

YAMADA HIKARU (1923-2001)

The son of a Buddhist priest who later became a ceramic artist, Yamada Hikaru was born in Tokyo, though raised in the ceramic center of Gifu. However, it was in Kyoto where he received his professional training and met fellow ceramist Yagi Kazuo (1918-1979), with whom he formed the Young Pottery-maker's Collective in 1946. Two years later with Yagi and fellow ceramists Suzuki Osamu (1926-2001), Kanō Tetsuo (1927-1998), and Matsui Yoshisuke, the group formed the avant-garde ceramic group Sōdeisha (Crawling through Mud Association). Like Yagi, Yamada initially worked on functional vessels. By the 1950s, his vessels had extremely narrow non-functional openings, and soon after he closed them entirely. Using a multiplicity of glazes and shapes, Yamada focused on perforated flat forms allowing the viewer to see through the work, creating a "borrowed landscape." Also an inspirational teacher at Osaka Art University, he sought to deconstruct the vessel, rendering them as two-dimensional representations.

- 1923 Born in Tokyo
Family moved to Gifu after Kantō Earthquake
- 1942 Graduated from Gifu Prefectural Middle School
- 1943-45 Entered Kyoto Craft School (Kyoto National Institute for Crafts and Textiles) and studied ceramics
- 1945 Met Yagi Kazuo
- 1946 Participated in organizing Young Pottery-makers' Collective
- 1948 Co-founded Sōdeisha
- 1956 Organized Contemporary Crafts Association
- 1962 Opened Mon Kōbō (Corner Workshop) for utilitarian ware with Yagi Kazuo
- 1963 Participated in organizing Kyoto Craft Association
- 1979 Appointed professor at Osaka Art University (retired in '94)
Became an official member of International Academy of Ceramics (IAC)
- 1990 Appointed chair of Osaka Art University, Craft Department

Awards:

- 1948 Kyōten Prize at the 4th Kyōten exhibition
Shinshō Award, 2nd Shinshō *Arts and Craft Association Competition*
- 1950 Shinshō Award, 4th Shinshō *Arts and Craft Association Competition*
- 1961 Japan Ceramic Society Award
- 1995 Kyoto City Award for Cultural Merit
- 1998 Eleventh Kyoto Art and Culture Award
- 2000 Awarded Honorary Citizen of Gifu City
- 2002 Twentieth Kyoto Prefectural Special Award for Distinguished Cultural Service
First Enkū Prize from Gifu Prefecture (awarded posthumously)

Selected Solo Exhibitions:

- 1957 Muramatsu Gallery, Ginza, Tokyo
- 1967 Sei Art and Craft Gallery, Tokyo
- 1976 Asahi Gallery, Kyoto
- 1981 Isetan Gallery, Shinjuku (also in '91)

- Gallery Nakamura, Kyoto (also in '87 and '91)
Seibu Art Gallery, Tokyo
- 1983 Naniwa Gallery, Osaka
- 1985 Sei Gallery, Roppongi, Tokyo
- 1987 Toa Road Gallery, Kobe
- 1988 Gallery Mori, Ginza, Tokyo (also in '94)
- 1990 *Yamada Hikaru Clay Works*, Gallery Yamaguchi, Osaka
- 1999-00 *Yamada Hikaru—tō no shirushi* (Hikaru Yamada Exhibition
Claywork Being), Itami City Art Museum; Museum of Fine Arts, Gifu; Meguro
Museum of Art, Tokyo
- 2000 Masuda Studio, Tokyo

Selected Group Exhibitions:

- 1945 *First Kyōten exhibition*, Kyoto Municipal Museum of Art
- 1946 *First Nitten exhibition*, Tokyo Prefectural Museum (also in '47)
Second Kyōten exhibition, Kyoto National Museum
- 1947 *Young Pottery-makers' Collective Exhibition* (three times until '48)
- 1948 *First Sōdeisha exhibition*, Takashimaya Art Gallery, Osaka
- 1950 *4th Kyōten exhibition*, Kyoto National Museum
Contemporary Japanese Ceramics Exhibition, Musée Cernuschi, Paris, France
- 1951 *Contemporary Japanese Ceramics Exhibition*, Museo Internazionale delle
Ceramiche, Faenza, Italy
- 1952 *Suzuki Osamu and Yamada Hikaru exhibition*, Kyoto-fu Gallery
- 1955 *Suzuki Osamu and Yamada Hikaru exhibition*, Mimatsu Shobō Gallery, Tokyo
- 1962 *Third International Academy of Ceramic exhibition*, Prague, Czechoslovakia
- 1963 *Survey of Contemporary Japanese Ceramics*, National Museum of Modern Art,
Kyoto
- 1964 *7th New Generation of Ceramics*, Gotō Museum, Tokyo
International Ceramic exhibition, the National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo (also
traveled to Kurume, Kyoto and Nagoya)
- 1967 Organized the ceramic artist group, *Shin tōjin* (new ceramicists), and held its first
group exhibition at Kyoto-fu Gallery
- 1968 *New Generation of Contemporary Ceramics*, National Museums of Modern Art,
Kyoto and Tokyo
- 1970 *Contemporary Ceramics: Europe and Japan*, National Museum of Modern Art,
Kyoto
- 1971 *Nihon tōgeiten* (Japanese Ceramics Society exhibition), Daimaru Gallery, Tokyo
and 6 other locations (participated regularly through '97)
Contemporary Ceramics: the U.S., Canada, Mexico and Japan, National
Museums of Modern Art, Kyoto and Tokyo
- 1972 *Contemporary Ceramic Art of Japan*, U.S. and Canada
Thirtieth Faenza International Ceramic Exhibition, Italy
- 1976 *Contemporary Ceramic Art of Japan*, New Zealand and Australia
Japanese Ceramic Masterpieces, Rostock and Dresden, East Germany
- 1977 *Celebrating Thirty Years of Sōdeisha exhibition*, Kyoto Municipal Museum of Art
- 1978 *Contemporary Japanese Crafts*, the National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto

- 1979 *Contemporary Craft Artist Exhibition: Kyoto*, Kyoto Municipal Museum of Art
SODEISHA: Avant-garde Japanese Ceramics, Australia
- 1983 *Contemporary Japanese Ceramics*, Canada
- 1985 *Yamada Hikaru & His Students*, Masuda Studio, Tokyo
- 1986 *Clay, Image & Form 1981-1985*, Seibu Gallery, Ōtsu and Art Forum, Tokyo
- 1986 *Japon des Avant Gardes: 1910-1970*, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris France
- 1987 *Craft Art in 1960's*, National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo
Ceramica Japoneza Contemporana, Romania
- 1988 *Today's Artists: Yamada Hikaru and Morino Taimei*, Kyoto Municipal Museum of Art
Celebrating Forty Years of Sōdeisha Exhibition, Kyoto Municipal Museum of Art
- 1990 *Current Trends in Ceramics: from Kyoto*, Takashimaya Gallery, Tokyo
Contemporary Ceramics: 1980-1990, Wakayama Prefectural Museum of Modern Art, Wakayama
- 1991 *Movement in Contemporary Crafts 1945-70: Kyoto*, Kyoto Municipal Museum of Art
- 1995 *Crafts in Daily Life*, the National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo
- 1998 *Celebrating Fifty Years of Sōdeisha Exhibition*, Kyoto Municipal Museum of Art
- 1999 *Eleventh Kyoto Art and Culture Award Exhibition*
- 2001 *Crafts of Kyoto: 1945-2000*, National Museums of Modern Art, Kyoto and Tokyo
- 2002 *First Enku Award Exhibition*, Gifu Prefectural Museum and Rapirosu Roppongi Oribe Hall, Tokyo
- 2003 *Isamu Noguchi and Modern Japanese Ceramics: A Close Embrace of Earth*, Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.; Japan Society, New York, NY; National Japanese American Museum, Los Angeles, CA
- 2005-06 *Contemporary Clay: Japanese Ceramics for the New Century*, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA and Japan Society, New York, NY
- 2006 *Tōji: Avant-Garde et Tradition de la Cèramique Japonaise*, Musée national de Céramique. Sèvres, France
- 2011 *Pioneers of Contemporary Ceramics-- from Tomimoto Kenichi to Yagi Kazuo*, Museum of Ceramic Art, Hyogo
- 2013 *Fired Earth, Woven Bamboo: Contemporary Japanese Ceramics and Bamboo Art*, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA
- 2014 *Japan in Black and White: Ink and Clay*, Joan B Mirviss LTD, New York, NY
Into the Fold: Contemporary Japanese Ceramics from Horvitz Collection, Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art, University of Florida (until 2016), Gainesville, FL
- 2015 *Tsubo: The Art of the Vessel*, Asia Week New York exhibition in collaboration with Shibuya Kurodatoen Co., Joan B Mirviss LTD, New York, NY

Selected Public Collections:

Chiba City Museum of Art
 Everson Museum of Art, Syracuse, NY
 Fukushima Prefectural Art Museum
 Gifu Prefectural Museum of Art
 Hiroshima Prefectural Museum of Art
 Itami City Museum of Art
 Japan Foundation, Tokyo

Kyoto Municipal Museum of Art
Kyoto Prefectural Library and Archives
Meguro Art Museum, Tokyo
Musée national de Céramique, Sèvres, France
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA
Museum of Kyoto
Museum of Modern Art, Wakayama
Museum of Modern Art, Saitama
Museum of Modern Ceramic Art, Gifu
National Museum of Art, Osaka
National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto
National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo
Shigaraki Ceramic Cultural Park (Shigaraki Toge no Mori)
Takamatsu City Museum of Art
Tokoname City Board of Education
Victoria and Albert Museum, London, United Kingdom

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A Close Embrace of the Earth*. Washington D.C.: The Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, Smithsonian
Institution, in association with University of California Press, 2003.

Earle, Joe, Glen Adamson and Rupert Faulkner, *Birds of Dawn: Pioneers of Japan's
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Todate Kazuko et al. *Fired Earth, Woven Bamboo: Contemporary Japanese Ceramics and
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