Among the great ceramic traditions of the world, the Japanese alone sustain a thriving studio pottery industry on a grand scale. More than 10,000 Japanese potters make a living crafting ceramics to adorn the table for everyday life, in addition to specialized wares for the tea ceremony. Whether made from rough, unglazed stoneware or refined porcelain, these intimately scaled art works are an indispensable part of Japanese rituals of dining and hospitality. The high demand of domestic consumers for functional vessels, as well as their informed connoisseurship of regional and even the individual styles of famous masters, underlies the commercial success of Japanese studio ceramics. Yet this core population of consumers is, on its own, insufficient to account for the current boom in both creativity and critical acclaim. Today, museums in Japan and abroad and private collectors in the West have assumed a prominent role in nurturing Japanese ceramics—especially large-scale pieces and the work of the avant-garde artists who push the boundaries of technique, material, and form.

Many contemporary Japanese ceramic artists—especially those who came of age in the 1950s—are exceptionally skilled at throwing pots on a wheel. They often prefer to use traditional wood-fired kilns, embracing the unpredictability of the firing process. Here, the pieces by Nakazato Takashi, Ōtani Shirō, and Yoshida Yoshihiko, among others, rely on yōhen, or “fire-changes,” for much of their visual impact. These yōhen wares exemplify the best of Japan’s enduring taste for wabi-sabi, an austere simplicity infused with emotional depth.

But as concerns for air pollution have driven wood-fired kilns away from Japan’s cities, potters have turned increasingly to gas or electric kilns, which allow for greater control. Closely managed, scientific firing conditions are essential for producing the exquisitely nuanced seihakuji (pale blue) porcelains of Kawase Shinobu, Katō Tsubusa, and Yagi Akira, or the brilliantly colored glazes of Morino Taimei and Hoshino Satoru. Interestingly, those artists consciously working within global idioms are the most likely to shape their works by means other than a wheel. Morino’s massive ceramic slab (cat. 14) and Takiguchi Kazuo’s tri-lobed vase (cat. 29) were both formed with the aid of molds, for example, while Hoshino’s writhing, organic Spring Snow No. 12 (cat. 4) and Fujikasa Satoko’s dynamic Flow #1 (cat. 35) were built by coiling and pinching strips of clay.


Collecting resumed in the late 1990s, as Jenkins and then, after 2007, his successor, Maribeth Graybill, took groups from the Museum’s Asian Art Council to New York every spring to visit art dealers during “Asia Week.” At least nine works now in the Museum were acquired on these occasions from Frederick and Joan Baekeland, proprietors of Toyobi Far Eastern Art. Fred Baekeland was an enthusiastic advocate for contemporary Japanese ceramics, and his exhaustively researched 1995 catalogue, *Modern Japanese Ceramics in American Collections*, has become an invaluable resource for aspiring collectors.

At the time of this writing, the Museum’s holdings in contemporary Japanese ceramics have grown to 40 works, by a total of 30 artists. Despite the small size of the sampling, the collection is nicely balanced between different generations of artists. Appropriately, the list begins with Hamada Shōji and Kawai Kanjirō, founders of the Folk Art Movement in Japan. Born in the 1890s, both had careers that spanned much of the twentieth century. Morino Taimei, Yoshida Yoshihiko, and Nakazato Takashi, all born in the 1930s, are still active and revered as senior masters. Fukami Sueharu and Hoshino Satoru, born in the 1940s, and Kawase Shinobu, Akiyama Yō, Takiguchi Kazuo, and Yagi Akira, born in the 1950s, are mature artists of international renown. Emerging talent is represented by Fujikasa Satoko, a young woman now in her thirties.

The 33 works seen in this dossier presentation, as well as others on long-term display in the Japanese Gallery and the Jubitz Center for Modern and Contemporary Art, illustrate the superb craftsmanship and artistic creativity that characterize Japanese ceramics of the 1950s to the present. The Museum is deeply grateful to the donors and lenders who have made this project possible.

Maribeth Graybill, Ph.D.

*The Arlene and Harold Schnitzer Curator of Asian Art*
CHECKLIST

In object dimensions, height precedes width or diameter precedes depth. Japanese titles are given when provided by the artist.

**Hamada Shōji** (Japanese, 1894–1978)

   Stoneware with translucent white glaze over iron-painted design
   11 1/8 x 4 11/16 x 4 11/16 inches
   Bequest of Margery Hoffman Smith 83.38.336

   Earthenware with translucent glaze over iron-painted design and brushed white slip
   7 x 5 3/4 x 4 1/2 inches
   The Carol and Seymour Haber Collection 2011.92.1

**Kawai Kanjirō** (Japanese, 1890–1966)

   Stoneware with copper red glaze and trailed white slip
   10 1/2 x 6 x 4 inches
   Bequest of Margery Hoffman Smith 83.38.335

**Kawakami Rikizō** (Japanese, born 1935)

   Stoneware
   19 1/2 x 9 1/2 x 4 3/4 inches
   Gift of the Majart Gallery in honor of Donald Jenkins 91.46

**Kawase Shinobu** (Japanese, born 1950)

    Porcelain with pale bluish-green glaze (*seihakuji*)
    4 x 10 1/2 x 9 1/2 inches
    The Carol and Seymour Haber Collection 2011.92.3

**Kimura Moriyasu** (Japanese, born 1934)

    Stoneware with tenmoku oil spot glaze
    3 1/2 x 4 1/2 inches
    Museum Purchase: Margery Hoffman Smith Fund 2002.3

**Hayashi Kaku** (Japanese, born Taiwan 1953)

   Stoneware
   19 1/2 x 20 x 11 inches
   Gift of Mary and Cheney Cowles 2014.49.2

**Hoshino Satoru** (Japanese, born 1945)

   Stoneware with white and copper-blue glazes
   20 x 11 inches
   Gift of a private donor 2013.8.53

**Hosokawa Morihiro** (Japanese, born 1938)

5. *Shigaraki bachi* (Shigaraki-style Bowl), 2008/2011
   Stoneware
   3 1/4 x 11 1/4 inches
   Gift of Mary and Cheney Cowles 2012.31.2

**Kaneko Nobuhiko** (Japanese, born 1951)

   Stoneware with Hagi glaze
   6 1/4 x 7 1/4 x 5 1/2 inches
   Gift of Virginia Nelson 1998.6

**Katō Tsubusa** (Japanese, born 1962)

   Porcelain with pale bluish-green glaze (*seihakuji*)
   9 3/4 x 24 3/4 x 13 3/4 inches
   Museum Purchase: Margery Hoffman Smith Fund 2001.11

**Kobayashi Hideo** (Japanese, born 1953)

    Stoneware with carbonized surface and white glaze
    14 3/4 x 14 1/4 x 14 3/4 inches
    Gift of Jerry Lamb 2009.19

**Matsuo Jun** (Japanese, born 1961)

    Stoneware with salt glaze
    14 3/4 x 14 1/4 x 14 3/4 inches
    Gift of the artist 2001.7

**Morino Taimei** (Japanese, born 1934)

    Stoneware with feldspathic glazes
    24 1/4 x 21 x 3 inches
    Gift of the artist 2001.7

**Matsuo Jun** (Japanese, born 1961)

15. *Un ran kabin* (Cloudy Indigo Flower Vase), ca. 2000
    Stoneware with turquoise and metallic glaze
    9 1/2 x 8 1/2 inches
    Gift of Margaret L.L.C. Jones 2014.6.1
Nakazato Takashi (Japanese, born 1937)
1. E-Karatsu bachi (Karatsu-style Deep Bowl with Pictorial Design), 1972
Stoneware with iron oxide painting under translucent white glaze
3 7/8 x 8 7/8 inches
Lent by Terry Welch

2. Karatsu Namban rinka fukamukōzuke (Karatsu Namban-style Flower-shaped Bowl), 1983
Unglazed stoneware
2 3/8 x 5 3/4 inches
Lent by Terry Welch

3. Karatsu Namban Slab Plate, 1992
Unglazed stoneware
3 5/8 x 16 3/4 x 10 5/16 inches
Lent by Terry Welch

4. Namban-style Large Plate, 1994
Unglazed stoneware, fired at Eric Nelsen’s kiln on Vashon Island, Washington
3 5/8 x 16 3/4 inches
Lent by Terry Welch

5. Karatsu hakeme yunomi (Karatsu-style Teacup with Brushed Slip Design), 2000
Stoneware with brushed white slip
3 1/8 x 2 5/8 x 2 11/16 inches
Lent by Terry Welch

6. Karatsu Mishima yunomi (Karatsu-style Teacup with Inlaid Stamped Designs), 2005
Stoneware with stamped designs in white slip under translucent gray feldspar glaze
3 3/4 x 3 5/8 inches
Lent by Terry Welch

Ōtani Shirō (Japanese, born 1936)
Stoneware
9 3/4 x 7 3/4 x 4 1/4 inches
Lent by the artist

8. Shigaraki Ware Tea Bowl, 2001
Stoneware clay with ash glaze
4 1/4 x 5 1/4 x 5 inches
Museum Purchase: Funds provided by Carol and Seymour Haber
2002.28.1

Sasayama Tadayasu (Japanese, born 1939)
9. Akai tōmen (Red Clay Surface), 1982
Stoneware with metallic glaze
15 3/4 x 14 1/4 x 2 3/4 inches
The Carol and Seymour Haber Collection
2003.101.6

Shimaoka Tatsuzō (Japanese, 1919–2007)
10. Jigusuri zōgan karakusa-mon sara (Large Plate with White Inlay Flowers and Arabesque Scroll), 1972
Stoneware with ash glaze and white slip inlay
6 x 8 inches
Gift of the artist’s daughter, Yoshiko Fudeya
2014.114.1

11. Jigusuri zōgan jōmon sara (Large Plate with White Inlay Rope-mark Design), c. 1972
Stoneware with ash glaze, iron underpainting, and white slip inlay
3 x 16 inches
Gift of the artist’s daughter, Yoshiko Fudeya
2014.114.2

12. Plate with White Inlay Rope-mark and Dot Design and Green Dots against a Persimmon Ground
Stoneware with ash, persimmon, and green glazes and white slip inlay
1 13/16 x 10 3/4 inches
Gift of the artist’s daughter, Yoshiko Fudeya
2014.114.3

Suzuki Gorō (Japanese, born 1941)
13. Iga Chair, 2001
Stoneware with ash glaze
18 3/4 x 8 x 7 3/4 inches
Gift of a private donor
2013.8.169

Takiguchi Kazuo (Japanese, born 1953)
14. Mudai (Untitled), 1995
Stoneware with crackled mustard glaze
12 1/2 x 15 1/2 x 11 1/2 inches
Gift of Mary and Cheney Cowles
2013.95.1

Yagi Akira (Japanese, born 1955)
15. Seihakuji shinogi futamono (Fluted Bowl with Cover), 2007
Porcelain with pale blush-green glaze (seihakuji)
6 x 8 inches
Museum Purchase: Funds provided by Anne G. Berg, Marjory Berry, Kay Dodge, William J. Huebner, Donna Larson, Janet Liles, Travers Polak, and Elsa Porter
2008.20

Yoshida Yoshihiko (Japanese, born 1936)
16. Faceted Bowl with Two Spouts, 2008
Stoneware with ash glaze, made at Pincus Pottery Studio, Portland, Oregon
6 x 9 1/2 x 8 3/16 inches
Gift of the artist
2014.119.2

Stoneware with tenmoku glaze, made at Pincus Pottery Studio, Portland, Oregon
8 7/8 x 9 inches
Gift of the artist
2014.119.3
18. **Shino Tea Bowl**, 2013/2014  
Stoneware with iron slip design under Shino glaze  
4 3/8 x 5 inches  
Lent by Kenneth Pincus  

**Hirsh Wing, Japanese Gallery**  

**Akiyama Yô** (Japanese, born 1953)  
19. **Mudai T-099** (Untitled T-099), 1999  
Stoneware treated with vinegar and iron filings  
13 3/8 x 15 3/4 x 15 3/4 inches  
Gift of Mary and Cheney Cowles  
2011.130.1  

**Fujikasa Satoko** (Japanese, born 1980)  
20. **Flow #1**, 2011  
Stoneware with matte white slip  
26 1/8 x 27 x 23 3/4 inches  
Museum Purchase: Funds provided by the Asian Art Council  
2013.15.1  

**Fukami Sueharu** (Japanese, born 1947)  
21. **Shinshō kanata e** (Mental Image: Toward the Other Side), 1986  
Slip-cast porcelain with pale bluish-green glaze (*seihakuji*)  
11 x 50 3/4 x 3 1/4 inches  
Museum Purchase: Funds provided by the Asian Art Council and Ronna Hoffman  
88.14  

**Ono Kōtarō** (Japanese, born Brazil 1953)  
Porcelain with pale bluish-green glaze (*seihakuji*)  
10 7/8 x 11 3/4 inches  
Gift of Virginia Nelson  
2009.20  

**Suzuki Osamu** (Japanese, born 1934)  
23. **Umi no kikyū** (A Balloon on the Sea), 1987  
Stoneware with sprayed stain and glaze  
6 1/2 x 10 1/2 x 8 1/4 inches  
Museum Purchase: Margery Hoffman Smith Fund  
88.13  

**Suzuki Osamu** (Japanese, born 1926–2001)  
24. **Mandolin**, 1966  
Stoneware with brown and yellow glaze  
23 3/4 x 9 1/4 x 10 3/4 inches  
Museum Purchase: Caroline Ladd Pratt Fund  
68.23  

**Yamaguchi Masafumi** (Japanese, born 1941)  
25. **Ribbed Bowl, 2003**  
Porcelain with pale bluish-green glaze (*seihakuji*)  
3 7/8 x 10 inches  
Gift of Dr. and Mrs. Frederick Baekeland in honor of Donald and Mel Jenkins  
2008.18  

**Kiyomizu Rokubey VIII (Masahiro)** (Japanese, born 1954)  
Slip-cast porcelain with pale bluish-green glaze (*seihakuji*)  
11 3/4 x 23 5/8 x 8 5/8 inches  
The Carol and Seymour Haber Collection  
2003.101.2  

**Yoshida Yoshihiko** (Japanese, born 1936)  
27. **Kūkan, Kei, Jō ‘94-H** (Space, Shape, Lines ‘94-H), 1994  
Stoneware  
13 x 12 1/4 x 12 1/4 inches  
Museum Purchase: Funds provided by the Asian Art Council  
1998.7  

**Yoshita Yukiō** (Japanese, born 1960)  
Stoneware with ash glaze, made at Pincus Pottery Studio, Portland, Oregon  
8 1/2 x 9 inches  
Gift of the artist  
2014.119.1  

**Yoshida Yoshihiko** (Japanese, born 1936)  
29. **Shigaraki hanaire** (Shigaraki Vase), 1988  
Stoneware  
23 1/2 x 9 1/2 x 10 5/8 inches  
Gift of Dr. and Mrs. David Kornhauser  
1995.8  

**Not currently on view**  

**Fukami Sueharu** (Japanese, born 1947)  
Slip-cast porcelain with pale bluish-green glaze (*seihakuji*)  
11 3/4 x 23 5/8 x 8 5/8 inches  
The Carol and Seymour Haber Collection  
2003.101.2  

**Suzuki Osamu** (Japanese, born 1926–2001)  
23. **Umi no kikyū** (A Balloon on the Sea), 1987  
Stoneware with sprayed stain and glaze  
6 1/2 x 10 1/2 x 8 1/4 inches  
Museum Purchase: Margery Hoffman Smith Fund  
88.13  

**Ono Kōtarō** (Japanese, born Brazil 1953)  
Porcelain with pale bluish-green glaze (*seihakuji*)  
10 7/8 x 11 3/4 inches  
Gift of Virginia Nelson  
2009.20  

**Suzuki Osamu** (Japanese, born 1934)  
24. **Mandolin**, 1966  
Stoneware with brown and yellow glaze  
23 1/2 x 9 1/4 x 10 3/4 inches  
Museum Purchase: Caroline Ladd Pratt Fund  
68.23  

**Yamaguchi Masafumi** (Japanese, born 1941)  
30. **Seto Jar, 1976/2003**  
Stoneware with iron glaze  
9 1/2 x 8 inches  
The Carol and Seymour Haber Collection  
2003.101.3  

**Yoshida Yoshihiko** (Japanese, born 1936)  
31. **Jar, 2008**  
Stoneware with ash glaze, made at Pincus Pottery Studio, Portland, Oregon  
8 1/2 x 9 inches  
Gift of the artist  
2014.119.1  

**Yoshida Yoshihiko** (Japanese, born 1936)  
32. **Bowl, 1992/1994**  
Porcelain with underglaze blue and overglaze enamel painting  
2 1/4 x 7 1/4 inches  
Gift of Dr. and Mrs. David Kornhauser  
1995.8  

**COVER**: 4  

This dossier presentation of works from the Portland Art Museum permanent collection is organized and curated by Maribeth Graybill, Ph.D., The Arlene and Harold Schnitzer Curator of Asian Art, and is funded in part by the Exhibition Series Sponsors.