



TENSION AND TRANSITION

the clay language of

Akiyama Yô

JOAN B MIRVISS LTD



Although clay is his medium, Akiyama Yô (b. 1953) is better approached as a sculptor than as a ceramist. His art has much more in common with the work of contemporary sculptors such as Richard Serra than the utilitarian ceramics for which Kyoto, his home, is historically known. Inspired by his teacher Yagi Kazuo (1919–1979), co-founder of the Sôdeisha ceramic movement and best known for pioneering the avant-garde in post-war Japan, Akiyama's major preoccupations are the physical properties of clay. Through the unique manner in which he works the clay, he explores the tension between surface and form and the transition between the ordered and the organic. This direct relationship with his materials and commitment to experimentation and reinvention has made Akiyama one of Japan's most important contemporary artists.

Third in a line of artists, Akiyama has developed a highly personal visual language that is evident in his latest oeuvre. The juxtaposition of the deep fissures in his surfaces— created by treating wheel-thrown forms with an open flame before turning them inside out— against the clean, modern lines of the sculptural form creates a visual tension inviting both close inspection and quiet contemplation. These sculptures, with surfaces sometimes mimicking naturally occurring materials like volcanic rock or an arid riverbed, virtually compel close examination by the viewer. The rusty red and rich brown patina that Akiyama achieves through a treatment involving vinegar and iron-filings is the perfect complement to his forms and surface textures. The viewer is left to marvel at the seamless blending of his highly creative techniques with his powerful visual vocabulary.

Akiyama's works grace many important collections and museums in Japan and in the West, including: National Museum of Art, Osaka; National Museums of Modern Art, Kyoto and Tokyo; Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada; Contemporary Museum, Honolulu; Faenza International Ceramic Museum, Italy; Keramion, Frechen, Germany; Minneapolis Institute of Art; Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; Prague Decorative Arts Museum; and the Victoria & Albert Museum, London.

Joan B. Mirviss, Ltd. is honored to present this major exhibition, Akiyama's second in the US, which will open first at SOFA/NY (April 14 - 17), followed by our gallery installation (April 19 - May 20).



Untitled MV-1018
11 1/2 x 19 .3/8 x 14 5/8"





Untitled MV-1014 15 x 21 3/8 x 16 5/8"



Untitled MV-1019 8 x 12 5/8"



Untitled MV-1017 12 1/4 x 14 1/4 x 14 7/8"

Untitled MV-1016
16 1/4 x 20 1/8 x 13 1/2"



at **SOFA/NEW YORK 2011**

Park Avenue Armory at 66th

April 14 & 16 11-7

April 15 11-6

April 17 12-6

at **JOAN B MIRVISS LTD**

April 19-May 20

Monday-Friday 11-5



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