



Some Encounters, or the Footsteps of a Collector

Philippe A. F. Neeser



Tuesday, February 8, 2022, 18:00–19:00 (Zurich / UTC+1)

University of Zurich, Rämistrasse 59, 8001 Zürich

Room RAA-G-01

The lecture will be held in English and is open to the public (no registration is necessary).

For questions, please contact the Section for East Asian Art History: kgoa@khist.uzh.ch

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Abstract:

One of the most cherished sentences in Japanese is surely *ichigo ichi'e*: each encounter is unique: you seize the opportunity or let it go. These encounters not only happen between human beings, they may also happen with objects. The collector knows that sometimes he or she chooses the object, and that sometimes the object chooses the collector.

In my decades of collecting, I have tried to keep an open eye at all times and in any circumstances, nevertheless, I still have regrets. Nostalgia is probably a part of any collector's life. In this presentation, Philippe Neeser looks forward to sharing his many experiences with you.

Philippe A. F. Neeser is in many ways the Swiss person of his generation with the most profound cultural connections to Japan. Having lived in Japan for over thirty years, he holds deep connections to the Imperial House and to the world of the tea ceremony. A long-time practitioner of the tea ceremony, he has been given a tea master name *Sōsui* by the grand master of the Urasenke and was the first westerner allowed to give tea in front of the Daibutsu of the Tōdaiji Temple in Nara. In November 2008 he received the Order of the Rising Sun. He is also a great collector of Japanese art and has recently donated his collection of 400 tea-ceremony-related objects to the Fondation Baur; he is presently writing a catalogue of these objects.

Covid-19 related requirements: Please note that **2G conditions** apply to this event. Access to the lecture is only permitted to persons with a certificate that confirms full recovery or vaccination. In addition, all attendees are obliged to wear masks at all times.