

Gregory Miller

Welcoming Diversity: The interesting example of crafts tourism development in Mashiko, Japan

From the late Edo period, potters in Mashiko, Tochigi, began to develop proto-industrial ceramics production. Over the next century, the community weathered a series of economic and social hardships, primarily by accepting and facilitating outsiders, and the innovative methods, aesthetics, and sales strategies they introduced. This presentation will briefly address the ongoing impact of individuals on Mashiko's pottery community.

Gregory Hamilton Miller completed a BA in Anthropology and Biology at Macalester College in 1991. Soon after, he traveled to Mashiko, Japan, where he became an apprentice to Shimaoka Tatsuzo, Japanese Living National Treasure, for two years. Since 1994, he has established and worked consistently in potteries in Japan, the USA, and Denmark, exhibiting concurrently. In 1996, he began a graduate program in Japanese Anthropology at the University of Pittsburgh, and completed most requirements towards a Ph.D. in Anthropology by 2002. In 2003, he moved to North Jutland, Denmark, where he initiated a series of professional workshops, symposiums, and exhibitions such as Skagerrak Skulpturer, the Nordic Network Ceramic Studio Exchange, the Nordic Woodfire Marathon, the Creabiz Vendsyssel development project, Denmark/Japan Exchange projects, the Scandinavian Ceramic Conference, and others. In 2011, Miller began working on a Ph.D. in Crafts Entrepreneurship and Community at Aalborg University. He has traveled extensively exhibiting his ceramic work, presenting, and teaching around the world.