THE ART ISLANDS – 2 Nights at the elegant Benesse Park Hotel;  
1 Night in Osaka

To an art lover, Naoshima is the closest thing to an island paradise. Such was the praise for the staggering array of contemporary art that seamlessly intersects with nature and architecture at the Benesse Art Site, an “island-as-museum” set among glorious vistas in the Seto Inland Sea. A massive site-specific artwork, it is a collaboration between internationally renowned artists and architect, Tadao Ando, arguably “the pride of Japan.” Works sited both indoors and on tiny stretches of beach and woodland are spectacular!

The Art House Project turns tiny houses scattered in residential areas into works of art rich in the history of a time when the houses were homes; visitors are afforded unique “connections” with the island’s people.

The Lee Ufan Museum resulted from a collaboration between the eponymous internationally acclaimed artist and architect Ando; stillness and dynamism are explored to extraordinary effect!

The Chichu Art Museum, one of Japan’s newest and most unusual, features only nine artworks by three artists: James Turrell, Walter De Maria and Claude Monet. This time, Ando completely buried the museum in the ground – thus its name which means “underground!” Miraculously, all the art shines in glorious natural light despite its underground location.

A scenic ferry ride takes us to: Inujima Island to see installations around the island village and the Seirensho Art Project which is built into the ruins of an old copper refinery; and to Teshima, featuring a museum just opened this year and exhibiting works ranging from outdoor installations to entire homes! Not to be missed is work by Olafur Eliasson and Christian Boltanski’s recording of the heartbeats of visitors from around the world – let’s plan to be a part of it! Take a peek at www.benesse-artsite.jp/en.

Join us for an unforgettable immersion in the magic of this exquisite country… the culture, the history, the art… the sushi! Since space is limited to just 18 travelers, please reserve promptly so you won’t be disappointed.
JAPAN: Ancient Traditions  ♦  21st Century Expressions

It’s been seven years since Guild members returned from two sold-out trips to Japan; the rave reviews have prompted dreams of returning ever since. Next October, as autumn paints the landscape in deep crimson and gold, we have our chance! This trip will be grounded in the finest of traditional arts and culture in Tokyo, Kyoto and Takayama, along with an opportunity to experience important contemporary art on Naoshima Island and on two of the newest “art islands,” Inujima and Teshima, which are drawing contemporary “art pilgrims” and acclaim from around the world.

Once again, our planning has been guided by Esprit Travel, honored by Conde Nast Traveler as Japan’s Top Travel Specialist annually since 2003! We are fortunate to be accompanied by Anne Geisman Alene who has an unparalleled depth of knowledge about Japan and a passion for its people, its arts and culture. Having worked in Japan for three years, she has also served as cultural affairs officer for the Japanese Consulate in San Francisco. She will be with us throughout to introduce the fascinating artists who represent the best of basketry, calligraphy, textile arts, and pottery as well as the extraordinary contemporary art on the islands in Japan’s Inland Sea.

Highlights of our trip include . . .

TOKYO – 3 Nights in Japan’s financial, commercial and political capital.
♦ The Hara Museum of Contemporary Art is a rare example of early modern Japanese architecture; its collection includes works by Nam June Paik, Tatsuo Miyajima, Rothko and Pollock. Exhibitions of major and emerging international artists are also on view.
♦ The Tsukiji Market, one of the world’s largest seafood markets, and surrounding vegetable and kitchen supply markets
♦ A presentation by a noted textile designer at Nuno Gallery known for its innovative textiles and clothing.
♦ A walking architectural tour of the Omotesando district, including its galleries and trendy street life.
♦ The Mori Art Museum, perched at the top of a 54 story tower, showcases the best of 21st Century Asian art; the floors below afford opportunities for “retail therapy” at this famous Roppongi Hills location.

KYOTO – 5 Nights in Japan’s cultural and artistic capital
♦ En route to Kyoto, stop in Osaka to visit a family of bamboo artists and a jewelry designer.
♦ Visit Daitoku-ji Zen Monastery for a private “Way of Tea” ceremony with a tea master and Zen priest; stroll the temple gardens and enjoy a Zen style lunch.
♦ Visit Sarah Brayer’s studio to see innovative washi paper works and Kyoto prints.
♦ Very early risers may choose to attend a Buddhist service and fire ceremony performed by 40 chanting monks, a unique and memorable experience!
♦ A day tour includes: I.M. Pei’s Miho Museum featuring magnificent architecture and an impressive Asian art collection; the workshop of a family of Indigo dyers; and a stop at the Shigaraki Ceramics Center, museum and residency program.
♦ A private performance of Noh Theater preceded by a demonstration of make-up and costumes as well as a private visit with a master carver of Noh masks.
♦ Studio visits with artist, Eriko Horiki who creates huge washi paper installations and a renowned “performance calligrapher.”
♦ Studio visit with Saito Hiroshi who dyes fabric using the Yuzen method; his exquisite work is shown in Santa Fe and New York.
♦ Geisha tour with resident Geisha expert. Amazing, new contemporary sites await us on the final leg of our journey to the “Art Islands” just off the coast in Japan’s Inland Sea. Read on . . .
Land only cost: $8440 per person (double occupancy) based on a total of 18 participants.

Please note: This trip is limited to a maximum of 18 travelers.

Single Supplement: $1025  Deposit: $1000 per person  Balance due on or before August 9, 2011

Trip begins in Tokyo and ends in the Osaka. Travelers must depart the Bay Area on October 17th in order to be in Tokyo for the start of our tour.

Notes regarding all trip costs:  Trip price is based on the dollar/yen exchange rate in January, 2011. Due to possible fluctuations in the exchange rate, tour price/inclusions will be finalized 75 days prior to trip date; travelers will receive notification of balance due at that time and final payment will be due 5 days later.

Travelers must be members of both the Art Guild and the Oakland Museum of California.

Trip cost includes:  Accommodations in comfortable, well located western style business hotels; all breakfasts, 7 lunches, 4 dinners; all in-country travel by train, ferry and private coach; one piece of luggage sent ahead from Tokyo to Kyoto and from Kyoto to Osaka; admission to all locations and activities as listed; the services of Esprit study leader throughout; services of local guides; all gratuities to porters, waiters, guides and drivers for all activities on itinerary; hotel/airport transfers.

International airfare is not included:  Should you wish assistance with international flight arrangements, please contact Barbara Chaconas, the travel agent who is aware of our itinerary: ChaconasTravels@aol.com or 925-254-4216. Barbara will be available after January 24, 2011. Please do not purchase airline tickets until you receive confirmation from trip leaders.

Cancellation Policy:  For cancellation prior to August 9, 2011, all monies will be refunded less a cancellation fee of $850 per person. After August 9, 2011, no refunds will be made. No refunds will be made for any unused portion of the trip. Cancellations must be in writing.

TRAVEL INSURANCE IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED.

Please note:  While every effort will be made to carry out the trip as planned, it is subject to changes deemed necessary by, and/ or beyond the control of the OMCA/AG and/or Esprit Travel. Itinerary is subject to changes in schedules of our Japanese hosts. The OMCA reserves the right to cancel any tour prior to departure for any reason including insufficient number of participants, as well as the right to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of our tour at any time. CST #202-4420-40.

This trip is physically active and includes considerable walking. Participants must be able to keep up with the pace of the group. All travelers will be required to hand-carry small overnight bags when traveling by train.


The purpose of the Art Guild is to support the OMCA Art Department through education, outreach, fundraising and service.

JAPAN: Ancient Traditions 21st Century Expressions

To reserve your space, return this form with a deposit check for $1000 (per person) made payable to Oakland Museum of California Art Guild (OMCA/AG). Space is limited, so please reserve early. Reservations are taken in the order received. Mail to: Judy Wood, 15 El Patio, Orinda, CA 94563

Name __________________________________________________ Phone __________________________ Fax __________________________

Address __________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Email __________________________________________________ Cell Phone __________________________

☐ I will be sharing a room with ________________________________
☐ Single Supplement  ☐ I would prefer a roommate, but if one cannot be found, I am willing to pay the single supplement.
☐ I am not a Museum member; enclosed is a separate check for membership made payable to OMCA ($60/75 single/family regular, $45/$55 single/dual senior
☐ I am not an Art Guild member; enclosed is a separate check payable to OMCA/AG for membership ($20)

The Oakland Museum of California must disclaim all responsibility of any nature for damage or injury to property or persons occurring during this trip. Your reservation request constitutes acceptance of these conditions.

____________________________________________________
Signature of Traveler Reserving Space