

Let's Tea Party: Identity and Aesthetics

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The tea culture of Taiwan can be traced back to its roots in Chinese tea culture that has evolved over time, mainly from the Tang Dynasty, Song Dynasty, Yuan Dynasty to Ming Dynasty. Various tea utensils have also been created in response to different ways of drinking tea. Inherited the steps and methods of preparing tea in Chaozhou City and other places in Southeastern China during the late Ming Dynasty, Taiwan has gradually developed an artist-led idiosyncratic style of tea utensils, as well as behaviors, tea ware and space presentation in this ritualized form of making tea, leading to a new and innovative landscape of modern tea culture in Taiwan.

Taiwan has been incorporating the aesthetics on tea utensils and quintessential elements for creating space/atmosphere in the past into forming its modern and sophisticated tea utensils that boast the beauty of culture and serve as one vital medium to continue the tradition of tea ceremony in Asian countries.

This article is aimed to walk through the history of tea-drinking culture that emerged since the Tang Dynasty and tea utensils used in different periods of time as a way to understand modern Taiwanese tea utensils. By looking into tea-drinking culture and utensils, it would also like to explore the cultural context, traditional ceramic-making skills and space aesthetics.



Example of contemporary Taiwanese tea utensils



Example of contemporary Taiwanese tea party