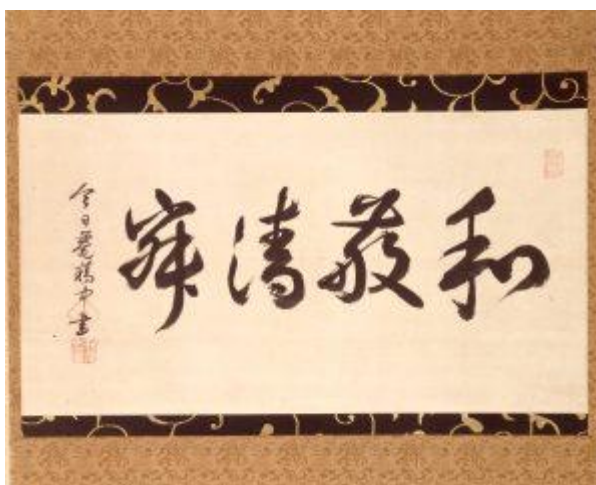
Wagashi and matcha service is available on the days when the galleries are open.

Fee: ¥1,000 (besides exhibition admission fee).

Some of the exhibits



Portrait of Gengensai. Painting, by Mitamura Sōryū. Inscription, by Bokujū Sōju. Konnichian collection.



Horizontal calligraphic work by Gengensai, reading (right to left) 「和敬清寂」 (Harmony, Respect, Purity, Tranquility). Konnichian collection.



Clamshell incense container favored by Gengensai. Decorated by Kanō Einō. Gift to Sen Sōtan from Empress Consort Tōfukumon'in. Konnichian collection.



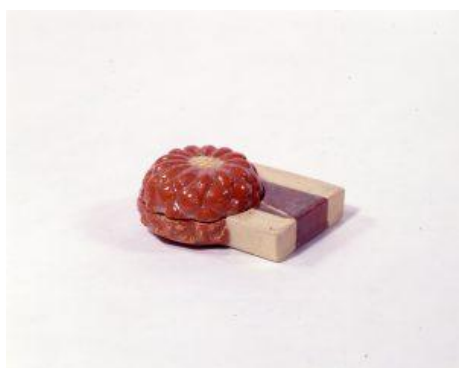
Hagoromo (Feather Robe) natsume type container for powdered tea. One of five favored by Gengensai. Made by Nakamura Sōtetsu VIII. Konnichian collection.



Bamboo double-opening flower container made by Gengensai and named "Tomoshiraga" (Growing White-haired Together). Konnichian collection.



Tall black candy-glaze caddy for powdered tea, named "Washinoyama" (Eagle's Mountain). Made by Nonomura Ninsei. Konnichian collection.



Kikusen (Chrysanthemum Spring) incense container favored by Gengensai. Made by Raku Keinyū. Konnichian collection.



Yukiwa-gawara (Snowflake Circle design tile for use in large hearth) favored by Gengensai. Chado Research Center collection.

