

KITAMURA JUNKO (b.1956)

Two influential teachers of ceramists instructed Kitamura Junko, one a co-founder of the *Sōdeisha* group, Suzuki Osamu, (1926-2001) and the other, Kondō Yutaka (1932-83), a professor at Kyoto City University of Art where Kitamura completed her MFA. Inspired by the ancient 15th century Korean tradition of *punch'ong* ware of slip-inlay, Kitamura creates thickly walled, wheel-thrown vessels with intricate impressed designs consisting of miniscule concentric dots and geometric punching that meld together with adjoining configurations to make intricate patterns recall textile patterns or celestial constellations when inlaid with a creamy white slip. Kitamura's sculptural forms have been featured in solo and group shows across the globe and now grace numerous museum collections around this country.

1956 Born in Kyoto
1982 Completed MFA program at the Kyoto City University of Art

Awards:

1980 Awarded the Acquisition Prize, *Kyoto City University of Art Exhibition*
1986 Awarded the Acquisition Prize, *Kyoto Selective Exhibitions of Arts and Crafts*
1990 Received the Fletcher Challenge Ceramics Award (also in 1992), New Zealand
1997 Received the Varazdin Prize, *World Triennial Exhibition of Small Ceramics*, Zagreb

Solo Exhibitions:

1980 Gallery Maronie, Kyoto (thereafter, every year through 1985, then 1987)
1987 Minami Aoyama Green Gallery, Tokyo (also in 1989 and 1992)
1990 Gallery Nakamura, Kyoto (also in 2000)
1991 Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo (also in 1992)
1992 Garth Clark Gallery, New York (also in 1993, 1995 and 1998)
1999 Contemporary Art NIKI, Tokyo

Group Exhibitions:

1984 *Kyoto Arts and Crafts Exhibition*, Kyoto Culture and Art Center (also in 1986)
1985 *Kyoto Selective Exhibitions of Arts and Crafts*, Kyoto Culture and Art Center
 Japan Ceramic Art Exhibition, Daimaru Art Gallery (also in 1987)
 Kyoto Art Exhibition, Kyoto Municipal Museum, Kyoto
 Ceramic Plaque 22, Wako Gallery, Tokyo
1986 *The Vessel '86*, Gallery Maronie, Kyoto
1987 *Ceramic Black and White*, Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo
1991 *Meme Pool*, Ohararyū kaikan, Tokyo
1992 *Contemporary Art & Crafts in Kyoto*, Museum of Kyoto
 International Ceramics Festival '92, Mino
1993 *Kome no utsuwa* (Rice Bowl Exhibition), Kyoto
1994 Duo show with Akiyama Yō, Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo
 Kijō kūkan no tame no āto wākusu (Artworks for the Desktop Space),
 Contemporary Art Niki, Tokyo (thereafter annually until 2000)
1997 *World Triennial Exhibition of Small Ceramics*, Zagreb, Croatia

- 1998 *Dialogue with Clay-The Spirit of Contemporary Ceramics*, Rias Ark Museum of Art, Iwate
- 2002 *Art Exhibition of Selected New Artists 2002*, Kyoto Municipal Museum
The Legacy of Modern Ceramic Art, Museum of Modern Ceramic Art, Gifu
- 2003 *Japan Ceramic Art Exhibition 2003 XVII*, Tokyo and Osaka
- 2004 *The Shape Cut Out: Japanese Contemporary Ceramic Art*, Museum of Modern Ceramic Art, Gifu
Books or Objects for the Space on the Table XI '04, Contemporary Art Niki, Tokyo
- 2005-06 *Contemporary Clay: Japanese Ceramics for the New Century*, Museum of Fine Arts Boston; Japan Society, New York
- 2006 *The Quintessence of Modern Japanese Ceramics*, Ibaraki Ceramics Art Museum
Modern Japanese Crafts from the Museum Collection: A History of Modern Crafts, The National Museum of Modern Art Tokyo, Tokyo
The Sense of Woman, Museum of Kyoto, Kyoto
- 2007 SOFA New York, Joan B. Mirviss LTD.
Breaking the Mold: Kata O Yaburu, Leading Japanese Women Ceramists, Joan B. Mirviss Ltd., New York
- 2007-12 *Soaring Voices – Contemporary Japanese Women Ceramic Artists*, The Shigaraki Ceramic Cultural Park, Shiga. Exhibition traveled to New Otani Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan; Le Musée National Céramique à Sèvres, Sèvres, France; Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento, CA; Katzen Arts Center at American University, Washington, DC; The Crow Collection of Asian Art, Dallas, TX; Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens, Delray Beach, FL; Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL; Arizona State University Art Museum, Tempe, AZ; Western Gallery at Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA; City Arts Center, Oklahoma City, OK; Maui Arts and Cultural Center, Kahului, HI
- 2008 *Figures in Hands*, Gallery Utsuwakan, Kyoto
20 Artists of Kyoto Contemporary Ceramics, Gallery Kyoto Bellezza, Kyoto
- 2008-09 *Generosity in Clay: Modern Japanese Ceramics from the Natalie Fitz-Gerald Collection*, Clark Center for Japanese Art and Culture, Hanford, CA
- 2009 *Contemporary Studio Ceramics: The Dauer Collection*, California State University, Sacramento, University Library Gallery
Celebrating Kyoto: Modern Arts from Boston's Sister City, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA
Touch Fire: Contemporary Japanese Ceramics by Women Artists, Smith College Museum of Art, Northampton, MA
Mirai no takaramono (The Future's Treasures), Takashimaya Art Gallery, Nihonbashi, Osaka, Shinjuku and Kyoto
- 2010 *Third Musée Tomo Prize, Contemporary Ceramics for the Tea Ceremony – Free Creativity*, Musée Tomo, Tokyo
- 2012 *Shifting Paradigms: Contemporary Ceramics*, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston
- 2013 *Yō Akiyama + Junko Kitamura*, Kakiden Gallery, Tokyo
The Eight Winds: Chinese Influence on Japanese Ceramics, Joan B. Mirviss Ltd., NY
Breaking the Mold, The Salon: Art and Design Fair with Joan B. Mirviss Ltd., NY
Fired Earth, Woven Bamboo. Contemporary Japanese Ceramics and Bamboo Art, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

2014 *The Betsy and Robert Feinberg Collection: Japanese Ceramics for the Twenty-first Century*, The Walters Art Museum, Baltimore

Public Collections:

Auckland War Memorial Museum, Auckland, New Zealand
British Museum, London, UK
Brooklyn Museum, NY
Ibaraki Ceramic Art Museum, Kasama
Kyoto City University of Art, Kyoto
Kyoto Culture Museum
Kyoto Prefecture
Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA
Museum of Modern Ceramic Art, Gifu
The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo
Saint Louis Art Museum, St. Louis, MO
Smith College Museum of Art, Northampton MA
Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC

Selected References:

- "Ceramic Artists in Kyoto; Kyoto Kōgei Today," *Honoho Geijutsu*, No. 68, Tokyo: Abe Shuppan, 2001, p. 49.
- Earle, Joe, *Contemporary Clay: Japanese Ceramics for the New Century*, Boston: Museum of Fine Arts, 2005, pp. 68-69.
- Samuel Morse and Todate Kazuko, *Touch Fire: Contemporary Japanese Ceramics by Women Artists*, Northampton: Smith College Museum of Art, 2009, pp. 49-53.
- Soaring Voices – Contemporary Japanese Women Ceramic Artists*, Shiga: The Shigaraki Ceramic Cultural Park, 2007, pp. 58-59, cat.nos. 72-74.
- Mikami, Miwa. "Focus Eye: Kitamura Junko", *Honoho Geijutu*, No. 115, Fall 2013, Tokyo: Abe Shuppan, 2013, pp. 88-91, English summery 4/6.
- Mintz, Robert and Joan Mirviss with Betsy Feinberg. *The Betsey and Robert Feinberg Collection: Japanese Ceramics for the Twenty-first Century*. Exhibition Catalogue. The Walters Art Museum, Baltimore, 2014.
- "*Fired Earth, Woven Bamboo. Contemporary Japanese Ceramics and Bamboo Art.*" (MFA Publications: Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, 2013).