

A PALETTE FOR GENIUS: JAPANESE WATER JARS FOR THE TEA CEREMONY



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Joan B Mirviss LTD 39 EAST 78TH STREET NYC

With origins dating back to the 9th century, nothing is quite as inextricably linked within the realm of Japanese ceramics as *chanoyu*, the tea ceremony. Each ceramic utensil employed is selected with great care and thus, a culture of art has always surrounded this tradition. Therefore, Joan B Mirviss LTD is thrilled to announce the opening of *A Palette for Genius: Japanese Water Jars for the Tea Ceremony*, coinciding with the start of Asia Week New York 2016, and organized in conjunction with the leading modern ceramic dealer in Japan, Shibuya Kurodatoen Co., LTD. This exhibition juxtaposes ancient traditions with current interpretations of the *mizusashi*, a lidded water jar used to replenish the brazier, as a testament to the evolution of this timeless tea ceremony utensil.

Usually made of ceramic, the water jar's entry into the tea room marks the beginning of the formal preparation of tea, and occupies a prominent position throughout the proceedings. Apart from some basic requirements in regard to size and shape, the artist has tremendous freedom to create a vessel that will be visually compelling, yet functional. However, regardless of style, the water jar's ultimate aim is to offer a profound spiritual experience through the drinking of tea and silent contemplation. Andrew Maske, whose essay is featured in the exhibition's catalogue, remarks of the show:

This selection of water jars features a stunning display of work by Japan's most renowned modern and contemporary ceramic artists. Their techniques span the range of traditional, innovative, and original processes that reflect a wide array of aesthetic approaches, from rough and gestural, to refined and exquisite.

- Andrew Maske, Associate Professor of Art History at the University of Kentucky

For hundreds of years, the tea ceremony has inspired Japanese ceramists to create highly unique utensils, like the water jar, which embody the mantra of tea, *ichi-go ichi-e*, "for this time only". This philosophy guides the spirit of this exhibition which presents ceramists with utterly singular styles, such as more traditional masters like **Fujimoto Nôdô** (1919-1992), **Ishiguro Munemaro** (1893-1968), **Katô Tôkurô** (1898-1985), **Kitaôji Rosanjin** (1883-1959), **Kiyomizu Rokubei VI**



Kiyomizu Rokubei VI



Kishimoto Kennin



Kawase Shinobu



Koike Shoko

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(1901-1980), **Koyama** Fujio (1900-1975), **Okabe** Mineo (1919-1990), **Suzuki** Osamu (1926-2001), **Tokuda** Yasokichi III (1933-2009), and **Yagi** Kazuo (1918-1979), as well as artists with a contemporary flair such as **Fukumoto** Fuku (b. 1973), **Itô** Hidehito (b.1971), **Katsumata** Chieko (b.1950), **Kawase** Shinobu (b.1950), **Kondô** Takahiro (b.1958), **Morino** Taimei (b.1934), **Sakiyama** Takiyuki (b.1958), **Suzuki** Gorô (b.1941), and **Yagi** Akira (b.1955), among others.

THE ORGANIZERS

Joan B. Mirviss is the leading western dealer in the field of modern and contemporary Japanese ceramics, and from her NY gallery on Madison Ave., Joan B. Mirviss LTD exclusively represents the top Japanese clay artists. As a widely published and highly respected specialist in her field for over thirty-five years, Mirviss has advised and built collections for many museums, major private collectors, and corporations.

Founded in 1969, Shibuya Kuradatoen Co., LTD has been the leading gallery for prominent exhibitions of master ceramists as well as a platform for launching new talents. Its major solo shows have ranged from the works of Rosanjin, Okabe, and Kamoda, to group exhibitions of the masters of the Showa era. Originally located in central Ginza in Tokyo, Kurodatôen moved to the fashionable Minami Aoyama area in 1969 before opening its current gallery in 1980, in Shibuya, Tokyo.

Joan B. Mirviss LTD is located at 39 East 78th Street in New York and is open Monday through Friday 11am-6pm and by appointment.

For more information or to request high-resolution images, please call 212-799-4021 or email director@mirviss.com.



Koie Ryôji



Katô Yasukage



Kiyomizu Rokubei VI (1901-1980)
Mizusashi (water jar) with floral patterning of an *ebine* (calanthe orchid) and lacquer lid
ca. 1978
Glazed stoneware with gold and silver
6 3/8 x 8 1/2 in.
Photography by Richard Goodbody



Kishimoto Kennin (b.1934)
Iga covered *mizusashi* (water jar)
2012
Glazed stoneware
6 7/8 x 7 1/8 in.
Photography by Richard Goodbody



Kawase Shinobu (b.1950)
Celadon *mizusashi* (water jar) with black lacquer lid
2015
Porcelaineous glazed stoneware with lacquer lid
7 x 8 in.
Photography by Richard Goodbody



Koike Shōko (b. 1943)
White shell-shaped *mizusashi* (water jar)
2015
Glazed stoneware
7 3/4 x 11 1/4 x 10 1/2 in.
24 x 29 x 28 cm.
Inv# 9282



Koie Ryōji (b.1938)
Kohiki-glazed *mizusashi* (water jar) with lacquer lid
Ca. 2008-2012
Glazed stoneware with lacquer lid
7 1/2 x 7 1/2 x 6 1/2 in.
Photography by Richard Goodbody



Katō Yasukage (1964-2012)
Nezumi shino-glazed columnar *mizusashi* (water jar)
2008
Glazed stoneware
7 1/4 x 7 3/8 x 7 in.
Photography by Richard Goodbody