



The French Connection

*Five Japanese Women Ceramists
and their Passion for France*

FUTAMURA • KATSUMATA • NAGASAWA • OGAWA • SAKURAI

JOAN B MIRVISS LTD

June 7 - August 3, 2012



Guided by the Brush

*Paintings & Lithographs by
SHINODA Toko*

Joan Mirviss and Allison Tolman are pleased to announce their collaboration on two important exhibitions being held simultaneously at **Joan B Mirviss LTD**. ***The French Connection: Five Japanese Women Ceramists and their Passion for France*** and ***Guided by the Brush*** shine a spotlight on pioneering Japanese women in two distinct artistic media: clay and ink painting. These resolute women chose to forge their own paths, creating exceptional works that have found an international audience.

The five clay sculptors are **FUTAMURA Yoshimi** (b. 1959 in Nagoya), **KATSUMATA Chieko** (b. 1950 in Shizuoka), **NAGASAWA Setsuko** (b. 1941 in Kyoto), **OGAWA Machiko** (b. 1946 in Sapporo), and **SAKURAI Yasuko** (b. 1969 in Kyoto), whose ages range from span three decades. Masters of their medium, they confront tradition while exposing the very nature of clay, exploiting its flexibility and suppleness in arresting ways—using clay in ways that flaunt the limitations of the medium or defy them altogether. As a result, they are at the vanguard of the development of Japanese ceramics in what is certainly one of the richest and most diverse periods in its long history. The five women participating in this show received classical Japanese training in clay but developed their craft through studies in France. Each artist sought to make France a major central component in her artistic evolution and life, which in turn has ultimately led to international recognition.

In ***Guided by the Brush***, the Tolman Collection has assembled an important body of paintings and prints by **SHINODA Toko** (b. 1913 in Manchuria), who is approaching her centennial birthday. Long one of Japan's foremost Abstract Expressionist artists, she held her first exhibition at the prestigious Betty Parsons Gallery in the early 1960s. Though her training was in the most classical style of calligraphy, the strict rules of this tradition did not permit Shinoda to properly express emotions, feelings or movement and early on she found fulfillment and liberation by creating her own visual imagery. As her primary dealer and art publisher, the Tolman Collection has actively represented Shinoda from 1975 to the present.

Together these two exhibitions offer insights into the power and range of artistic achievement by these accomplished women, artists standing on the world stage whose works can be found in major museum collections across the globe.

SHINODA Toko (b. 1913)

Nexus, 1999
Ink, *gofun* and gold paint on silver leaf
18 x 25 inches



Photography: Richard Goodbody



Vasque, stoneware, porcelain, glaze, 2011
10 x 19 x 19 inches

FUTAMURA Yoshimi (b. 1959)

KATSUMATA Chieko (b. 1950)



French *Akoda* pumpkin, 2012
Black and red glazed stoneware
14 1/8 x 16 1/8 x 17 3/4 inches



NAGASAWA Setsuko (b. 1941)

Geometric sculpture in Smoke-infused
orange and terra cotta clays, 2008
15 3/8 x 19 5/8 x 14 1/8 inches



OGAWA Machiko (b. 1946)



Stoneware and porcelain sculpture
with glass glaze, 2011
11 7/8 x 33 7/8 x 18 1/2 inches

SAKURAI Yasuko (b. 1969)

Vertical Flowers in porcelain, 2011

12 1/2 x 10 5/8 inches L

11 7/8 x 20 1/8 inches R



JOAN B MIRVISS LTD

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Photography: IMAMURA Yuji