

Hiroshige Kato

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Kasen Pottery Studio and Akazu Area

Seto is a city boasting a long tradition of pottery and ceramics lasting over 1,000 years. Situated thirty minutes away from Sakae by train, take a bus or taxi for ten minutes and you will reach the heart of traditional hand-made Japanese ceramics, the *satoyama* of Akazu.

Kasen Pottery Studio in Akazu has a history of more than 350 years, when the family was charged to make tea ceremony bowls for the *Daimyo* in Nagoya Castle. Now in its twelfth generation, Kasen struggles to survive in a world of mass production by imparting the beauty and secrets of their traditional art to others.

Hiroshige Kato, the twelfth generation master of the clan, has also practiced his art abroad and is ready to take you on a tour of the family plot; teaching studio, gallery of works, a large wood-fired climbing kiln built into the mountain, an old hand-made ceramics factory now disused, a family altar with views to Nagoya and the earth littered with the broken remains of kilns from long ago.

The clay is so pure in the hills of Seto it can be dug right out of the earth and used immediately. Pure too is the heart of pottery, and the heart of Kasen.

DIRECTIONS: TAKE MEITETSU-SETO LINE FROM SAKAE TO TERMINUS AT OWARI-SETO AND AKAZU BUS, OR TAXI FROM STATION (TAXI FARE APPROX. ¥1000)

ADDRESS: 114 AKAZU-CHO, SETO CITY, AICHI PREFECTURE

ADDRESS IN JAPANESE FOR TAXI: 愛知県瀬戸市赤津町114 窯元霞仙 (かせん)

Pottery Class and Tour 6000 yen

- Semi-private lesson in English.
- Class and tour takes about two hours
- Choose from seven different local glazes and your work will be ready for pick-up in approximately one month (delivery available upon request)
- Guided tour in English of the Akazu *satoyama*, including the wood-fired climbing kiln and outdoor family altar.
- Price includes one of your own works of art, and one from Hiroshige Kato, which you are able to take home with you on the day.
- Classes from groups of two, discounts available for larger groups.
- Classes in Japanese without tour as part of a larger group for 3000 yen.
- Lunch available in the area - please enquire at time of reservation
- Reservations Essential
- Facilities for pottery retreat available