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Mountains and Seas: The Evocative Ceramics of Miyashita Zenji

April 16 – 19, 2009 at SOFA, Park Avenue Armory

April 21 – May 15, 2009 at Joan B. Mirviss Ltd.

“In each work, my intention is to create a delightful musical performance—a harmony of color blending with a restrained sense of the clay —becoming a canvas for evocative tranquil landscapes.”



New York -- Joan B. Mirviss Ltd. is honored to present the first solo show of work by **Miyashita Zenji** (b. 1939) in the United States. Suggestive of rolling waves, swirling currents, distant hills, drifting clouds, colorful sunsets and multihued sunrises, the surface patterning on the remarkable vessels created by Miyashita Zenji are made from applications of extremely thin layers of colored clay (*saidei*). Only 2 or 3 millimeters in thickness and applied in irregular bands covering the surface from top to bottom of each uniquely shaped vessel, they range in gradient tones from deep purple to faint pink or from dark blue to the palest green and yellow. In other sculptural work, insertions of black-on-black linear patterns are juxtaposed against narrow rainbow-like bands that border their profiles. The largely slab-built forms vary from undulating geometric shapes to soft, breathing biomorphic sculptures. Nearly always asymmetrical, these uniquely shaped works perfectly marry sculptural form with colorful surface detail, becoming three-dimensional landscape scenes. Full of movement, each piece is accorded a poetic title, offering a key into the artist's source of inspiration.



JAPANESE ART *By Appointment*

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Miyashita was born in Kyoto to the eldest son of the distinguished porcelain artist, Miyashita Zenjû (1901-1968). He was trained academically by the ceramic sculptor Kiyomizu Kyûbei at Kyoto Art University, where Miyashita later taught from 1966-85. Soon thereafter his

career took off after affiliating with the prestigious Nitten Group, an association of artists working in a variety of media who exhibit in annual competitions at the Tokyo Metropolitan Museum. After his first exhibition there in 1964, Miyashita quickly established himself as a major talent and won numerous prizes. By 1993, he had already won this event 18 times. More recently, in 2005, Miyashita was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award and Cultural Award by both the city and Prefecture of Kyoto. His work has been shown in exhibitions worldwide and been acquired by major museums throughout Japan, the United States and Europe including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo, Royal Ontario Museum, British Museum and Musée des Arts Décoratif, Paris.

EXHIBITION SPECIFICS:

SOFA (International Exposition of Sculpture Objects and Functional Art)

Park Avenue Armory

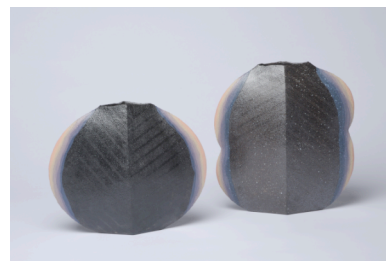
April 16 – April 19, 2009

Thursday & Friday 11 – 8 pm

Saturday 11 - 7 pm

Sunday noon – 6 pm

April 21 – May 15, 2009, by appointment at the gallery



About Joan B. Mirviss, Ltd.

Joan B. Mirviss has been a renowned expert in Japanese art, specializing in prints, paintings, screens and contemporary ceramics for more than thirty years. She is the leading Western dealer in the field of modern and contemporary Japanese ceramics, and her New York gallery, Joan B. Mirviss, Ltd., exclusively represents the top Japanese clay artists. As a distinguished, widely published, and respected specialist in her field, Mirviss has advised and built collections for many museums and major private collectors.

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