



Urushi Coated Wooden Bowl That Reached the Summit

Recently, I find myself regularly using the phrase “*urushi* coated wooden bowl with rice” in my lectures. *Urushi* bowls are different from the ceramic ones, as they have low thermal conductivity and keep the heat longer. As *urushi* absorbs the moisture of the delicious warm rice, you can eat even the last grains of it. After one of my talks on *urushi* bowls, Yūta Miura approached me and mentioned that his father, Yūichirō Miura, is to climb Mount Everest.

Mountaineers in the base camp typically use vessels made of aluminum and synthetic materials. These are very light and easy to carry, but at 8,000 metres the soup poured into these bowls gets cold very quickly. That is why Yūta wanted to know more about the *urushi* bowls. Yūta explained that under the extreme conditions of the high altitude, a warm meal is very important both mentally and physically, and a hot bowl is essential to keep the body warm. I wished them success in their endeavour by presenting them with *urushi* bowls so they could enjoy delicious hot meals on the summit. I was also curious to see what happens to the *urushi* on high altitude. As a parting gift, I prepared sets of large and small *urushi* bowls for 15 members of the team.

On May 23 2013, Yūichirō Miura at the age of 80 successfully reached the summit of Mount Everest at 8,848 metres. After their return, Yūta Miura visited my studio and showed me the photographs taken on Mount Everest and he also brought along the bowl. The photos served as proofs of the fact that the team members always had hot meals such as *nabe*, *donburi* etc. using the *urushi* bowls. It made me very happy. The bowl that returned from the top of the world is intact, despite of the extreme temperatures: 50°C at daytime and -40°C at night. The *urushi* coating withstood the severe conditions and protected the wooden bowl. This demonstrates the strength and beauty of *urushi*. Only the best wooden bowl, the one coated with *urushi* could survive the trip to the top of the world.

Most of us became familiar with the qualities of *urushi* through the bowls we often use. This time I made exactly the same bowls that the mountaineers used on Mount Everest, so please enjoy the warmth and strength of the *urushi*.

Murose Kazumi

頂点を極めたお椀

近年、講演などでは必ず「漆碗でご飯」と話しています。「陶磁製の茶碗と異なつて木製である椀は熱伝導率が低く、中に入れたものが冷めにくいんです。そして塗つてある漆が適度に水分を吸うので、ご飯が最後の一粒まで温かく美味しく食べられますよ」と。やはりお椀の話をしたある講演会終了後、三浦雄大さんという方に出会いました。「実は私の父・三浦雄一郎が、今度エベレスト(チョモランマ)に登るんです…」との話に驚きました。

通常、ベースキャンプ等で使用する食器は軽くて持ち運びやすいアルミ製や合成樹脂製ですが、8000m級ともなると、温かなスープもあつという間に冷めてしまうのです。そこで講演を聴いた雄大さんが漆碗だとどうでしょうか、と尋ねてきたのです。体力的にも精神的にも極限の状態での楽しみは何と言つても食事で、特に身体を温めるには鍋物が欠かせないとのこと。ぜひ美味しい食事を摂って登頂に成功して欲しい、そして漆碗の利点を極地で試してみたいと思い、大小入れ子の漆碗をタックする人数分の15組つくり、はなむけにすることにしました。

2013年5月23日。三浦雄一郎さんは80歳にして8848mのエベレスト登頂に成功しました。帰国後、雄大さんがお椀と共に現地での画像を届けてくれました。鍋物、丼物、汁物とマルチに使用でき、いつも温かく食べることができたという報告は、画像からも伝わってきて、とても嬉しいものでした。戻ってきたお椀には全く問題ありません。山頂付近の気温は、昼はプラス50度、夜はマイナス40度前後。そうした厳しい環境でも、美しい塗膜を保持している漆の強さが証明されました。まさに頂点を極めたお椀です。

漆器の良さを一番身近で最大限感じることができるのがお椀です。登頂隊と同形のお椀で、漆の強さと温かい感触を味わってください。

室瀬和美

漆椀 ちょもらんま 大 13.8×8.9cm 中12.6×4.4cm 小11.6×6.4cm



三つ椀(大中小) ¥99,000 / 二つ椀(中小) ¥63,800 (各 税込) 桐箱入

MUROSE KAZUMI

1950 Born in Tokyo
1976 Graduated from the Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music, Graduate School, Department of Fine Arts, *Urushi* Section / Graduation work purchased by the University
1985 Japan *Kōgei* Association Award, 32nd Japan Traditional *Kōgei* Exhibition
1991 Established the Mejiro Institute of *Urushi* Research and Restoration
Dedicated to the conservation of *Urushi* cultural properties
1996 Reproduction of the national treasure, “*Ume Maki-e Tebako*” (Cosmetic box with plum blossoms design in *Maki-e*) in the collection of the Grand Shrine of Mishima (1996–1998)
2000 Governor of Tokyo Award, 47th Japan Traditional *Kōgei* Exhibition
2002 Japan *Kōgei* Association Award, 49th Japan Traditional *Kōgei* Exhibition
2008 Accredited as the holder of Important Intangible Cultural Property (Living National Treasure, *Maki-e*)
Received the Purple Ribbon Medal
2015 Established the Mejiro *Urushi* Studio to advance and promote Japanese *urushi* culture
2021 Received the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette

Collections:

Agency for Cultural Affairs / Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music
The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo / *Kotohira-gū* Shrine / *Atsuta-Jingū* Shrine / *Jingū*-Museum
Yūtenji Temple / Japanisch-Deutsches Zentrum Berlin / Victoria and Albert Museum
The British Museum / The Metropolitan Museum of Art etc.

室瀬和美

1950 東京生まれ
1976 東京藝術大学大学院美術研究科漆芸専攻修了
同修了制作大学買上げ
1985 第32回日本伝統工芸展 日本工芸会奨励賞受賞
1991 目白漆芸文化財研究所 開設
漆芸文化財保存に従事
1996 国宝「梅蒔絵手箱」三嶋大社蔵 復元模造制作
2000 第47回日本伝統工芸展 東京都知事賞受賞
2002 第49回日本伝統工芸展 日本工芸会奨励賞受賞
2008 重要無形文化財保持者(蒔絵)認定
紫綬褒章受章
2015 目白漆學舎 開設
漆の文化発信の拠点とする
2021年 旭日小綬章受賞

パブリックコレクション

文化庁／東京藝術大学／東京国立近代美術館／金刀比羅宮／熱田神宮
神宮美術館／祐天寺／ベルリン日独会館／ヴィクトリア&アルバート美術館
大英博物館／メトロポリタン美術館 など