

Artists or Artisans: a review of the exhibition at the Canadian Cultural Centre, by Jean-Marie Dunoyer

The official selection [by the *Conseil canadien de l'artisanat*] of ten artists-artisans of diverse vocations is sure to seduce the Parisian public, if only by the formal perfection of the works on display. [...] Seduction is the appropriate term, for none but seductive objects are to be found at the exhibition [at the *Centre culturel canadien*], and that is what unsettles me perhaps: too much skill, too much technical prowess can undermine the sense of emotion triggered by well-meaning faux pas.

The absence of such defects, a masterful asymmetry, the controlled break of equilibrium—these qualities attract and hold us with the monumental vases of Louise Doucet and Satoshi Saito. The couple was able to study, in situ and over two years, the secrets of Japanese ceramic art and even completed two full firings there in a traditional wood-fired kiln. The lesson of the oriental potters directs their relentless quest for harmony. It is a matter of pure forms and subtle colours. They do not aim for flamboyant effects. They create beauty even with a simple bowl or plate. In my view, theirs is the principal collection in the exhibition at the Canadian Cultural Centre; though the rest of the exposition nevertheless deserves an attentive visit.