

Kihara Komon



Kihara workshop

Five small plates of Arita porcelain, the "mamezara", each bearing a different design, the traditional Japanese drawings (Ume and Tsuru, Maromonami, Inaho, Fuji and Yuki - see their significance in the long description).

Use for aperitif, to share a nice bottle of sake !

Diam. 108 mm

The five drawings

- 1) **Ume & Tsuru** : Plum blossom that heralds spring, and the swan, symbol of long life.
- 2) **Maromonami** : Wave, sea, origin of life and the wave that comes back as a sign of eternal luck.
- 3) **Inaho** : An ear of rice, sign of respect since ancestral times as Japanese consider this grain as inhabited by gods.
- 4) **Fuji** : Mount Fuji, the sacred mountain and endowed with spiritual power. It is both the symbol of Japan and of good fortune.
- 5) **Yuki** : Snow, a message from heaven announcing good harvests.

Arita porcelain is mainly known in Europe under the name of "Imari". This was indeed the port from which, historically, these porcelains were leaving Japan for Europe, exported by the Dutch merchants. These porcelains are manufactured since the early 17th century in the small town of Arita, in Saga Prefecture, at the Northern part of Kyushu. Since 1616, a turning point in the history of this product because it marked the end of Chinese monopoly regarding the use of Kaolin for the production of fine porcelain. Japan launched into production, exporting until 1757. Under the Edo era, the government decided to limit export of these porcelains, and they became less available overseas, focusing more on Japanese territory. During the 19th century, exports resumed with Arita porcelain which were presented at international fairs and exhibitions, contributing back to their global reputation. Many manufactures (Kamamoto) and artists produce Arita porcelain. Some of them are also recognized as "living human treasure" in Japan.

Can be used in a microwave oven and put in the dishwasher.

