



Press release

Wednesday 25 July 2018

Temporary exhibition

From 1 to 19 August 2018

CHINESE CERAMICS INSPIRED BY ART AND SPORT

Fourteen Chinese teapots, sculpted from purple clay by artist LV Junjie (CHN), will be going on display in the Art Lounge from 1 to 19 August, as part of the “Five Rings & Five Colours” exhibition. Entry is free of charge.

Each year, in the build-up to the Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022, The Olympic Museum will be hosting an exhibition devoted to the work of a Chinese artist. This year, the Museum is showcasing 14 traditional teapots made from “zisha” – purple clay from Yixing.

Zisha, which means purple clay, comes from deep in the mountains near the city of Yixing in Jiangsu Province. The clay contains many minerals, such as iron and quartz, which help to create the perfect teapot by keeping the water hot – helping the tea to infuse properly and allowing the tea to “breathe” thanks to its porous nature, which brings out the flavour and fragrance. Yixing zisha teapots have been exported to Europe since the 17th century and are considered the finest quality teapots. Given the material’s reddish, ochre colour, it has also been known as “red clay”, “buccaro” and “boccaro”.

While making their way around the exhibition, visitors will truly experience the passion and energy of the artist, who subtly combines the symbolism of Chinese culture with sports imagery. The teapots depict scenes from different sports, ranging from curling and speed skating to equestrian; and strength, beauty and intelligence are fused together in an effort to form a unified whole. The “Lotus” set of pots is a tribute to the lotus flower, with the painstakingly designed knob on the lid and the curved handle that evokes the strong yet pliable stem bending in the breeze.

LV Junjie’s artistic vision, purpose and aesthetic choices are reflected in these works.

“For the average person, a boccaro teapot is nothing but a small device for making tea. However, it is very diverse and symbolic of Chinese culture.”

LV Junjie

Biography:

Born in 1966, LV Junjie is a master of Chinese ceramic art and a research-level senior craft artist, as well as a member of the Chinese Artists Association. His hobbies include wushu, a traditional Chinese martial art more commonly known as “kung fu”. In 2018, IOC President Thomas Bach awarded him the Pierre de Coubertin medal for his work, which uses zisha to spread the Olympic spirit.

For visuals, please check the Flickr photo album [here](#).



"Curling" red clay teapot ©LV Junjie

In 2017, 270,000 visitors came to see the new exhibitions at The Olympic Museum. Some 3,000m² of exhibition space, 1,500 objects, 150 audiovisual devices, 50 interactive screens, and 7 hours of sound and video celebrate humanity in movement. The Museum's displays are an invitation to dive into the history of the Games, the dreams, the culture, the design, the challenges and the values of Olympism. They incorporate the latest technological innovations – an excellence recognised in 2014 by the International Audiovisual Festival on Museums and Heritage (FIAMP).

THE OLYMPIC MUSEUM

Quai d'Ouchy 1
1006 Lausanne – Switzerland
Tel: +41 21 621 65 11
Open every day 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
15 Oct. - 1 May: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (closed Mondays)
<http://www.olympic.org/museum>

Social media

Like us on [facebook/lemuseeolympique](https://www.facebook.com/lemuseeolympique),
Follow us on Twitter [@olympicmuseum](https://twitter.com/olympicmuseum)
& on Instagram [@olympicmuseum](https://www.instagram.com/olympicmuseum)
Visit our [blog](#)
TOM is also on [Google Arts&Culture](#)

Media relations

Nadia Valentin
Nadia.valentin@olympic.org
Tel: +41 21 621 66 71

Photos

For photos, go to [Flickr](#)
Or contact images@olympic.org