

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KAWASE SHINOBU:

The Blossoming of Celadon / *Seiji no kaika*

SEPTEMBER 15-OCTOBER 31, 2014

JOAN B MIRVISS LTD 39 EAST 78<sup>TH</sup> STREET NYC

Joan B. Mirviss, LTD is honored to present *The Blossoming of Celadon/ Seiji no kaika*, a solo exhibition of works by celebrated and internationally renowned artist **KAWASE SHINOBU** (b. 1950). This seminal show marks the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the artist's collaboration with Joan B. Mirviss, and it is on this occasion that the artist created over thirty new works, including a new glaze seen for the first time outside of Japan.

"Many think of Kawase as Japan's outstanding celadon artist." (F. Baekeland, *Modern Japanese Ceramics in American Collections*, Japan Society, 1993)

"In both their esthetic and production values, the pieces are flawless." (ARTnews, June 2009)

Dubbed In Japan *Seiji sensei* or King of Celadon, Kawase introduces a dynamic new body of work featuring *suiji* glaze. Even for an artist as exacting and methodical as Kawase, who uses only the highest quality clay from both China and Japan and never releases a piece with a single flaw, this glazing technique is extremely difficult and is suitable only for smaller-scale works. Each vessel requires up to eight separate firings. It is only in the final firing process that an intricately feathered pattern emerges and variations in color from a rich jade green to deep burgundy and crimson are revealed. Continually mining his natural surrounding for inspiration, the artist likens this affect and coloration to the flamboyant plumage of the kingfisher. With his new *suiji* glaze, Kawase states he's "moving into a new world of challenges," but does so focusing on the most revered and elemental form in Japanese ceramics - the teabowl.

"With his new *suiji* teabowls, evocative of Song Dynasty rabbit's hair *tenmoku*, Kawase has turned the page on celadon history." (Hayashiya Seizō, Curator Emeritus Tokyo National Museum, *Tosetsu Magazine*, July 2014)

As a fully mature artist, Kawase's fidelity to the tenants of the Song Dynasty traditions remains, yet he moves beyond on an artistic continuum. Using his mastery of the wheel, his new classic green-blue *seiji*-glazed vessels possess greater dynamism and a broader range of scale. Slender flower-like vases are more attenuated and wave-inspired bowls feature more accentuated pinched points and a greater fluidity of form.



JAPANESE ART Antique – Contemporary

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"With his cool, spotless, and soothing use of celadon glaze on vases and bowls whose lips curl like young leaves, the gentle elegant shapes of Mr. Kawase's vessels are seductive and organic." (*New York Sun*, March 31, 2005)

"An object I would never part with is a bowl made for me by Japanese ceramic artist Kawase Shinobu. Being a potter myself, I can really respect what he has made." (Terence Conran in *Financial Times* February 10, 2010.)



As a young artist he devoted himself to transcending the Song Dynasty (960-1270) celadon prototypes, making numerous visits to the Palace Museum in Taipei with pockets full of his test pieces to compare with the works in the museum's collection. His storied career includes numerous awards and solo exhibitions. "Seeing these fluid pieces first-hand makes it easy to understand why in 1981 he was the youngest ceramist to have ever been awarded the prestigious Japan Ceramic Society Prize." (*Asian Art Newspaper*, March 2009). This past year, Kawase was further honored as the recipient of the Ceramic Society's lifetime achievement award, the Gold Prize.

Kawase Shinobu's works are in the permanent collections of major museums across the globe and are fervently sought after by private collectors both stateside and abroad. Most recently, his work has been featured in *The Betsy and Robert Feinberg Collection: Japanese Ceramics for the Twenty-first Century* at the Walters Museum of Art in Baltimore and his work can also currently be seen in *Evolution of Chinese Ceramics and Their Influence* at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.

For more information or to request high-resolution images, please contact Helena Grubestic at 212-799-4021 or by email [Helena@mirviss.com](mailto:Helena@mirviss.com)

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