

Yabu Meizan, an Osaka-based art producer who made Satsuma-ware pottery globally famous



Incense case with a quail and peony pattern

Late Meiji period

A female writer, Sei Shōnagon wrote “Each and every small thing is beautiful” in her essay Makura-no-sōshi 1,000 years ago. Small things are perhaps the favorite of women around world. Reportedly, when Yabu Meizan’s pottery works were exhibited at the 1904 St. Louis World’s Fair in the US, American ladies rushed to buy his palm-sized works. Yabu Meizan produced elaborate works that captivated the world from a studio he opened around 1880 in Dojima, Osaka to decorate Satsuma-ware pottery with paintings.