

NAKAMURA TAKUO (b. 1945)

Nakamura Takuo lives in Kanazawa, a culturally rich city located on the Sea of Japan. In his work, he attempts to link the traditions of three hundred year-old *Kutani* ware with a modern sense of form. He works in multi-layered structures revealing his understanding of both traditional and contemporary aspects of technique, form, and design.

"I was born the second son of a potter in Kanazawa in 1945. After working in the business sector for a while, I returned to the ceramic training of my youth and apprenticed with my father, Baizan II in 1981. At the beginning, I often participated in juried public exhibitions. Since 1991, I have held my own thematic solo exhibitions, hoping that the stimulating relationship between the artist and the user will continue. I consider that the true completion of any vessel is derived through the creative implementation on the part of the user."

- T. Nakamura

1945	Born in Kanazawa
1978	Studied under his father, Nakamura Baizan
1993	Awarded prize at Workshop Collection, Shigaraki Ceramic Park, Shiga
1995	Studied under Aldo Rontini, at the National Faenza Ceramic Art School in Italy
2000	Commissioned art director for the permanent installations of ceramic art by the River Retreat Garaku, Toyama
2001	Commissioned supervisor for new tea houses "Mushi-an" and "Kaihou-ken" by the River Retreat Garaku, Toyama (Architect: Naito Hiroshi)
2004	In collaboration with Wedgewood, UK created "Japanesque" series for this firm incorporating centuries-old Wedgewood patterns
2007	Artist-in-residence at Taipei County Yingge Ceramics Museum, Taiwan
2008	Workshop at Art Biotop Niki Club, Nasu, Tochigi Lectured at Kanazawa College of Art; Kyoto Seika University and Museum of Modern Ceramic Art, Gifu; Museum of Ceramic Art, Hyogo
2009	Lectured at Sogō Art Museum, Yokohama; Shizuoka Art Gallery; Hagi Urugami Museum

Solo Exhibitions:

1986	Nihonbashi Mitsukoshi Art Gallery, Tokyo
1990	<i>Color and Shape</i> , Ginza Wakō Craft Salon, Tokyo
1991	<i>Giri-giri Vessels</i> , Ginza Wakō Hall, Tokyo
1994	<i>Welcoming Vessels (Mukaeru utsuwa)</i> , Isetan Art Gallery, Hotel New Otani, Tokyo <i>Confronting Vessels (Mukiau utsuwa)</i> , Takashimaya Art Gallery, Tokyo
1996	<i>Welcoming Vessels</i> , Isetan Tanseikai, Hotel New Otani, Tokyo
1997	<i>Giri-giri Winter Vessels part I</i> , Suigyoku Gallery, Tokyo
1998	<i>The Lonely Vessel (Hitoriaruki no utsuwa)</i> , Takashimaya Art Gallery, Tokyo
1999	<i>Playing with Space</i> , Ginza Wakō Hall, Tokyo
2001	<i>Within Lights (Akari no naka)</i> , Gallery Kandori, Tokyo <i>In Search of Beautiful "sabi" (Kirei-wabi o motomete)</i> , Tōsai Gallery,
2003	<i>Slipping-away Vessels (Surinukeru utsuwa)</i> , Ginza Wakō Hall, Tokyo <i>Sora no aida, Tō no senkō (Between Skys, Sparks of Ceramics)</i> , Inax Tile Museum, Tokoname
2004-5	<i>Japanesque</i> , The House of Wedgewood, Tokyo; Takashimaya Art Gallery, Tokyo and Nagoya
2005	Tamagawa Takashimaya Art Gallery, Tokyo (also in '08)
2006	Takasaki Takashimaya Art Gallery, Gunma <i>Nakamura Takuo meets Wedgewood</i> , Takashimaya Art Gallery, Nagoya
2007	<i>Vessel Not a Vessel: Floating Vessels (Fuyū suru utsuwa)</i> , Gallery Wako, Ginza, Tokyo

- 2008 *Takuo no utsuwa, Shoku-yū-shi (Takuo's vessel, Eat-Play-Use)* Tamagawa Takashimaya Art
 2012 *Revisiting Rimpa - Design, Function and the Art of Nakamura Takuo*, Joan B Mirviss LTD.,
 New York, NY
Tō, mouhitotsuno rimpa (Ceramics, Another Rimpa) Ginza Wakō Hall, Tokyo
 2015 *Kazari /Space (Decoration/Space)*, Gallery Sōkyo, Kyoto

Group Exhibitions:

- 1990 Two-person exhibition with Sugiura Sumiko, *Moon Viewing Banquet*, Seibu Art Gallery,
 Chigasaki, Kanagawa
 1992 *Contemporary Kutani Ceramics Exhibition*, Kōsetsu Museum of Art, Kobe
Mimupure, Ohararyū Flower Arrangement Hall, Tokyo
 1994 *Shokki-ten (Functional Vessels)*, Kandori Gallery, Tokyo (also in '98, '00, '01 and '04)
 1995 *The 4th Annual Non-functional Art Exhibition*, Contemporary Art NIKI, Tokyo
*The Now in Japanese Ceramics, Transmitting Vessels (Tōgei no genzai, hasshin suru
 utsuwa)*, Takashimaya Art Gallery, Tokyo and Kyoto
 1998 *The 6th Annual Non-functional Art Exhibition*, Contemporary Art NIKI, Tokyo
 1999 *Chaji - Niki club exhibition*, Contemporary Art NIKI, Tokyo
 Two-person Exhibition with Tōgo Kobayashi
Enjoying Kutani Ware, Ginza Wakō Hall, Tokyo
 2000 *Living with Craftart (Kurashi ni ikizuku kōgei)*, National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo
 2001 *Dinnerwares (Shoku no utsuwa)*, Mitsukoshi Art Gallery, Tokyo (also in '05)
I · ga · jiyū – Shūkō no en (Medicine, container, Freedom – Autumn festival),
 Aruigus Gallery, Tokyo
 2002 *Modern Life – Creativity and Tradition (Kindai no nedoko – Tsukuru koto to tsutaeru koto)*,
 Curated by Hida Toyojirō, Chief Curator, Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo,
 Masuda Studio, Tokyo
 2005 *Yakimono shinkankaku series, 50-nin (50 New Talents of Ceramics)*, Centrair Central Japan
 International Airport, Nagoya
 2006 *Recollection of Water (Mizu no kioku)*, Gallery Le Bain, Tokyo
Cool & Sophisticated: Contemporary Master Ceramists of Eastern Japan, Ibaraki
 Ceramic Art Museum, Ibaraki
Echigo Tsumari Art Triennial 2006, Niigata prefecture
 2006-2007 *Jan-ken-pon no kangaekata, kachimake no nai kyōzon (Rock-paper-scissors, Game that No
 One Loses)*, International cultural exchange competition project among Korea, Taiwan and
 Japan, Museum of Modern Ceramic Art, Gifu
 2008-2009 *History of Wedgewood for 250 Years: A Design Exhibition Over One Brand's Heritage*,
 Museum of Modern Ceramic Art, Gifu; Museum of Ceramic Art, Hyogo; Sogo Museum of
 art, Yokohama; Shizuoka City Museum of Art; Hagi Urugami Museum, Hagi
 2009 *Contemporary Masters of Ceramics*, Nihonbashi Mitsukoshi Art Gallery, Tokyo
Mirai e no takaramono (Treasures for the Future), Takashimaya Art Gallery,
 Tokyo, Osaka, Kyoto
 2010 *International Triennale of Kōgei, 21st Century* Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa
 2011 *Contemporary Kōgei Art Fair*, Tokyo International Forum
Collect 2011, Saatchi Gallery, London, UK
 2012 *Shape of Ceramics IX*, Gallery Kurimoto, Niigata
Designing Nature: The Rinpa Aesthetic in Japanese Art, Metropolitan Museum of Art, NY
Japanese Ceramics from the William Bayer Collection, Robert F. Agrella Art Gallery
 at Santa Rosa Junior College, CA
 2013 *Contemporary Kōgei Styles in Japan*, Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens,
 Delray Beach, FL
 2014 *The Betsy and Robert Feinberg Collection: Japanese Ceramics for the Twenty-first Century*,
 The Walters Art Museum, Baltimore, MD

- 2014 *Collect 2014*, Saatchi Gallery, London, UK
TEFAF Maastricht 2014, Yufuku Gallery, Tokyo at Maastricht, Netherlands
Tradition on Fire: Contemporary Japanese Ceramics from the Paul and Kathy Bissinger Collection. Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, CA
Paramita Museum Ceramic Art Grand Prize Exhibition
- 2016 *Craft Arts: Innovation of "Tradition and Avant-Garde," and the Present Day*, Crafts Gallery, National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo
- 2016-2017 *KŌGEI Transmission for the Future: Nakajima Harumi/Nakamura Takuo Two-Person Show*, Mitsukoshi Art Square, Nihonbashi, Tokyo
- 2017 *Timeless Elegance in Japanese Art: Celebrating 40 Years!*, Joan B Mirviss LTD, New York, NY

Selected Public Collections:

Art Institute of Chicago, IL
 Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, CA
 Garaku Retreat, Toyama
 Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY
 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa

References:

- "Crafts that Emerge from Clay," *Hono Geijutsu*, Vol.59, 1999
- "Kanazawa-Year End Tea Party," *Fujin*; December, 1996
- "Kōgei ga kūkan o umidasu toki: Nakamura Takuo no shigoto [When Decorative Arts Create a Space: the Works by Nakamura Takuo." *Chime Ginza* (July August, 1999): p. 16
- Mintz, Robert and Joan Mirviss with Betsy Feinberg. *The Betsy and Robert Feinberg Collection: Japanese Ceramics for the Twenty-first Century*. Exhibition Catalogue. The Walters Art Museum, Baltimore, 2014, pp. 86-87.
- "Nakamura Takuo," *Waraku* (December 2001): pp. 104-109
- NHK Promotions Incorporated. *Contemporary Kōgei Styles in Japan*. Collaboration with The National Museum of Modern Art Tokyo. October 8th, 2013- February 23rd, 2014.
- Robert Yellin, "Refining Loneliness," *WINDS*, Vol.11. (November 1998): pp. 43-45
- Sakamoto Yoshiaki and Kita Akira, "*Kanazawa: teshigoto no biishiki* [Kanazawa: Aesthetics of Hand Works]," *CONFORT* (August, 2002): pp. 139-145
- Toh: Hokuriku Potters* Vol. 78; (Kyoto Shoin: Japan), 1993.
- "Vessels Hidden in the Elegant Tradition"; *Fujin*; August, 1991
- Honoho Geijutsu*. No. 123 autumn 2015. pp.74-81. English Summary pp. 4