

TOOLS & UTENSILS

The Beauty of Objects from the World's Kitchens and Workshops

ON VIEW: October 29, 2016 - April 30, 2017

Exhibition Resource Guide

This exhibition presents artful objects of daily use from cultures across the globe. These tools and utensils are made to be used by human hands or legs in some function of making or doing. Most are handmade, traditional forms. All are easy to handle, effective to use, satisfying to the eye, and enjoyable to have around. This is *mingei*—art of the world and art of the people.

EXHIBITION THEMES

Objects of Use

Featured objects are used in everyday life made to be used by human hands or legs in some function of making or doing. This includes cooking and serving utensils (such as a coffee measure and pie crimpers) building tools (such as a ship builder's mallet and marking gauge) art making objects, (such as Indonesian printing blocks and Japanese painter's brush), and agricultural objects (such as a snow shovel and pitchfork) as well as humble domestic pieces (such as rug beaters and a butter churner).

Innovation and Design

Tools used in the workshop and utensils used in the home continue to occupy imaginative and clever designers in an ongoing quest to improve the ease and comfort with which we carry out all manner of tasks and functions in our day-to-day lives. Tools and utensils that don't feel good in the hand or don't work well generally are neglected or discarded—replaced by what handles and works better. The tools and utensils featured in this exhibition demonstrate innovation and design over time in responding to the needs and demands of the human body.

Craftsmanship

Most of the objects featured were created by skilled craftspeople by hand and meant to carry out specific functions in order to simplify daily lives and tasks. The objects are easy to handle and effective to use.

Art of the People

This exhibition goes to the heart of *mingei* - looking with fresh eyes at objects that surround us every day and discovering beauty that is least expected.

STUDENTS WILL EXPLORE

- What an “object of use” is and what it can tell us about the culture in which it was created or the person who created it
- How the functional objects we use in our daily lives can also be art



The Straight-Hold Hatchet
Best Made Co, 2015
Lacquered Appalachian hickory handle,
bridle-leather blade guard, head pattern of
1060 steel
Museum Purchase



Coconut Grater
Pohnpei, 1950s
Wood, metal
Gift of Jake and Maire Manni-Harshbarger



Set of Pie Crimpers
Unknown Maker
Late 19th century, U.S.A.
Mixed media
Museum Purchase



Net Mending Tool
Native American, Hawaii, 20th century
Wood
Gift of the Pershing W. Devereux Family



Talc Brush
Japan, c. 1950
Reed, hair
Gift of Peter Nelson



Winnowing Basket
Philippines, 20th century
Cane
Museum Purchase