

# Shotoen Museums and Gardens

## Ceramics Museum

### ◆ Exhibition Title

Beautiful Ko-Imari

Period: July 1st

### ◆ Exhibition Overview

Imari ware, which originated in the early Edo era approximately 400 years ago, still captivates a lot of people. Here we introduce some of the most fascinating and beautiful Ko-Imari selected from the museum's collection.

### ◆ View Point

Popular and rare items from the museum's Imari ware collection are on display in one place.

### ◆ Introduction of exhibiting artist: About Imari ware

Imari ware is a type of porcelain that originated around 400 years ago in the area of present-day Arita-cho, Saga Prefecture, and is still being produced today. It was also exported to Europe in the 17th and 18th centuries, attracting much royalty and aristocracy.

It was also involved in the birth of Meissen in Germany. Even today, Imari ware continues to have many fans.

### ◆ Recommended works

#### Square Bottle with Overglaze Polychrome Enamel Design of Flower and Bird



This pair of square bottles has traveled to Europe and returned home to Japan, and like all of you who have come from outside of Japan, they must have experienced a long journey.

This porcelain bottle itself was made in Arita, Japan, but the metal parts of the lid and base were installed after it was shipped to Europe. With a distinct pair of birds and flowers on each of the four sides, the design is reminiscent of an

eastern flower-and-bird artwork.

The white of the porcelain and the gold of the metal fittings match each other to create a beautiful and gorgeous product.

### **Tetrapod Square Dish with Cobalt-blue Glaze and Overglaze Gold and Silver Enamel Design of Mt.Fuji and Cloud**



The beauty of the blue color is an eye-catching gem. Mt. Fuji, among the clouds, is adorned with gold and silver in that blue color, giving it the appearance of a Japanese painting.

The use of gold and silver to create designs has only existed for a very short period of time in the history of Imari ware production. This is because gold decoration has continued throughout the years, but silver decoration can only be seen around the time this dish was made. In this sense, this is one of the rarest Imari ware dishes.