

Joan B. Mirviss, Ltd. is honored to present the first major solo show outside of Japan of the celebrated Bizen ceramist **Kakurezaki Ryûichi** at the 2007 International Asian Art Fair from March 23 – 28, 2007.

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KAKUREZAKI RYÛICHI (b. 1950) is a celebrated Bizen clay artist whose exhibitions in Japan often sell out within minutes of opening. Born far from Bizen near Nagasaki, Kakurezaki is viewed as an outsider in Imbe, the birthplace of Bizen ware. This distinction has allowed him to experiment in ways that most of the other 500 potters working there cannot. While he works within the long tradition of Bizen ceramics, aesthetically his work is quite different, extending far beyond traditional or classical forms of centuries past that prevail even today. Firmly grounded in functionality, Kakurezaki does not view himself as a renegade artist but rather as a creator of works that are themselves avant-garde, pushing the old boundaries with thoroughly original forms enhanced with a broad range of surface effects produced in a variety of kilns. Within the world of Bizen ceramics his range is unmatched. Sometimes smooth and sensuous, his recent work boldly contrasts with the rough, torn, and thickly-formed, carved vessels of the past decade. His fresh and independent vision has already inspired other potters who are not content with ancient classical shapes to imitate his forms—perhaps the highest praise of all.

In 1985, Kakurezaki established his own kiln in nearby Osafune after graduating from the ceramics program at Osaka Art University and following a lengthy

apprenticeship with the Bizen master, Isezaki Jun, who is a National Living Treasure. Surprisingly it was in fairly short order that he began to earn critical acclaim and significant success, winning prizes at numerous juried competitions and being honored with the Japan Ceramic Society Prize. More recently, he received the prestigious invitation to be the artist in residence at the Shigaraki Ceramic Park. Thereafter in 2005 and again in 2006 he was a guest artist lecturing and working at Harvard University. His works have entered museum collections throughout the world and have recently been featured at major exhibitions at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, the Japan Society, New York, the Minneapolis Institute of Art, and Musée nationale de céramiques, Sèvres France.