

# Kondaya Genbey X Laura de Santillana

Special collaboration exhibition celebrates Kondaya's 280th anniversary

Moon : Tsuki wo koso ...

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ippodo gallery  
TOKYO - NEW YORK



Genbey Yamaguchi is the tenth-generation of Kondaya, a 280-year old leader in obi sash craftsmanship. He believes that challenging tradition is the best way to protect it. To accomplish this task, he employs the skills and materials passed down through many generations. Woven peacock feathers, mother of pearl, Koishimaru silk, foils and precious stones have been produced, preserved and even revived, ultimately redefining the possibilities of Japanese textile making.

This exhibition celebrates Kondaya's anniversary by sharing the beautiful space in Kyoto with renowned Italian artist, Laura de Santillana. Her admiration and deep commitment to Japanese culture and expression are demonstrated with her tablet glass series. She presents 'Moon' series, using gold, silver or copper leaf; and 'Bamboo', created in the Czech Republic.

De Santillana shares the same values of tradition and modernity with Yamaguchi, and he hopes that together they will, 'make sparks fly.' Two contradictory materials – glass allowing light to pass through, and textiles reflecting that light – create a mysterious harmony.

Laura de Santillana is a contemporary artist whose practice comes from generations of glassmakers on the Venetian island of Murano, immersed in the 'glass aristocracy.' Her grandfather was Paolo Venini, founder of the groundbreaking eponymous glassworks legacy of the same name. This was followed by personal exploration of art and design around the world. Today, her hot shop is a physical and testing environment, using incredible dexterity to manipulate molten glass. Absolute trust between artist and assistants is essential when operating at such temperatures.

This highly challenging process is inspired by the intangible yet vital element, the breath, with the ultimate theme of this special collaboration exhibition a poem by Kenreimonin written in Heian Period (794–1185):

*Many a time have I gazed at the moon,  
But never so poignant did it seem, As amid tonight's star-strewn skies*

Filled with romance and fantasy, this exhibition allows the audience to return to the origins of viewing.

# SUMMARY

# Kondaya Genbey x Laura de Santillana

## TITLE

Special collaboration exhibition celebrates Kondaya's 280th anniversary  
Kondaya Genbey x Laura de Santillana *Moon : Tsuki wo koso*

## THEME

*Many a time have I gazed at the moon  
But never so poignant did it seem  
As amid tonight's star-strewn skies*

Poem by Kenreimon-in Ukyō no Daibu (ca. 1157 – ca. 1233),  
Japanese noblewoman, Heian Period (794 – 1185)

## OPENING HOURS

Press and VIP preview : October 5th, 2-6 pm  
Open to the public : October 6th-7th, 11am -7 pm  
: October 8th, 11am -6 pm

## VENUE

Kondaya Genbey  
Muromachi-sanjyosagaru, Nakagyo-ku,  
Kyoto-city 604-8165 Japan  
Tel : +81-(0)75-254-8989

## FILM SCREENING

A private viewing of footage inside de Santillana's studio in Venice,  
as well as of the intensive textile making process by Kondaya artisans.

## SCENOGRAPHY

The curated labyrinth is meant to both challenge and delight the viewer  
with its sense of discovery.  
Glass works by Laura de Santillana and textiles by Kondaya Genbey sync  
with the architectural fluidity of the Kondaya space.

## ORGANIZER

Kondaya Genbey Co. Ltd.  
Ippodo Gallery Tokyo -New York  
Carré Blanc LLC

## ACCESS

6 minute walk from exit 6 at Karasuma Oike Station  
9 minute walk from exit 6 at Shijyo Station  
on the Karasuma subway line.

## CONTACT

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Located on Kyoto's Muromachi-dōri, Kondaya Genbey is a long-established manufacturer and purveyor of obi with a history stretching back over 280 years. The current head of the company is the tenth-generation Genbey Yamaguchi; a formidable innovator he uses the skills passed down to him through the generations to create highly artistic new kimono and obi. In addition, he devotes himself to the resurrection and preservation of paper fabrics, koishimaru silk, and traditional dyeing techniques.

Photo @ T.Minamoto

- 1738 The 1st-generation Yashiro Shogoro established the Minami Yashiro Kondaya in Nishijin.
- 1868 The sixth-generation Yashiro Shogoro passed on the seventh-generation company headship to Yamaguchi Genbey from the Matsuo district of Kyoto. He renames the company Kondaya Genbey. He is known in Nishijin as the king of obi wholesalers.
- 1980 He is succeeded by the current Yamaguchi Genbey X, who concentrates the business on obi manufacture.
- 1985 Solo exhibition by Yamaguchi Genbey X of obi made from primitive textiles sourced from different parts of Japan. Starts weaving obi using valuable materials such as wild silk from India and Southeast Asia.
- 2002 Exhibition entitled Kaguya Kono Mayu Koishimaru at Sogetsu hall in Tokyo. Invites the imperial family and the Imperial Household Agency officials, and receives Nikkei MJ Award.
- 2003 Received Japan Culture Design Award at Roppongi Hills in Tokyo. Launched a study group to explore the symbolism of design motifs on Muromachi (1336-1573) and Momoyama (1573-1615) period clothing.
- 2004 Group exhibition entitled Weaving Noh at Koseiin in Kyoto, with Heikichi Harada (a computer graphic artist) and Hosomi Museum of Art individual collection.
- 2006 Exhibition entitled Kasane - Abstraction in Ink and Colour at Daimaru museum in Tokyo, in collaboration with fashion designer Koshino Hiroko and architect Kuma Kengo.
- 2008 Fashion show entitled Kabuku Monotachi no Keifu (A Lineage of Dandies) in collaboration with United Arrows at Tokyo Midtown.
- 2009 Designed costumes for Tanaka Min for the film Hokaibito including 'funzoe for the Heisei period'.
- 2012 Appeared on television in the NHK BS (Japan Broadcasting Corporation) programme Takeshi Kitano Art Beat: A Man who Instils his Soul into Obi-Making. Chosen as an image character for the Toyota Motor Corporation.
- 2014 Created obi inspired by the works of the painter Matsui Fuyuko. Presented a textile brand 'majotae' by using hemp in collaboration with AVEX GROUP HOLDINGS INC.
- 2015 Gave a lecture and handled a kimono show in the event for VIP organized by Chanel at Kenninji- Ryosokuin.
- 2016 Had five obi and two fabric for kimono owned as a permanent collection by Victoria & Albert Museum in London, U.K.



# Kondaya Genbey

We have more other photos available. Please contact us if you need more.



K001



K004



K007



K002



K005



K008



K003



K006



K009

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Born in Venice, De Santillana is a renowned contemporary artist whose pedigree is one steeped in art - her father an architect and her grandfather, the famed Venetian glass artist, Venini. In her process, De Santillana takes pared down glass forms and melds them to create straightforward combinations of colors that emit a singularly unique light. Her tablet shaped series, inspired by Japanese films and architecture, defies convention within the world of glass art.

## Permanent Collection

Venezia, Museo Vetrario di Murano  
 London, Victoria & Albert Museum  
 New York, Metropolitan Museum of Arts  
 New York, Cooper-Hewitt Museum  
 Paris, Musée des Arts Decoratifs  
 Boston, Museum of Fine Arts,,, and many others

Photo @ Gianluigi Di Napoli

- 1955 Born in Venice
- 1975 In 1975 she moved to New York, working with The Vignelli Associates Studio. While working in the Vignelli Associates studio, she studies at School of Visual Arts. Still in New York, works for a year with a publisher specialising in photography books. She designs lamps and objects for the family business.
- 1986 Founds Eos together with her father Ludovico and brother Alessandro, and contributes designs for lamps and decorative objects for the new collection.
- 1993 Starting from this year she devotes herself wholly to her own art, beginning to exhibit in galleries.
- 1996 Solo exhibit The Elliott-Brown Gallery, Seattle, USA
- 1997 Commissioned by firm of Japanese tea specialists to design a kaiseki cuisine range in glass, lacquered wood and silver. Extended sojourns in Kyoto. Works with Japanese lacquer master Suzuki Mutsumi Designing tea ceremony ware.
- 1998 Begins work with Barry Friedman in New York.
- 1999 Solo exhibit Galerie l'Arc en Seine, Paris, France
- 2001 Solo exhibit Museo Correr, Venice, Italy  
Solo exhibit Barry Friedman Gallery, New York, USA
- 2009 Collective exhibit Museum of Glass, Tacoma, Washington, USA
- 2010 Collective exhibit Nelson Atkins Museum, Kansas City, USA
- 2011 Collective exhibit Musée des Arts Décoratifs, Paris, France  
Collective exhibit Ebeltoft, Glass Museet, Ebeltoft, Denmark
- 2012 Collective exhibit Museum of Glass, Tacoma, Washington, USA
- 2013 Begins new project in Czech Republic with Charlie Parriott, experimenting with new fusing techniques.  
Solo exhibit Galerie l'Arc en Seine, Paris, France
- 2014-5 Solo exhibit Ippodo Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
- 2016 Solo exhibit Museo Francesco Messina, Milano, Italy  
Solo exhibit Stefan Vogdt Galerie der Moderne, Munich, Germany
- 2017 Solo exhibit Galerie Pierre Marie Giraud, Bruxelles, Belgium
- 2018 Solo exhibit Galleri Glas, Stockholm, Sweden

# Laura de Santillana

We have more other photos available. Please contact us if you need more.

Photo @ Fabio Zonta



L001



L002



L003



L004



L005



L006



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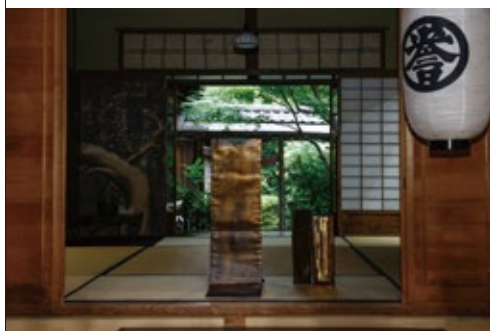
# Installation image

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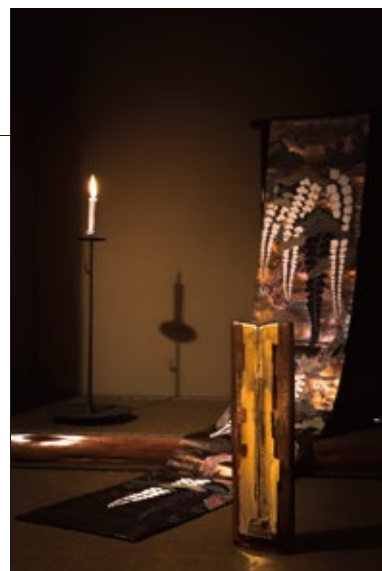
Photo @ Hitomi Sato



V001



H001



V004



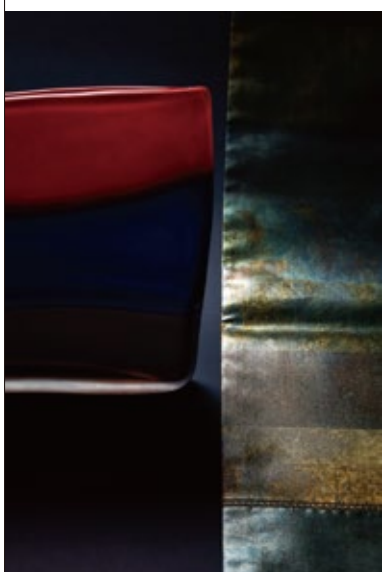
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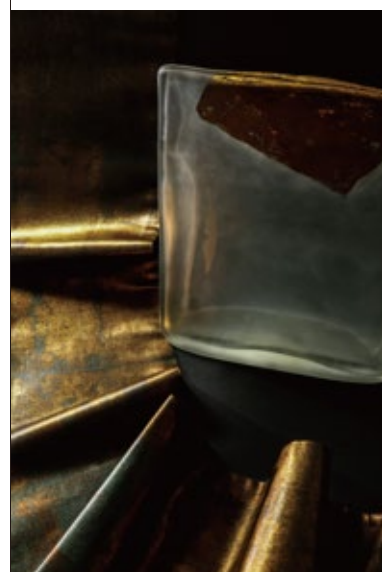
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V006

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