

Advance Exhibition Information
For Immediate Release

KONDÔ TAKAHIRO

March 19-May 18, 2002

Barry Friedman Ltd., a leading gallery in twentieth-century arts, and Joan B. Mirviss Ltd., a specialist in Japanese works of art, are pleased to once again present the work of the Japanese ceramic artist **Kondo Takahiro**. Titled, "Celestial Ceramics : the Art of Kondo Takahiro" this, only his second show in America, follows last year's sold-out exhibition. There will be over fifty works that range from soaring and glistening sculptural forms to intimate small carved porcelain boxes glazed in deep shades of cobalt blue and aquamarine, then magically covered in beaded metallic glazes.

Kondo Takahiro (b.1958) is the grandson of the renowned National Living Treasure Kondo Yuzo (1902-1985), a specialist in blue-and-white porcelain. Despite this weighty heritage, Kondo has clearly established his own independent artistic identity. In just a few years, he has gathered a major international following, with shows at the Royal Museum of Scotland, Sao Paulo Museum, and most recently at the Palace Museum, Beijing where he was the first Japanese contemporary ceramist to be so honored.

For over ten years, Kondo has explored the theme of water in his clay work. After repeatedly firing his porcelain forms with, primarily, shades of blue under-glaze, he applies his unique silver, gold and platinum-drop over-glaze. Representing "water born out of fire," this beaded metallic, mist-like glaze is applied on porcelain boxes, vases, and sculpted forms, creating jewel-like, magical surfaces that appear both

celestial and aquatic in nature.

Kondo's works are represented in many private and public collections including the Brooklyn Museum of Art, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Sao Paulo Museum, and the Royal Museum of Scotland. Born in Kyoto, Kondo still resides and works there in his grandfather's exquisite compound in the hills of Yamashina.

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