

Miniature inlaid cabinet “*Meishozu kodansu*” by Komai Otojiro (1842-1917) (h. 13.8 cm). Photo by Kimura Yoichi  
Photo: © Kiyomizu Sannenzaka Museum



# The Japanese and Gold (Part II)



Carriage of a JR Kyushu Shinkansen train with gold leaf decorating the walls and sliding door  
Photo: Courtesy of HAKUICHI, Inc.



Water container by Masuda Mitsuo titled “*Se (Shallow)*,” gilding on copper (10 cm x 17.9 cm) (1972). Photo by Tanaka Gakuji. (Collection of National Crafts Museum)  
Photo: Courtesy of National Crafts Museum

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old has been a cherished aspect of Japanese culture since ancient times. In Part I of our feature “The Japanese and Gold” (October 2022), we looked at some historical examples of gold-covered structures and artifacts, and the techniques that made them possible, that still survive from the distant past. This month, in Part II of our feature, we introduce a variety of recent and contemporary uses of gold in Japan, including metalworking arts and crafts, Japanese painting, interior applications, and food.

