

CONVERSATIONS IN CLAY

*WEST MEETS EAST: A COLLECTOR'S PERSPECTIVE*

NOVEMBER 16, 2011 – JANUARY 6, 2012



Paul SOLDNER (1921-2011)

For the first time since Joan B. Mirviss LTD began representing Japanese ceramics in the mid '80s, Western artists will be presented together with their Japanese counterparts in this intimate exhibit entitled *Conversations in Clay – West Meets East: A Collector's Perspective*. The show, curated by Steven Korff in collaboration with Joan Mirviss, finds its inspiration in Korff's integrated collection of ceramic art that includes important artists from both backgrounds, from Hamada Shôji to Hans Coper, Carlo Zauli to Akiyama Yô.

Korff's interest in ceramic art started when as a young man, he began acquiring the work of Western ceramist, particularly those in the abstract expressionist tradition. As his exposure to ceramic art expanded, he became intrigued by the simplicity, duality and spirit of Japanese ceramics. The work of Kamoda Shôji in particular drew his eye more than a decade ago, and it was this interest that led him to Joan B. Mirviss and her expertise in Japanese modern and contemporary ceramic art.



WADA Morihiko (1944-2008)

# JOAN B MIRVISS LTD

Brought together by their mutual passion for the clay medium, Korff and Mirviss combine their extensive understanding of ceramic art in the West and the East to present this unique perspective on the relationship between the two traditions. The Western examples come entirely from Mr. Korff's collection, the Japanese works are from Joan B. Mirviss LTD and all are available for purchase.



Carlo ZAULI (1926-2002)

Setting it apart from other exhibitions with this theme, *Conversations in Clay* will explore the connections by pairing Western and Japanese modern and contemporary ceramic artists, creating visual dialogues. In this exhibit, Korff teams more than forty ceramists based on his curatorial eye and personal aesthetic. Comparing white-glazed work by Carlo Zauli with those sculptures covered in the celadon blue by Fukami Sueharu points to Zauli's influence on Fukami, with the forms

appearing as brothers from distant worlds. Hans Coper's form and simplicity match the Zen-like purity of Mihara Ken in the pairing of a large early Coper vase from 1952 and a recent Mihara sculpture. Peter Voulkos's large gas-fired plate from 1975 evokes a sundered tree relating to current work by Ogawa Machiko. The other pairings similarly reveal the commonalities between aesthetic expressions of modern Western and Eastern ceramic art.

Many of the Western artists studied in Japan, and others make use of Japanese techniques or glazing. All of the artists represented in the exhibit have achieved worldwide renown, with pieces in major museums as well as important public and private collections.

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FUKAMI Sueharu (b. 1947)

## Selected Artists List:

Ralph BACERRA (1938-2008)  
Joanna CONSTANTINIDIS (1927-2000)  
Hans COPER (1920-1981)  
Wouter DAM (b. 1957)  
Ruth DUCKWORTH (1919-2009)  
John GLICK (b. 1938)  
Chris GUSTIN (b. 1952)  
Ka Kwong HUI (1922-2003)  
Howard KOTTLER (1938-1989)  
Bruno LAVERDIERE (b. 1937)  
Bernard LEACH (1887-1979)  
Andrew LORD (b. 1950)  
Warren MACKENZIE (b. 1924)  
Leza MCVEY (1907-1984)  
Don REITZ (b. 1929)  
Lucie RIE (1902-1995)  
Tim ROWAN (b. 1967)  
Adrian SAXE (b. 1943)  
Jeff SHAPIRO (b. 1949)  
Martin SMITH (b. 1950)  
Paul SOLDNER (1921-2011)  
Robert TURNER (1913-2005)  
Peter VOULKOS (1924-2002)  
Kurt WEISER (b. 1950)  
Carlo ZAULI (1926-2002)

AKIYAMA Yô (b. 1953)  
FUKAMI Sueharu (b. 1947)  
HAMADA Shôji (1894-1978)  
HAMANAKA Gesson (b. 1953)  
HAYASHI Mamiko (b. 1959)  
KAMADA Kôji (b. 1948)  
KATÔ Yasukage (b. 1964)  
KATSUMATA Chieko (b. 1950)  
KAKUREZAKI Ryuichi (b. 1950)  
KAWAI Kanjirô (1890-1960)  
KISHI Eiko (b. 1948)  
KITAÔJI Rosanjin (1883-1959)  
KURIKI Tatsusuke (b. 1943)  
MIHARA Ken (b. 1958)  
MIYASHITA Zenji (b. 1939)  
MORINO Taimei Hiroaki (b. 1934)  
OGAWA Machiko (b. 1946)  
Shimaoka Tatsuzô (1919-2007)  
SUZUKI Gorô (b. 1941)  
SUZUKI Osamu (1926-2001)  
WADA Morihiko (1944-2008)  
YAGI Kazuo (1918-1979)  
YOSHIMURA Toshimi (b. 1949)

## About JOAN B MIRVISS LTD

Joan B. Mirviss has been a renowned expert in Japanese art, specializing in prints, paintings, screens and ceramics for more than thirty-five 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 many of the 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.