

# Oriental Artisan Unveils Rare Lacquerware Collection

*Reimagining Ancient Alchemy for the Discerning Collector: The Ultimate Master Vessel for the Global Tea Ritual.*

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/EINPresswire.com/ -- [Oriental Artisan](#), the preeminent purveyor of heritage-driven craftsmanship and luxury lifestyle goods, today announced the world premiere of its Tea Master Cup (Zhu Ren Bei) [Lacquerware Collection](#). This milestone release represents the brand's most ambitious fusion of ancient materiality and contemporary luxury to date, positioning authentic lacquerware as the definitive medium for the modern spiritual ritual.

The collection is centered on the profound concept of the Zhu Ren Bei, or "Master Cup"—a singular vessel chosen by a tea connoisseur to represent their personal journey. By applying the grueling, months-long discipline of traditional lacquer artistry to this intimate object, Oriental Artisan has created a series of "living artifacts" that challenge the boundaries between functional artisanal home decor and high-art investment.

The Soul of the Vessel: Why Lacquerware?

At the heart of this collection is the extraordinary substance known as Urushi or Da Qi—the natural sap of the lacquer tree. Unlike synthetic coatings or industrial glazes, natural lacquer is a living, breathing organic polymer. It does not simply "dry" in the traditional sense; it cures through a delicate process of oxidation in high-humidity environments, a chemical alchemy that has remained unchanged for over 7,000 years.



The Imperial Current | Hand-Painted Goldfish Lacquerware Master Cup

For the modern collector, lacquerware offers a sensory experience unmatched by ceramic or glass. The material possesses a profound natural thermal insulation, allowing the user to hold boiling tea comfortably while the cup itself remains remarkably light and cool to the touch. The texture is often described as "skin-like"—a warm, organic resonance that creates a deep, meditative connection between the practitioner and the brew.

### Mastery in Motion: The Curation of 30 Layers

The production of a single Oriental Artisan lacquerware cup is a testament to human endurance and precise quality benchmarks. The journey begins with the selection of the core material—often aged wood or fine porcelain—which is then hand-carved

to a specific weight and silhouette. This core is reinforced with layers of fine hemp cloth and a foundational paste of raw lacquer and mineral powder to ensure structural integrity against the immense tension of the curing process.

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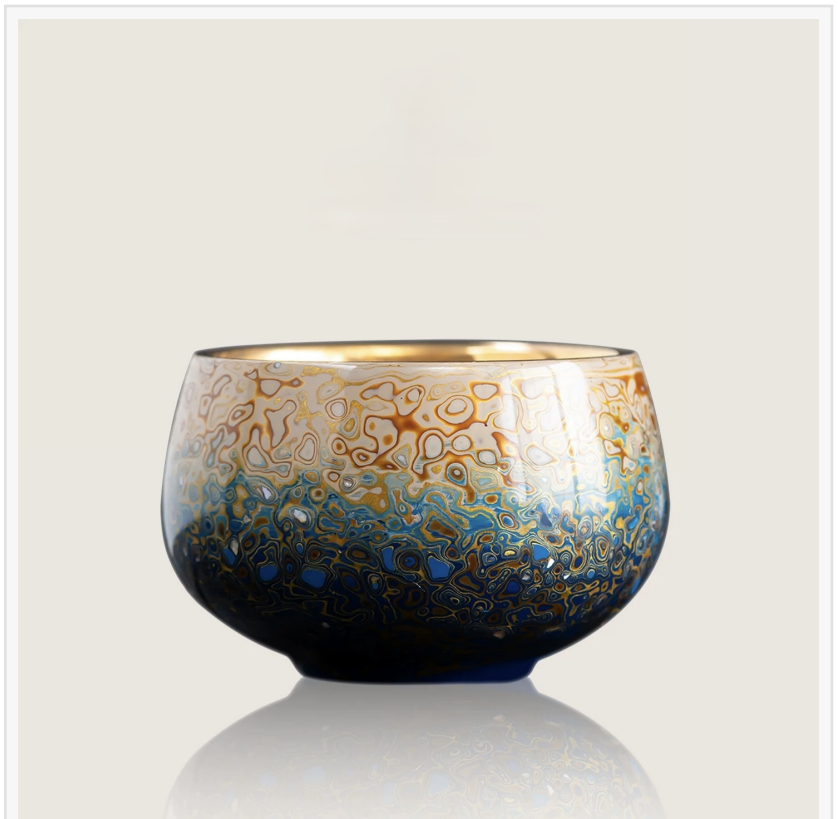
In a world increasingly defined by the ephemeral and the mass-produced, lacquerware stands as a monument to patience.”

*Mei, Head Curator at Oriental Artisan*

From this base, a master artisan applies upwards of thirty individual layers of refined lacquer. Between each application, the cup must be moved to a furo—a specialized, humidity-controlled curing chamber—where the sap undergoes its transformative hardening. Once cured, every layer is hand-sanded with charcoal and polished with various grades of fine stone. This repetitive cycle of "apply, cure, sand, and polish" can take anywhere from three to six months to complete for a single cup. This

slow accumulation of layers creates a depth of color and a structural resilience that simply cannot be replicated by modern industrial means.

The collection features several hallmark finishes, including the Imperial Current Goldfish motif. In this design, master artists utilize maki-e and raden techniques—inlaying precious metals and iridescent mother-of-pearl into the wet lacquer grain. The result is a visual depth that appears to "swallow light," creating a three-dimensional landscape within the walls of a vessel no larger than



Midnight Radiance | Handcrafted Raden Lacquerware Master Cup

the palm of a hand. As the user tilts the cup, the "currents" appear to move under the surface, a testament to the artisan's ability to capture fluid grace in a solid medium.

#### Sustainability as a Quality Benchmark

As global consumers shift toward conscious consumption, the Tea Master Cup collection serves as a primary example of sustainable luxury through longevity. Lacquer is one of the world's first natural plastics—entirely organic, food-safe, and biodegradable. However, its true environmental value lies in its permanence.

Oriental Artisan champions the "one object for one life" philosophy. By investing in luxury handcrafted gifts of this caliber, collectors reject the

"throwaway culture" of modern retail. A lacquerware cup is designed to be passed down through generations, acquiring a unique patina that records the history of those who held it. This commitment to durability is a core pillar of the brand's mission to preserve Intangible Cultural Heritage while minimizing ecological impact. When an object is built to last 500 years, its carbon footprint is spread across centuries, making it the ultimate expression of ethical, sustainable luxury.

#### The Ritual of the Tea Master

The Tea Master Cup is more than a tool; it is a companion for reflection. In the Gongfu tea ceremony, the Master Cup is the only vessel that is never shared. It belongs to the individual, absorbing the oils of the hand and the essence of the tea until it becomes a personalized talisman.

Oriental Artisan's new collection offers several distinct silhouettes, from the wide-rimmed "Heavenly Well" shape, designed to broadcast the aroma of high-mountain oolongs, to the deep, tulip-shaped "Gathering Spirit" cup, which preserves the heat of aged Pu-erh. Each silhouette is engineered to enhance the specific profile of the tea, proving that true luxury is found at the intersection of form and function. To hold the Tea Master Cup is to experience a moment of grounded reality in a digital age—a weightless yet substantial presence that commands focus and presence.



Golden Autumn | Hand-Painted 24K Gold Leaf  
Lacquerware Master Cup

## Availability and Acquisition

Because the creation of authentic lacquerware cannot be rushed or mechanized, the Tea Master Cup Collection is released in strictly limited quantities. Each piece is unique, bearing the subtle variations that mark it as a work of human hands rather than a factory mold. These variations are not flaws, but signatures of the individual artisan, ensuring that no two collectors will ever hold the exact same vessel.

The collection is available exclusively through the Oriental Artisan online store, providing a direct link between the master's studio and the collector's home.

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