

JOAN B. MIRVISS, LTD.



Katō Yasukage

Joan B. Mirviss Ltd., is delighted to present the work of the Japanese ceramic artist KATŌ YASUKAGE at the International Asian Art Fair in New York. One of the top young ceramics talents in Japan, Katō specializes in the centuries-old traditions of milky white *shino* and green copper glazed *oribe* wares. Coveted by connoisseurs of the tea ceremony for more than four hundred years, and celebrated by cognoscenti throughout the world, *shino* and *oribe* ceramics have a long and distinguished history.

Powerful forms and exquisitely pure glazes characterize Katō's seemingly traditional ware. His work reveals a remarkable assimilation of traditional aesthetics that is redefined within a modern and highly personal oeuvre. His smaller functional works are a joy to hold, always perfectly balanced, sensuous to the touch and dazzling in the richness of his glazes. He is one of the very few artists left in Gifu still wood firing in the manner of his ancestors. This will be the artist's first exhibition outside Japan.



1 Tea bowl with red, gray and white *shino* glazes, 2002, 4 x 5 inches

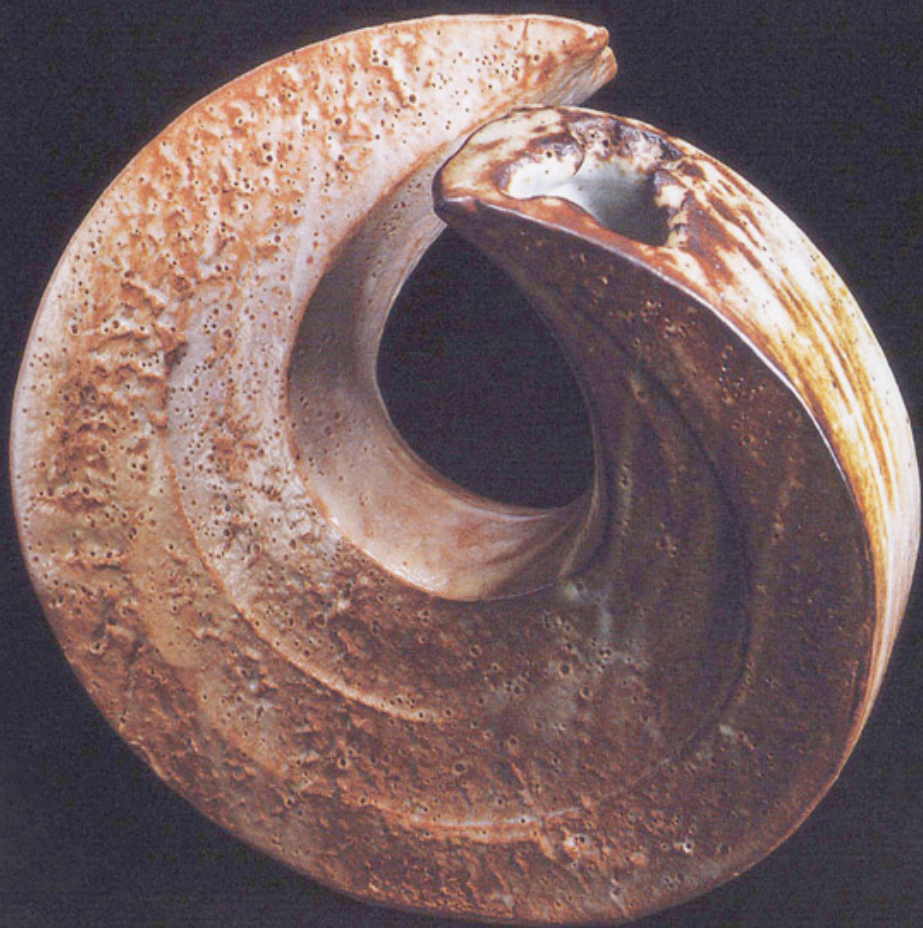


2 Comma-shaped vessel with green *oribe* glaze, 2000, 13 x 11 x 5 1/4 inches



3 Water storage jar (*mizusashi*) in red *shino* style with clay cover, 2002, 6 7/8 x 6 1/2 x 8 inches

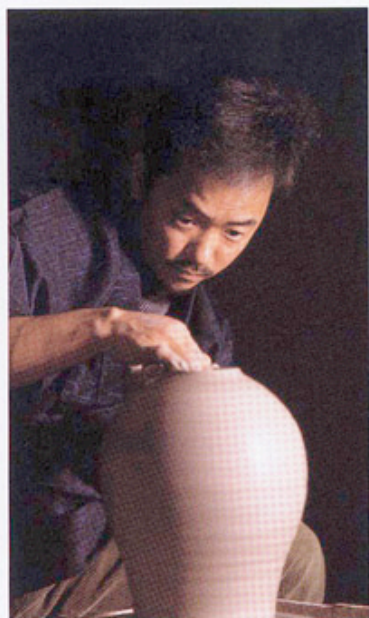
COVER: Large faceted stoneware vessel with green *oribe* glaze, 2002, 14 x 12 1/4 x 7 1/2



4 Large comma-shaped vessel with white *shino* glaze,
2003, 14 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 9 inches

Photo Credits:

Richard Goodbody (Cover, Nos. 1, 2, 3), Adachi Toshiyuki (No. 4, Portrait)



KATŌ YASUKAGE (b.1964) is the eldest son of the thirteenth generation Mino potter Katō Kagekiyo (Seizō). The progenitor of his distinguished line of potters established the first Mino kiln in 1574, and the second in this line, Kagenobu, was the creator of the celebrated Motoyashiki kiln (multi-chambered climbing type) that forever changed the way Japanese ceramics were produced. Despite this illustrious ancestry, Katō Yasukage's emergence was anything but direct or easy.

Following the untimely deaths of his father and grandfather, both master potters, Katō was sent by the devastated family to Bizen, another historically rich Japanese ceramic center. There, while still a teenager, he studied the art of unglazed ceramics for several years with the National Living Treasure Yamamoto Toshū. Returning to his home in Gifu after further academic training in sculpture, Katō brought with him a fresh vision and approach towards the traditional *shino* and *oribe* techniques. At the remarkably young age of thirty-eight, Katō Shōji was designated the fourteenth master in this celebrated family of artists and received the new name of Yasukage. Despite his youth, his work, tea bowls in particular, have won both praise and awards in Japan.

INTERNATIONAL ASIAN ART FAIR

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