



Untitled T-066 2006 13.8 x 16.1 x 16.5 inches



Untitled T-043 2004 12.2 x 17.7 x 12.2 inches

SOFA / NEW YORK
PARK AVENUE ARMORY
AT 67TH STREET
NEW YORK, NY 10021

JUNE 1-3, 2007
FRIDAY & SATURDAY 11AM-8PM
SUNDAY NOON-6PM
PREVIEW BENEFIT FOR
THE MUSEUM OF ARTS AND DESIGN
MAY 31, 2007



Front Cover: *Metavoid 14* 2007 28.7 x 31.1 21.7 inches (detail)
Back Cover: *Untitled T-067* 2006 18.9 x 18.1 x 14.2 inches
All photography by Seiji Toyonaga

Opening new gallery
39 E 78th Street at Madison Ave
September 2007

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ESSENCE OF CLAY THE SCULPTURAL ART OF AKIYAMA YÔ



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Although often created on the potter's wheel, the work of Akiyama Yô (b. 1953) stands in stark contrast to the utilitarian nature of traditional ceramics. His art is rather a manifestation of the essence of clay. Harkening back to its geologic origin, Akiyama's oeuvre reflects the igneous nature of clay—formed during its swift cooling from volcanic magma.

Even in the creative process, Akiyama employs methods that strongly relate to his theme. Using the flame of a gas burner, he induces cracks and fissures in the partially dried clay. Inspired while peeling a tangerine and examining the quality of its skin and pith, he similarly focuses on the “strata” of his medium. Whether initially formed on the wheel or slab built, each sculptural form bears witness to his unique approach and manipulation of the clay. The juxtaposition of rough and irregular surfaces against smooth ones forces the viewer to reflect upon the balance and tension between interior and exterior space. When confronting his sculptural work, the visual and emotional impact is palpable. This current series clearly conveys his aesthetic perspective that art is in a constant state of transformation, like the surface of the earth.

Akiyama has broken free from the traditional role of ceramist. His training as a student of the celebrated and highly influential Sodeisha co-founder and avant-garde postwar ceramic artist, Yagi Kazuo, enabled him to set off on this path. Akiyama became an independent artist in the late 1970s. Shortly thereafter, he began teaching at the Kyoto City University of Arts and Music, where he is currently head of the ceramics department. His work has regularly been exhibited in major museums throughout Japan including solo shows at leading galleries. More recently his work has been featured in major exhibitions in Seoul, Paris, London, Maastricht, Hamburg, Canberra, Ghent, and in the United States at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and the Japan Society in New York.

Among the long list of museums with works by Akiyama in their permanent collections are: Victoria & Albert, London; Faenza International Ceramic Museum, Italy; National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo; National Museum of Art, Osaka; Suntory Museum, Tokyo; Museum of Modern Ceramic Art, Gifu; Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; Mint Museum, Charlotte; Minneapolis Institute of Art; Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery, Ontario; Everson Museum of Fine Arts, Syracuse; and Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.

Joan B. Mirviss, Ltd. is deeply honored to present the first solo exhibition in the United States of the powerful and evocative clay sculpture of Akiyama Yô at SOFA / New York.

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Metavoid 14 2007 28.7 x 31.1 x 21.7 inches



Untitled T-061 2006 13 x 18.1 x 12.2 inches



Untitled T-068 2006 14.5 x 15 x 15 inches



Untitled T-069 2007 11.4 x 15 x 11.8 inches



Untitled T-072 2007 9.5 x 18.1 x 11.8 inches



Untitled T-071 2007 17.7 x 18.5 x 42 inches