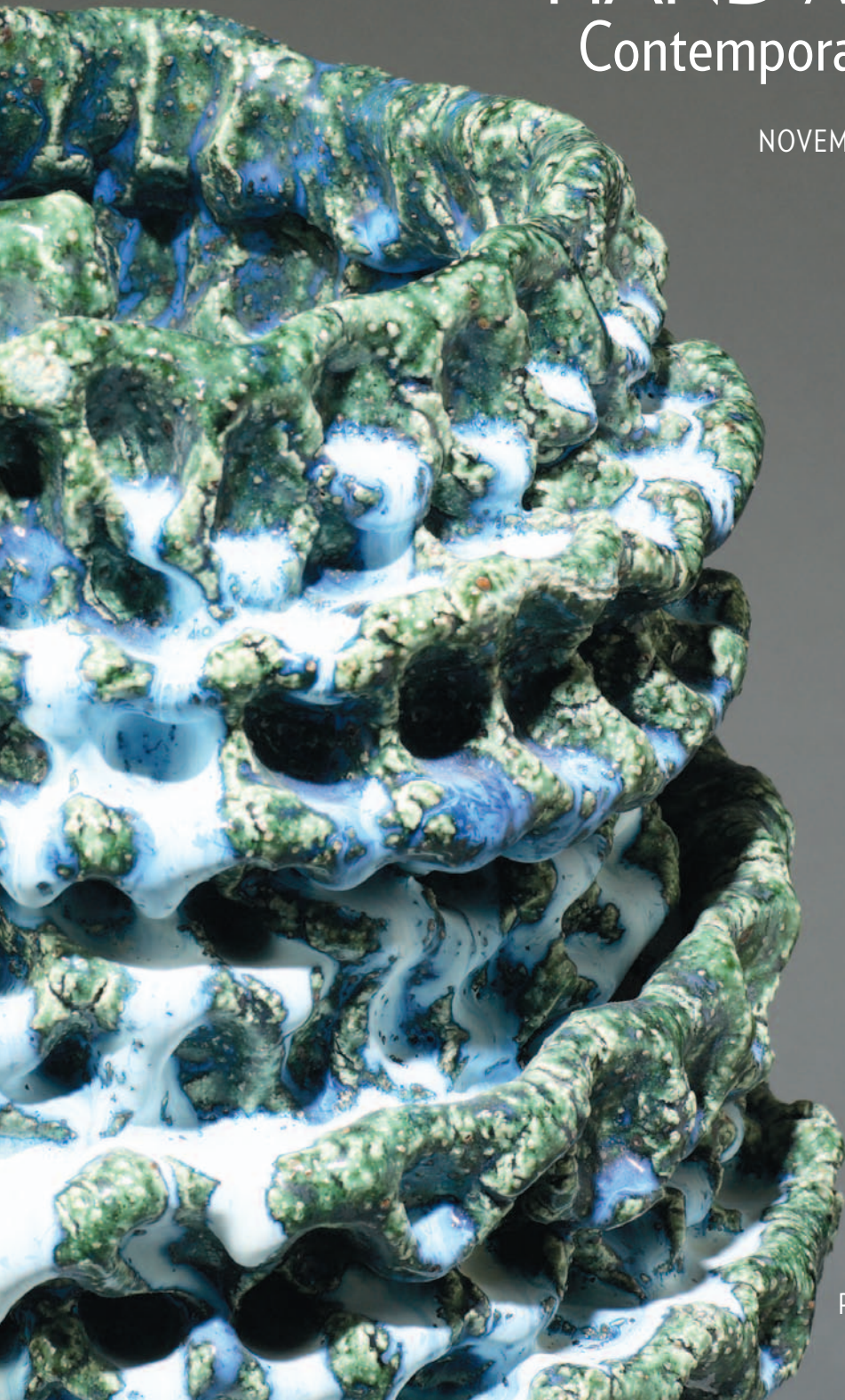


# HAND AND WHEEL

## Contemporary Japanese Clay

NOVEMBER 1, 2014 - OCTOBER 18, 2015



PORTLAND ART MUSEUM, OREGON

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## Contemporary Japanese Clay

Among the great ceramic traditions of the world, the Japanese alone sustain a thriving studio potter 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



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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 *seihakujji* (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.





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*Hand and Wheel* celebrates nearly a half-century of collecting contemporary Japanese clay art at the Portland Art Museum. The first acquisition came in 1968, when the Museum purchased Yanagihara Mutsuo's *Mandolin* (cat. 39) from a local craft gallery. *Mandolin* had been made in 1966, when Yanagihara was a visiting faculty member at the University of Washington. *Mandolin* marked a significant breakthrough in the artist's oeuvre, moving away from traditional Japanese forms and glazes: it is among the earliest pieces in which he experimented with whimsical forms and bright colors.

In 1988, then-curator of Asian art Donald Jenkins organized *Contemporary Japanese Ceramics*, a pioneering exhibition that introduced Portland audiences to 38 works by ten outstanding artists. A few works were borrowed from American museums and private individuals, but the majority were lent by the artists themselves. Jenkins later raised the funds to acquire two of the most intriguing sculptural pieces in the exhibition, Suzuki Osamu's *A Balloon on the Sea* (cat. 38) and Fukami Sueharu's *Mental Image: Toward the Other Side* (cat. 36).

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 1993 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.



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Maribeth Graybill, Ph.D.

*The Arlene and Harold Schnitzer Curator of Asian Art*



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## 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)

1. *Square Bottle*, 1960/1980  
Stoneware with translucent white glaze over iron-painted design  
11 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> x 4 <sup>11</sup>/<sub>16</sub> x 4 <sup>11</sup>/<sub>16</sub> inches  
Bequest of Margery Hoffman Smith  
83.38.336
2. *Moon Flask with Hakeme Glaze*, 1960/1980  
Earthenware with translucent glaze over iron-painted design and brushed white slip  
7 x 5 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> x 4 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> inches  
The Carol and Seymour Haber Collection  
2011.92.1



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

3. *Zero*, 2012  
Stoneware  
19 <sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub> x 20 x 11 inches  
Gift of Mary and Cheney Cowles  
2014.49.2

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

4. *Spring Snow No. 12*, 2007  
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 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> x 11 <sup>13</sup>/<sub>16</sub> inches  
Gift of Mary and Cheney Cowles  
2012.31.2

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

6. *Nidai yōhen hanaire* (Second-generation Glaze Transformation Vase), 1990/1997  
Stoneware with Hagi glaze  
6 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> x 7 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> x 5 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>16</sub> inches  
Gift of Virginia Nelson  
1998.6

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

7. *Mudai* (Untitled), ca. 2000  
Porcelain with pale bluish-green glaze (*seihakuji*)  
9 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>8</sub> x 24 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 13 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches  
Museum Purchase: Margery Hoffman Smith Fund  
2001.11

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

8. *Rectangular Bottle with Floral Design*, 1950/1966  
Stoneware with copper red glaze and trailed white slip  
10 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 6 x 4 inches  
Bequest of Margery Hoffman Smith  
83.38.335

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

9. *Wall Series No. 6*, 1989  
Stoneware  
19 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> x 9 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 4 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches  
Gift of the Majart Gallery in honor of Donald Jenkins  
91.46

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

10. *Deep Bowl*, 1990/1999  
Porcelain with pale bluish-green glaze (*seihakuji*)  
4 x 10 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>8</sub> x 9 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>16</sub> inches  
The Carol and Seymour Haber Collection  
2011.92.3

**Kimura Moriyasu** (Japanese, born 1935)

11. *Tenmoku Tea Bowl*, 1990/2002  
Stoneware with *tenmoku* oil spot glaze  
3 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> x 4 <sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub> inches  
Museum Purchase: Margery Hoffman Smith Fund  
2002.3

**Kobayashi Hideo** (Japanese, born 1951)

12. *Shino kuro yakishime hanaire* (Black Shino Unglazed Vase), 1995/1997  
Stoneware with carbonized surface and white glaze  
14 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 12 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 3 <sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub> inches  
Museum Purchase: Funds provided by the Asian Art Council  
1998.30

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

13. *Shiogamasai kaki* (Salt-glazed Vase), 2000/2003  
Stoneware with salt glaze  
14 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 14 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> x 14 <sup>15</sup>/<sub>16</sub> inches  
Gift of Jerry Lamb  
2009.19

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

14. *Untitled*, 1967  
Stoneware with feldspathic glazes  
24 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 21 x 3 inches  
Gift of the artist  
2001.7
15. *Un ran kabin* (Cloudy Indigo Flower Vase), ca. 2000  
Stoneware with turquoise and metallic glaze  
9 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>8</sub> x 8 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> inches  
Gift of Margaret L.L.C. Jones  
2014.6.1



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**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 <sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub> x 8 <sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub> inches  
Lent by Terry Welch
2. *Karatsu Namban rinka fukamukōzuke* (Karatsu Namban-style Flower-shaped Bowl), 1983  
Unglazed stoneware  
2 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>8</sub> x 5 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches  
Lent by Terry Welch
3. *Karatsu Namban Slab Plate*, 1992  
Unglazed stoneware  
3 <sup>9</sup>/<sub>16</sub> x 16 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>16</sub> x 10 <sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub> inches  
Lent by Terry Welch
4. *Namban-style Large Plate*, 1994  
Unglazed stoneware, fired at Eric Nelsen's kiln on Vashon Island, Washington  
3 <sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub> x 16 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> inches  
Lent by Terry Welch



5. *Karatsu hakeme yunomi* (Karatsu-style Teacup with Brushed Slip Design), 2000  
Stoneware with brushed white slip  
3 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> x 2 <sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub> x 2 <sup>11</sup>/<sub>16</sub> 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 <sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub> x 3 <sup>5</sup>/<sub>16</sub> inches  
Lent by Terry Welch
- Ōtani Shirō** (Japanese, born 1936)
7. *Flame-color Vase*, 2000/2001  
Stoneware  
9 <sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub> x 7 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 4 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> inches  
Lent by the artist
  8. *Shigaraki Ware Tea Bowl*, 2001  
Stoneware clay with ash glaze  
4 <sup>5</sup>/<sub>16</sub> x 5 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 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 <sup>5</sup>/<sub>16</sub> x 14 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> x 2 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 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  
2 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 15 <sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 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 <sup>13</sup>/<sub>16</sub> x 10 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> 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 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 8 x 7 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches  
Gift of a private donor  
2013.8.169
- Takiguchi Kazuo** (Japanese, born 1953)
14. *Mudai* (Untitled), 1995  
Stoneware with crackled mustard glaze  
12 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> x 15 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> x 11 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> inches  
Gift of Mary and Cheney Cowles  
2013.95.1

**Yagi Akira** (Japanese, born 1955)

15. *Seihakujū shinogi futamono* (Fluted Bowl with Cover), 2007  
Porcelain with pale bluish-green glaze (*seihakujū*)  
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 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>8</sub> x 8 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches  
Gift of the artist  
2014.119.2
17. *Jar*, 2008  
Stoneware with *tenmoku* glaze, made at Pincus Pottery Studio, Portland, Oregon  
8 <sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub> x 9 inches  
Gift of the artist  
2014.119.3



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18. *Shino Tea Bowl*, 2013/2014  
Stoneware with iron slip design under Shino glaze  
4  $\frac{3}{8}$  x 5 inches  
Lent by Kenneth Pincus

**Hirsh Wing, Japanese Gallery**

- Akiyama Yō** (Japanese, born 1953)  
19. *Mudai T-099* (Untitled T-099), 1999  
Stoneware treated with vinegar and iron filings  
13  $\frac{3}{8}$  x 15  $\frac{3}{4}$  x 15  $\frac{3}{4}$  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  $\frac{1}{8}$  x 27 x 23  $\frac{1}{8}$  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  $\frac{3}{4}$  x 3  $\frac{1}{4}$  inches  
Museum Purchase: Funds provided by the Asian Art Council and Ronna Hoffman  
88.14
- Mihara Ken** (Japanese, born 1958)  
22. *Pulse*, 2011  
Multi-fired unglazed stoneware  
15  $\frac{1}{8}$  x 16  $\frac{1}{8}$  x 11 inches  
Promised gift of Carol and Jeffrey Horvitz

**Jubitz Wing, Center for Modern and Contemporary Art**

- Suzuki Osamu** (Japanese, 1926–2001)  
23. *Umi no kikyū* (A Balloon on the Sea), 1987  
Stoneware with sprayed stain and glaze  
6  $\frac{1}{2}$  x 10  $\frac{3}{8}$  x 8  $\frac{1}{4}$  inches  
Museum Purchase: Margery Hoffman Smith Fund  
88.13
- Yanagihara Mutsuo** (Japanese, born 1934)  
24. *Mandolin*, 1966  
Stoneware with brown and yellow glaze  
23  $\frac{1}{2}$  x 9  $\frac{1}{2}$  x 10  $\frac{5}{8}$  inches  
Museum Purchase: Caroline Ladd Pratt Fund  
68.23



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**Not currently on view**

- Fukami Sueharu** (Japanese, born 1947)  
25. *Tenkū: Shō* (In the Sky: Soar), 1995/2000  
Slip-cast porcelain with pale bluish-green glaze (*seihakuji*)  
11  $\frac{3}{4}$  x 23  $\frac{5}{8}$  x 8  $\frac{5}{8}$  inches  
The Carol and Seymour Haber Collection  
2003.101.2
26. *Ribbed Bowl*, 2003  
Porcelain with pale bluish-green glaze (*seihakuji*)  
3  $\frac{7}{8}$  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)  
27. *Kākan, Kei, Jō '94-H* (Space, Shape, Lines 94-H), 1994  
Stoneware  
13 x 12  $\frac{1}{2}$  x 12  $\frac{1}{2}$  inches  
Museum Purchase: Funds provided by the Asian Art Council  
1998.7
- Ono Kōtarō** (Japanese, born Brazil 1953)  
28. *Fluted Jar*, 2000/2003  
Porcelain with pale bluish-green glaze (*seihakuji*)  
10  $\frac{1}{8}$  x 11  $\frac{1}{8}$  inches  
Gift of Virginia Nelson  
2009.20
- Suzuki Osamu** (Japanese, 1926–2001)  
29. *Shigaraki hanaire* (Shigaraki Vase), 1988  
Stoneware with sprayed glaze  
7  $\frac{7}{8}$  x 4  $\frac{7}{8}$  inches  
Gift of Travers Hill Polak  
2012.34.1



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- Yamaguchi Masafumi** (Japanese, born 1941)  
30. *Seto Jar*, 1976/2003  
Stoneware with iron glaze  
9  $\frac{13}{16}$  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  $\frac{7}{8}$  x 9 inches  
Gift of the artist  
2014.119.1
- Yoshita Yukiō** (Japanese, born 1960)  
32. *Bowl*, 1992/1994  
Porcelain with underglaze blue and overglaze enamel painting  
2  $\frac{7}{8}$  x 7  $\frac{1}{8}$  inches  
Gift of Dr. and Mrs. David Kornhauser  
1995.8

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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.

