

# Modern Twist: Contemporary Japanese Bamboo Art

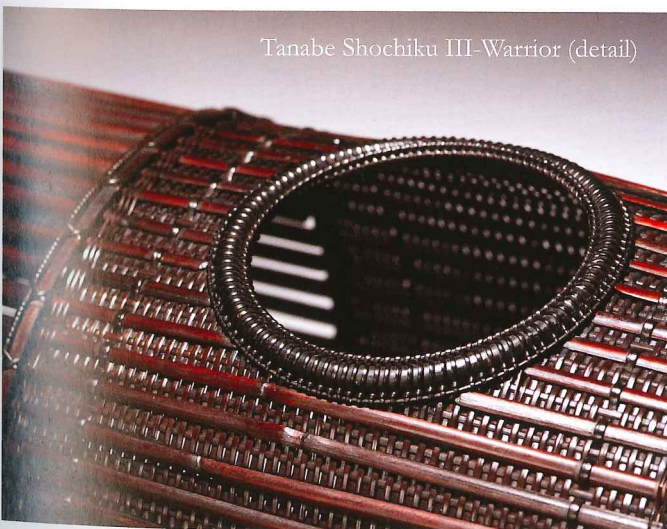
Continuing its tradition of presenting exhibits that immerse the public in some aspect of Asian culture, the Asia Society Texas Center opened “Modern Twist: Contemporary Japanese Bamboo Art” in January of this year. It will run until July 30. This intriguing look at bamboo, a material that is characterized by its strength, flexibility, and ability to bend rather than break, explores the innovative shape bamboo art has taken since the mid-twentieth century. The exhibit employs rare wall-hung installations and sculptures, which haven’t been viewed previously in Texas, to bring the intriguing art form alive.



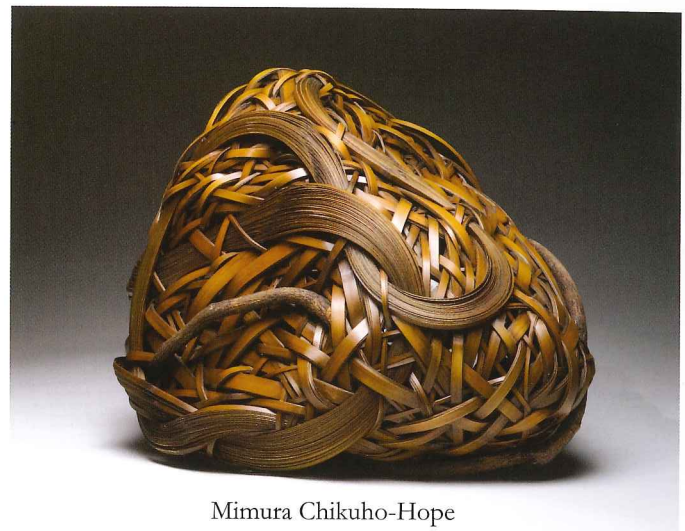
Tanioka Shigeo-2002-Astuka

Bamboo is found in abundance, but it’s also a challenging medium. Mastering it requires decades of learning how to harvest, split, and plate the substance. There are less than 100 professional bamboo artists creating their art in Japan today. Seventeen of them are represented in “Modern Twist.” Their innovative sculptures and installations exemplify the highest level of mastery of the tool.

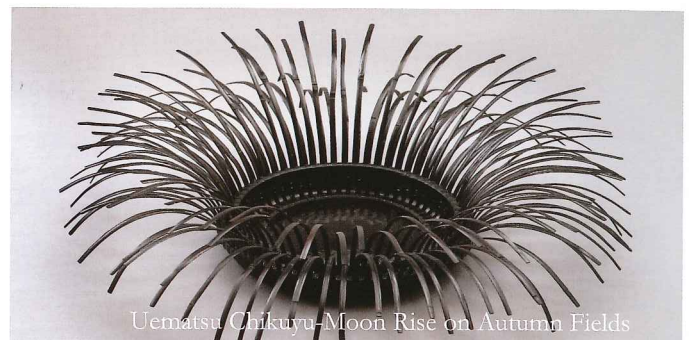
The exhibit also examines the growing awareness of bamboo as an art form. “In the last century, the creativity and talent of bamboo basket makers has elevated their status from artisans working primarily anonymously to sought-after artists. The exhibition celebrates these artists who have helped to redefine a traditional craft as a modern genre, inventing unexpected new forms and pushing the medium to ground-breaking levels of conceptual, technical, and artistic ingenuity,” according to Asia Society Texas Center.



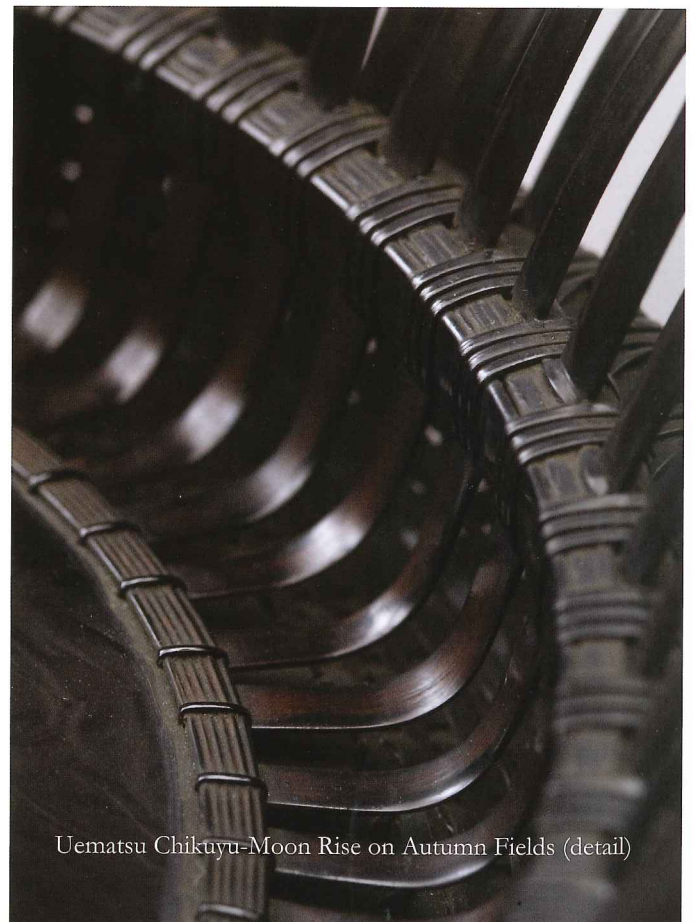
Tanabe Shochiku III-Warrior (detail)



Mimura Chikuho-Hope



Uematsu Chikuyu-Moon Rise on Autumn Fields



Uematsu Chikuyu-Moon Rise on Autumn Fields (detail)