

VOICES From THE NEW YORKERS

Coronavirus Lessons & Ki-kubari by Kia Cheleen

The current coronavirus pandemic has sent the world in to a tailspin. Schools and universities are closed. Border crossing restrictions are in place. Workers are quarantined at home. Flights, trains and large public events are cancelled. On social media and in the news, there are scenes of long lines at the stores, and empty shelves which used to hold hand sanitizer and alcohol wipes.

In Japan, news about masks being sold out and home quarantine has become increasingly common. Compared to American companies, many Japanese companies are not as used to allowing their employees to work remotely from home. There is often a “we can’t see you working, so you must not be working” mentality. This is a good opportunity for Japanese companies to trust their employees, learn about creating and implementing work-from-home processes and to be more prepared for when people need to work remotely.

On the same note, Americans are hoarding staples such as paper towels, toilet paper, water and canned goods. Japan is also in a panic, but many Japanese can recall what life was like soon after the 3/11 Tohoku disaster. Some stores allowed each customer to purchase only 10 items. Rather than looting or hoarding, many Japanese had the mentality of, “If I try to buy 1 extra item, then someone else will have less, so I will only buy 10 items.” This Japanese sense of *ki-kubari* (consideration of other’s feelings) is something I wish was more instilled in Americans during these sensitive times. I hope we will take extra care to think about our neighbors, hungry children and others who are in need. Stay safe, everyone!
(Kia Cheleen is an inter-cultural consultant and a Japanese/English writer, translator and interpreter. Visit her at www.gillespieglobal.net or e-mail her at kcheleen@gmail.com)



THE JAPAN VOICE

COOL JAPAN from New Yorkers’ View points



Ambassador Kanji Yamanouchi Awarded Mr. Glenn David Lowry, Director of the Museum of Modern (MoMA), The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon for Spring 2019 Decoration

Ambassador Kanji Yamanouchi awarded Mr. Glenn David Lowry, Director of the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon for Spring 2019 Decoration from the Government of Japan on March 4, 2020 at the Ambassador’s Residence for his outstanding contributions to promoting Japanese modern art in the United States.

His achievements are as follows;

1. Introduction of Japanese Modern Art at the MoMA

Since having been appointed Director of The Museum of Modern Art, New York, in 1995, Mr. Lowry has presented many Japan-related exhibitions and Japanese film screenings at the MoMA, and has continuously offered opportunities to appreciate Japanese modern art forms to not only New Yorkers, but also to visitors from all over the world. These exhibitions have included internationally-known artists such as “Love Forever: Yayoi Kusama 1958-1968,” “Yoko Ono: One Woman Show, 1960-1971,” and also works by emerging artists in exhibitions such as “First Steps: Emerging Artists from Japan.” In these, and numerous

other ways, he has contributed greatly to the broadening of appreciation of Japanese culture worldwide.

2. Promotion of Understanding of Japanese Modern Art

In 2008, the MoMA, led by Mr. Lowry, and the Japan Foundation

The Japan News
by The Yomiuri Shinbun

https://www.yomiuri-info.jp/daily_yomiuri/nys/

co-organized the Japan-Americas Art Curator Exchange Program, which increased exchanges between art curators in Japan and the U.S., and established relationships and fostered mutual understanding amongst them. This program also led to the publication of “From Postwar to Postmodern, Art in Japan, 1945-1989,” published by the MoMA, in 2014. This book gathered texts that are critical to the advancement of knowledge of postwar Japanese art—the majority of which were translated into English for the first time—and has added

much to the global understanding of Japanese modern art.

3. Cooperation with Art Museums in Japan and Fostering Mutual Understanding Between Citizens

The development of Japan’s art scene owes much to Mr. Lowry’s proactive

contributions such as the loans of MoMA’s world-famous collections. For example, the exhibition “Modern Means: Continuity and Change in Art, 1880 to the Present, Highlights from the Collection of The Museum of Modern Art, New York” at the Mori Art Museum in Tokyo in 2004 attracted over 200,000 attendees and created a historic chance for Japanese people to view masterful artworks and to understand the artistic values they represented. As a member of the Mori Art Museum International Advisory Committee, Mr. Lowry has shared his knowledge of museum management with the people of Japan.
(Courtesy of the press office of the Consulate General of Japan in New York)

Portable Japanese Tea Room Zen-An introduced at Ippodo

An easy-to-carry, constructable *chashitsu*, or tearoom, called Zen-An was introduced in a workshop on February 21 at Ippodo Gallery (32 E 67th St). Zen-An was designed by Kuniji Tsubaki of Tsubaki and Associates, and is explained as “Keeping the spirit of Zen unbothered while being able to move the *An* (Hermitage).” Zen-An was created in 2017.

Mr. Tsubaki is traveling around the world with his suitcase full of Japanese culture of Zen-An, communicating with culture and history through tea. He lights a candle and constructs Zen-

An while the candlelight is there. He states “Heritage invents new things all the time, and it only survives if there is something revolutionary about it.” Last year at the U.N. peace event “Peace is...”, Tsubaki showed the construction of Zen-An and surprised the crowd. Kimihiro Ishikane, U.N. ambassador, and his wife were also in attendance.

Polly Horne, an interior designer in Brooklyn studying Zen, said “I love how he [Tsubaki] is grappling with the question of how to share his tradition in this modern and global culture. The portability of the structure and the way in which the ceremony is simplified could make tea more accessible to a larger audience. I appreciated Mr. Tsubaki’s expression of the spirit of tea. I really enjoyed this event.” (Article by Ryoichi Miura / Translated by Kanta Hakamata)



U.N. Ambassador Kimihiro Ishikane enjoying a tea ceremony at Zen-An

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弊紙「週刊 NY 生活」は NY 市内の多くの飲食店様に設置ご協力をいただいておりますが、この期間、新聞を配達してもご迷惑になるお店も多いと判断し、今週号から同指示が解除されるまでの間、NY 市内の飲食店の設置ご協力先様への配達を一時停止させていただきます。

一旦様子を見て、この期間中も置いて下さる飲食店様がいらっしゃれば、その都度個別に配達を再開させていただき所存です。

読者の皆様にもご不便をおかけしますが、ご理解のほどよろしくお願いいたします。

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