



BREAKING THE MOLD /
KATA O YABURU 型を破る
LEADING JAPANESE WOMEN CERAMISTS



JAPANESE ART *By Appointment*

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JOAN B MIRVISS LTD

JOAN B MIRVISS LTD is honored to present our premier exhibition focusing on contemporary clay at our new Madison Avenue gallery in New York. *Breaking the Mold* will be the first show in America focusing on the remarkable work of today's leading Japanese women ceramists. Despite Japan's long history in clay, women have traditionally played only a minor role in its development—relegated primarily to production ware or as administrators in large family workshops. It is only with the current generation that they have been able to surmount the various social barriers that hampered their efforts to emerge as independent artists. Now, for the first time, many of these groundbreaking ceramists stand on the world stage, with their work entering major museum collections across the globe.

Of the eleven women ceramists selected to participate in this show, each has emerged from a distinct background, traveling diverse roads through their training and artistic development that has often circumvented the more traditional routes open to their male counterparts. As a result, these artists have sought creative inspiration from wide-ranging and often unexpected sources. Some like Futamura Yoshimi, Katsumata Chieko, Koike Shōko, Sakurai Yasuko and Tashima Etsuko take their inspiration from nature—the sea, water, light, plants, and flowers. While others, including Hoshino Kayoko, have derived much of their aesthetic from ancient traditions. Kitamura Junko and Kishi Eiko have looked to traditional Japanese arts such as textiles and the Nō theatre. Emerging artist Fujino Sachiko draws her ideas from an exploration of inner emotions turning them into expressions in clay. Mishima Kimiyo, a pioneer in the field, parodies mundane elements of contemporary life through her own pop-art style interpretations. The powerful sculptural forms of Ogawa Machiko seem to simultaneously embody many of these themes while resisting any clear associations.

All these women are masters of their medium, exploiting its flexibility and suppleness in arresting ways. Perhaps because they are women artists in the overtly masculine world of Japanese clay, they have been able to shed the particularly heavy mantle of tradition and explore the art of clay in startling new and independent ways, with a special eloquence and strength, dramatically and uniquely their own.

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ARTISTS Fujino Sachiko (b. 1950)
Futamura Yoshimi (b. 1959)
Hoshino Kayoko (b. 1949)
Katsumata Chieko (b. 1950)
Kishi Eiko (b. 1948)
Kitamura Junko (b. 1956)
Koike Shōko (b. 1943)
Mishima Kimiyo (b. 1932)
Ogawa Machiko (b. 1946)
Sakurai Yasuko (b. 1969)
Tashima Etsuko (b. 1959)

NOVEMBER 8 - DECEMBER 15, 2007 **JOAN B MIRVISS LTD**
OPENING RECEPTION: NOVEMBER 7, 5-8 PM 39 East 78th Street, 4th floor
(at Madison Avenue)
New York NY 10075

EXHIBITION HOURS Tuesday–Friday 2-5 pm;
Saturday Noon-4 pm
And by appointment