

Accent Elements
and the
“Art of Display”

Bonsai display has many elements to consider...

- 1. The tree
- 2. The pot
- 3. The stand
- 4. The surface of the container
- 5. The table / pedestal, table surface and runner
- 6. Backdrop
- 7. Accent elements
- 8. Scrolls
- 9. Local
- 10. Neighboring bonsai

Accent Pieces are an Essential Presentation Element

- Accent pieces include plants, stones, figurines / objects
- Using accent pieces in a display can be challenging to do well
- The visual impact of bonsai is enhanced by accent pieces
- Accent pieces help tell “the story” of the bonsai

Five Major Forms Seen in Japan

- Kusamono – Stand alone pieces
- Shitakusa – Companion pieces
- Kokedama – Moss balls
- Nearia – No container, exposed roots
- Wabi – Kusa – Terrarium

Display Principles for Accent Pieces

- Awareness of seasonal effects
- Proportion of accent piece to bonsai
- Harmony of accent container to bonsai container
- Use of plants seen with bonsai in their natural environment (natives)

Components of Accent Piece Display

- Plants
 - Ferns, flowers, bulbs, succulents, moss
- Container
 - Informal, rustic, pinch pot, found objects, flat finish or glaze finish, creative
- Stand
 - Most often a thin slab