

# JOAN B MIRVISS LTD

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## *Beyond Kutani: Innovation in Color and Form*

May 3 - June 7, 2017

JOAN B MIRVISS LTD 39 EAST 78th STREET NYC

NEW YORK – The first-ever joint exhibition of the two celebrated and innovative ceramic masters, Takegoshi Jun and Nakamura Takuo, both inspired by traditional *kutani* ware, will open next month at Joan B Mirviss LTD. Titled *Beyond Kutani: Innovation in Color and Form*, the much anticipated show will feature both functional and sculptural forms, all boldly decorated with polychrome under-glazing and overglaze enamels. Drawing from the traditional *ko-kutani* palette of emerald green, mustard yellow, peacock blue, brick red and eggplant purple (*go-sai*) that is further heightened with a vast array of colorful and metallic glazes derived from classical *rinpa* decorative traditions, these artists cover their white porcelain or white and red stoneware surfaces with designs based on ancient literature and painting with a strong nod towards nature. Featuring over 40 new works created expressly for the occasion, this exhibition will highlight these two ceramists' unique and divergent aesthetics, both developed in response to time-honored *kutani* artistic traditions but cast in very contemporary modes.

NAKAMURA TAKUO (b. 1945) strives to combine the local tradition of *kutani* from Ishikawa Prefecture with a modern sense of form and color. Although unquestionably adventurous in his experimentations with stoneware clay, Nakamura adheres to the artistic principles of design-oriented *rinpa* painting tradition dating back to the early 17<sup>th</sup> century masters while simultaneously breaking from the traditional appearance of *kutani*. By combining these uniquely Japanese traditions, he takes a contemporary approach to both by decorating multi-piece stoneware deconstructions of traditional forms, allowing for greater freedom and interpretation of the balance between interior and exterior spaces. He explains: *"It is my hope that my work successfully initiates a dialogue between the artist and the eventual owner that continues with every use. I believe that the true completion of my work can only be accomplished through the creative implementation on the part of the user."* The art of Nakamura Takuo has been shown widely throughout Japan and can be found in museum collections throughout the United States.

TAKEGOSHI JUN ( or Taizan IV; b. 1948) was born in Ishikawa Prefecture, where *kutani* has flourished for centuries, and was trained in the traditional techniques of his family by his father, Takegoshi Taizan III (1919-1984). Following studies at university of traditional *nihonga* painting, he returned to the world of porcelain with the eye and brush of a painter. Takegoshi treats his forms as three-dimensional canvases by painting their surface decoration with rich, jewel-like polychrome enamels with designs inspired by nature. His delightful, often animated, depictions of birds, flowers, and plants complement and accentuate the form of each vessel. Takegoshi's unique glazing and unusually high temperature firing



Nakamura Takuo (b. 1945)  
*Box that is Not a Box*, 2016  
Stoneware with polychrome under and over glazes



Takegoshi Jun (b. 1948)  
Incense burner depicting ibis and lotus, 2017  
Porcelain with polychrome *kutani* glazes



Nakamura Takuo (b. 1945)  
Vessel with floral design and separate ladle-rest, 2016  
Stoneware with polychrome under and over glazes



Takegoshi Jun (b. 1948)  
Plate with greater pied kingfisher and vine, 2017  
Porcelain with polychrome *kutani* enamel glazes

**JAPANESE ART** *Antique – Contemporary*  
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techniques combine to produce the appearance of light emanating through his glazes, creating both translucent and opaque effects on his porcelain surfaces. He was the recipient of the prestigious Japan Ceramic Society Award in 2006 and his works grace important Japanese collections and museums as well as those in the West, such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art, NY and the Philadelphia Museum of Art, PA.

## About JOAN B MIRVISS LTD

Joan B. Mirviss has been a distinguished expert in Japanese art specializing in prints, paintings, screens and ceramics for forty years. She is the leading Western dealer in the field of modern and contemporary Japanese ceramics, and from her New York gallery on Madison Avenue, JOAN B MIRVISS LTD exclusively represents most of today's top Japanese clay artists. As a distinguished, widely published, and highly respected specialist in her field, Mirviss has advised and built collections for many museums, major private collectors, and corporations.

For further information or images, please call 212-799-4021 or email [joan@mirviss.com](mailto:joan@mirviss.com).



Nakamura Takuo (b. 1945)  
*Vessel that is not a Vessel*  
with clouds and dragon  
design, 2017  
Stoneware with polychrome  
under and over glazes



Takegoshi Jun (b. 1948)  
Covered box with titmice and  
bamboo, 2017  
Porcelain with polychrome  
*kutani* glazes

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