

Bamboo Art -The Tradition as a Challenge-

Schedule: March 1-9, 2018 Site: Norway, Russia (Saint-Petersburg)

■ Dispatched Expert



Chikuunsai IV Tanabe Representative, Chikuunsai Studio

Mr. Tanabe was born in a bamboo artist family with approximately 120-year history. He succeeded Chikuunsai IV title in 2017 after his study at Tokyo University of the Arts as well as at Bamboo Craft Training Center, Oita Prefecture. Tanabe held exhibitions all over the world, and many of his art works are possessed at world famous art museums, including The Metropolitan Museum of Art, U.S.A. He has been producing bamboo installation* and three-dimensional modern art works based on traditional technique and his spirit succeeding generations. Now he is challenging to create new tradition which suits our age.

*a technique of expression that people can experience the whole space as a work.

■ Review of Activities

● Norway (Oslo)



Lecture scene at
Oslo National Academy of the Arts



Workshop at
Oslo National Academy of the Arts



Holding flower baskets
created at the workshop

● Russia (Saint-Petersburg)



Workshop at Botanic Gardens,
the Komarov Botanical Institute



Bamboo works created by participants



Lecture scene at
Stieglitz State Academy of Art and Design

■ Achievements

Bamboo artist Chikuunsai IV Tanabe visited Norway and Russia, and gave lectures and workshops.

In the lectures, Tanabe introduced the bamboo art history as unique Japanese culture as well as a part of life, the art works succeeded across generations of Tanabe family continuing from the Meiji era, and the challenges in maintaining techniques including his own experience. Many questions followed his presentation even after the lecture. In the workshops, each participant produced "My Sole Flower Basket in the World." Tanabe introduced varieties of bamboo species and unique Japanese techniques, then demonstrated how to make bamboo art parts and the way of knitting. Most of the participants handled bamboo for the first time, then thought about their own concept and created on their own art works. The people Tanabe met at visited sites expressed their wish to invite him for exhibition and installation at a variety of locations including Hermitage Museum. Besides, the tour contributed to facilitating deeper understanding of bamboo crafts and materials for handcraft importers as well as for those who were planning to build up Japanese gardens.