

JOAN B MIRVISS LTD

*Nami: Shikaku Geijutsu / Waves of Optical Illusion:  
Ogata Kamio*

SEPTEMBER 10 – OCTOBER 25, 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The unique and optically stunning marbled ceramics of Ogata Kamio (b. 1949) have earned this Hokkaidō artist memberships in two craft societies in Japan and entry into numerous international exhibitions, despite his rural birthplace. Joan B Mirviss LTD is excited to present this master ceramist's first solo exhibition outside Japan, *Nami: Shikaku Geijutsu / Waves of Optical Illusion: Ogata Kamio*, from September 10 to October 25, 2019.

Ogata Kamio is a self-taught artist who specializes in the extremely arduous art of *neriage*, or marbled clay. His mesmerizing vessels are what Louise Nicholson of Apollo magazine, compares to “a Fortuny creation in clay.”

He carefully assembles hundreds of paper-thin layers of graduated colored clay, from which he throws a ceramic with striated-linear surface patterns. To heighten the resemblance to waves, he then softly carves and pleats the surface, often on a diagonal, choosing a range of blue, gray, and white-toned clays for each paper-thin layer. The resulting vessels appear to have rivers flowing beneath and through their surfaces. Overhead lighting further enhances this optical and often vertiginous effect for the viewer.

Why choose to focus on waves? For Ogata the waves symbolize the instability of contemporary society. As he states:

*I try to express the spirit of our era, the gap between our physical  
and emotional selves, and how our daily lives are without focus.  
For me, this gap produces feelings of uncertainty and dizziness.*

Ogata Kamio, was born and raised in rural Hokkaidō without any formal ceramic training or connections. He was drawn to ancient Chinese *neriage* (marbled) clay vessels of the Tang period and after teaching himself the necessary techniques, he went on to teach pottery at the Shinshinozu



*Thorn*  
2017  
Marbled stoneware  
11 7/8 x 12 1/4 in.



*Waves*  
2019  
Marbled stoneware  
7 7/8 x 7 7/8 in.

JAPANESE ART Antique – Contemporary

39 East 78th Street, 4th floor | New York NY 10075

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Institute for the Handicapped. The Japanese clay world took notice after he won the Judge's special prize at the Mashiko Ceramic Exhibition in 2000 twice and the East Japan Area Prize at the 45<sup>th</sup> Japan Traditional Arts and Crafts New Works Competition.

Since gaining recognition, Ogata has exhibited extensively throughout Japan, participating in major shows in Tokyo, and at the Ibaraki Ceramic Art Museum. He has exhibited in multiple group exhibitions in North America, most recently at the Gardiner Museum in Toronto Canada. Additionally, Ogata's optically hypnotic vessels now reside in the permanent collections of eight major American museums, including The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

*Nami; Shikaku Geijutsu / Waves of Optical Illusion: Ogata Kamio* opening September 10, 2019 at Joan B Mirviss LTD marks the artist's first USA solo exhibition. The exhibition will run through October 25, 2019 during regular gallery hours: Mon. – Fri. 11 am – 6 pm.

## About Joan B. Mirviss LTD

Joan B. Mirviss has been a distinguished expert in Japanese art, specializing in fine art and ceramics for more than 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 the top Japanese clay artists. As a 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 and high-resolution images, please contact the gallery director, Tracy Causey-Jeffery, at 212-799-4021 or via [director@mirviss.com](mailto:director@mirviss.com).



*Landing on the Moon*  
2017  
Marbleized stoneware  
11 x 11 1/8 x 7 1/4 in.



*Waves*  
2019  
Marbleized stoneware

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