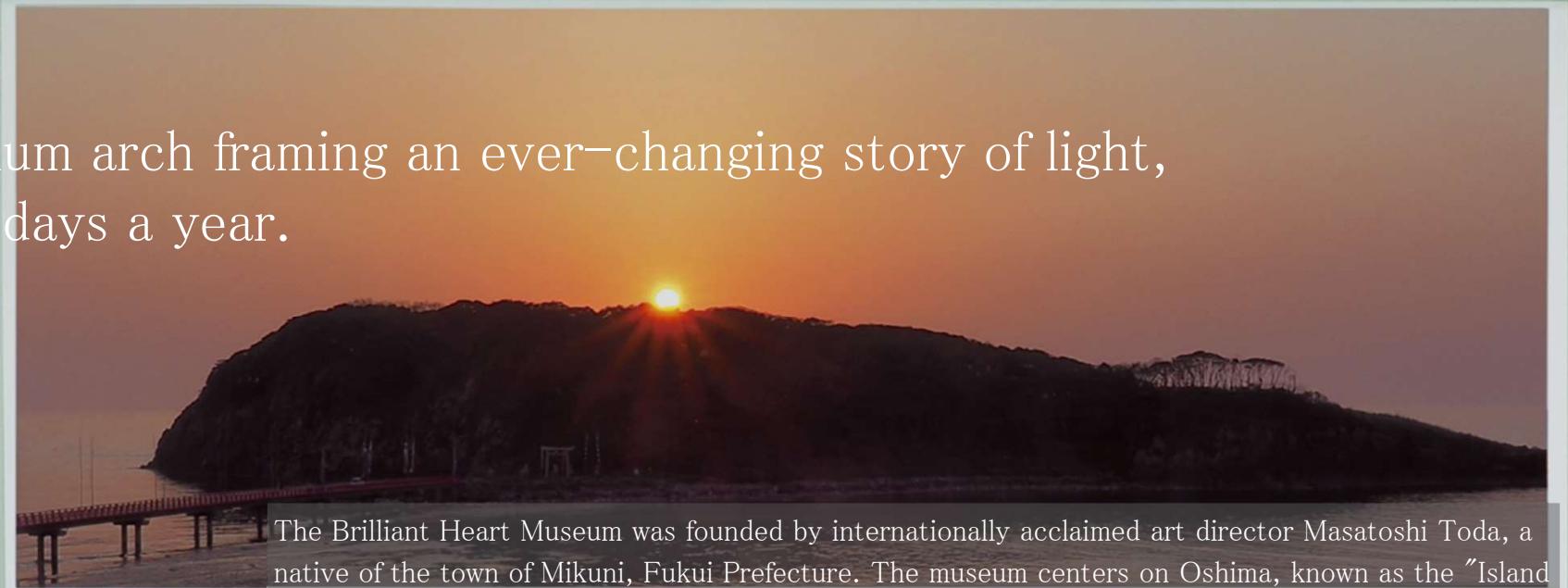


# Brilliant Heart Museum: A View of Oshima, Island of the Gods

## - Capturing Nature's Ephemeral Art -

### Concept

A proscenium arch framing an ever-changing story of light, 24/7, 365 days a year.



The Brilliant Heart Museum was founded by internationally acclaimed art director Masatoshi Toda, a native of the town of Mikuni, Fukui Prefecture. The museum centers on Oshima, known as the "Island of the Gods," a sacred island within the Echizen-Kaga Quasi-National Park untouched by the axe for a millennium. This museum presents Oshima's constantly shifting landscape, never identical from one moment to the next, as a living work of art to be shared with the world. Experience the culture of the tea ceremony while immersing yourself in the shifting light, the sounds of the wind and sea, the crashing waves, the calls of birds, the hum of insects, and the subtle sense of human presence.

Sakai City (Fukui)

## Oshima: A Sacred Island of Untouched Nature

Oshima is a beautiful, uninhabited island featuring rock formations sculpted by the Sea of Japan's waves and abundant plant life. It is a designated special protection area within the Echizen-Kaga Quasi-National Park and is managed as the grounds of Ominato Shrine. This strong connection to the shrine's beliefs and commitment to conservation has preserved Oshima's pristine nature for over a millennium. Visitors to Oshima experience its natural beauty and sacred atmosphere.

## Brilliant Heart Museum

Perched on a hill overlooking Oshima, the "Island of the Gods" revered since ancient times, the Brilliant Heart Museum offers a unique artistic experience. A large 4m x 1.5m window frames the landscape of Oshima, transforming it into a living work of art. This framed view changes with the weather and time, presenting an ever-evolving spectacle. Each visit reveals something new, allowing visitors to fully appreciate the splendor of nature.



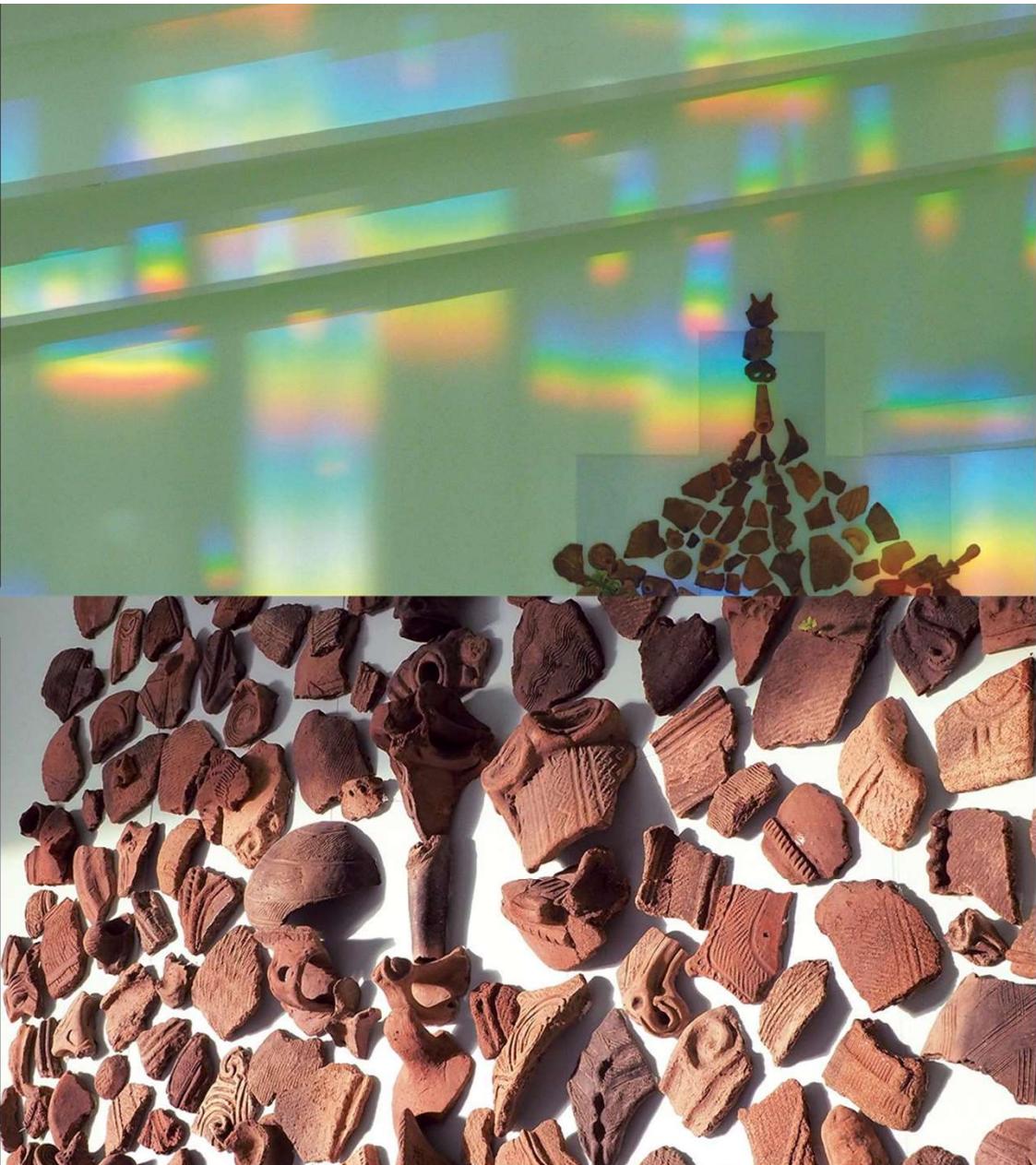
2017.06.16

## Seiju Cut

The museum's ceiling features glass incorporating a special technique called the Seiju Cut, developed by Masatoshi Toda. This glass refracts sunlight to produce a multitude of rainbows, bathing the interior in an ethereal glow. The rainbows' colors and shapes shift continuously with the time of day and the changing seasons, heightening the artwork's ephemeral nature.

## Face of Five Thousand Years

Face of Five Thousand Years is an installation crafted from 500 fragments of Jomon pottery, traditionally said to have been made by a young boy and girl. Collected primarily from archaeological sites within Fukui Prefecture, these fragments create a piece that resonates with 5,000 years of history. This artwork also generates a myriad of rainbows when illuminated by sunlight. Experience the ever-changing expressions of the Face of Five Thousand Years.



## Special Tea Ceremony Experience

Enjoy matcha green tea while appreciating the picturesque view of Oshima, framed like a living painting. Witness two formal tea procedures, koicha temae (thick tea) and usucha temae (thin tea), demonstrated by Sojun Toda of the Urasenke school, wife of museum founder Masatoshi Toda. Following the demonstration, savor both koicha and usucha tea, accompanied by traditional sweets. This tea ceremony, held in such a unique setting, is certain to create a lasting memory.

## Matcha Bowls: Embodiments of Wabi–Sabi

The matcha is prepared in tea bowls designed by Kenji Kitazawa. The raku ware bowls, in particular, embody the "wabi" aesthetic, finding beauty in rustic simplicity and imperfection. The warmth of their texture and the subtle changes that develop over time with use are highly valued. Hand-formed through kneading, each raku bowl possesses a unique shape, often bearing the imprints of the artisan's hands. This reflects the tea ceremony's spirit of "one item, one form," emphasizing the uniqueness of each piece.

