

BEYOND KUTANI II: *Innovations in Form and Color*

Nakamura Takuo and Takegoshi Jun

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Known for its intricate, painterly images created with a bold palette of enamel overglazes, **Kutani** porcelain has been highly coveted internationally for centuries. In our upcoming conjoint solo show, *Beyond Kutani II: Innovations in Form and Color*, we are delighted to present new works by two of the most iconic artists working in the medium today—**Nakamura Takuo** and **Takegoshi Jun**. Both artists grew up in ceramic-making households in Ishikawa Prefecture, Kutani's historic home, and each makes conscious references to the classical aesthetic tradition of Kutani in their works. They use, for instance, the traditional five colors (*gosai*) of Old Kutani (*ko-kutani*) – emerald green, mustard yellow, peacock blue, brick red, and eggplant purple – and decorate their surfaces with meticulously painted imagery, each with a nod to a particular style of historical Japanese painting. Unrivaled masters of their medium, Nakamura and Takegoshi create works that transform their Kutani-style under- and overglazes from surface decoration into works of art.

NAKAMURA TAKUO (b. 1945)

A native of Kanazawa, Ishikawa's main city, Nakamura first pursued a career in business before returning to study ceramics under his father, master Kutani ceramist Nakamura Baizan II. While Kutani-style glazing is traditionally done on porcelain, Nakamura works exclusively with stoneware, the rich color of which lends depth to his metallic and jewel-toned under- and overglazes. Nakamura has achieved acclaim for his unique deconstructed, multi-part sculptural forms, whose surfaces he covers in luscious, Rinpa-inspired motifs that recall the stylized, two-dimensional imagery of early Edo-period painters Tawaraya Sōtatsu and Ogata Kōrin. Nakamura's forms, which can be endlessly recombined, invite the viewer to engage in an artistic dialogue, one that presents questions about form, surface, and interiority.



Hōjō: Matsushima-zu Hōrai
2025
Stoneware with polychrome under- and overglazes
14 1/8 x 13 3/4 x 8 1/4 in.



Square vase with Japanese crested ibises
2025
Porcelain with polychrome kutani enamel glazes
18 x 11 x 10 7/8 in.



Designed Space IV
2025
Stoneware with polychrome under- and overglazes
29 1/2 x 19 1/8 x 8 7/8 in.

TAKEGOSHI JUN (b. 1948)

The son of a master Kutani ceramist, Takegoshi Jun initially pursued modern Nihonga, or Japanese-style painting, at university. He brings his finely honed painter's sensibility to his polychrome overglaze enamels, which he uses to cover slab-built porcelain vessel forms with vivid scenes of flora and fauna that appear infused with life. Remarkable technical mastery and control are required to achieve the highly-coveted overglaze enamel effects for which Takegoshi is so renowned, from color gradations reminiscent of watercolor washes to the three-dimensional pooling of color that forms the tail feathers on some of his avian subjects. Takegoshi continues to dazzle audiences internationally with his vibrant and playful scenes.

Both artists' work can be found in international museum collections, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, NY; Art Institute of Chicago, IL; Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, CA; and the National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo.

Beyond Kutani II opens on November 7 and runs through December. The gallery is open to visitors weekdays, 11am to 6pm and by appointment. The exhibition will also be accessible online at www.mirviss.com.

About Joan B. Mirviss LTD

With more than forty-five years of experience, Joan B. Mirviss is a pillar in the field of Japanese art. As a dealer, scholar, curator, and advisor, she has been the driving force championing the top Japanese ceramic artists, who she represents exclusively, and whose works she has placed in major museums around the globe. Widely published as a highly respected expert, Mirviss has built many institutional and private collections of Japanese art. JOAN B MIRVISS LTD exhibits modern and contemporary Japanese ceramics, *ukiyo-e*, and Japanese paintings from its exclusive Madison Avenue location in New York City.

For more information, please contact us at 212-799-4021 or director@mirviss.com.



Covered box with peony design
2024
Porcelain with polychrome kutani enamel glazes
4 3/4 x 6 1/4 x 7 in.



Vessel that is not a Vessel: Ryūsuizu
2025
Stoneware with polychrome under- and overglazes
8 1/4 x 16 1/8 x 4 3/4 in.
7 7/8 x 19 1/4 x 5 1/8 in.



Square platter with greater pied kingfishers
2024
Porcelain with polychrome kutani enamel glazes
3 x 15 x 14 1/2 in.