

The Art of Kintsugi ~ The Beauty of Imperfection

Kintsugi, or “golden joinery”, is the ancient Japanese art of repairing broken pottery with lacquer dusted or mixed with powdered gold, silver, or platinum. As a philosophy, Kintsugi treats breakage and repair as part of the history of an object, rather than something to disguise.

Kintsugi not only refers to the repairing of an item, it also encompasses a philosophy of living, of finding beauty within the imperfections of life, and peacefully accepting the natural cycle of growth and decay. In his book, *A Farewell to Arms*, Ernest Hemingway wrote, “*The world breaks everyone, and afterward many are strong at the broken places.*” Kintsugi celebrates the strength and beauty of our broken places.



Here are some beautiful premises of the concept of Kintsugi:

- ~Something broken can become more beautiful through the process of mending.
- ~Perfection, or looking “as good as new” is not the most valuable possibility.
- ~Repair is the rebirth of something whose existence has been threatened.
- ~Breakage and repair encourages the acceptance of change and embracing the knowledge that there is no permanent self.
- ~Compassion is sensing the value in a broken bowl or a life crisis, and a willingness to take the necessary care to allow it to evolve into a new form.
- ~Without the presence of imperfections, the wonders of the world would not be so breathtaking.
- ~To find beauty in broken things or old things conveys a philosophy not of replacement, but of awe, reverence and restoration.
- ~There is a very real emotional context as one moves through the mending of the broken item and its relationship to mending one’s soul.
- ~Breakage and mending are honest parts of a past which does not need to be hidden. Our wounds and healing are a part of our history, a part of who we are.
- ~We are all connected like pieces of shattered pottery. Through coming together we can mend Mother Earth.