

TOKUDA YASOKICHI III (MASAHIKO) (1933 – 2009)

Tokuda Yasokichi III was born in Ishikawa Prefecture as the eldest son of Tokuda Yasokichi II. After having withdrawn from the Kanazawa Arts and Crafts College, he helped his father to pursue the traditional family ceramic business. He learned the traditional methods of *kutani* glaze preparation and decoration from his grandfather, Tokuda Yasokichi I. At first Tokuda confined himself to traditional style pieces with a modern flavor. However, after 1973, he was prompted by his peers to develop a personal style. He invented a technique that enabled him to control the suffusion of *kutani* color glazes, creating a starburst effect that is, according to the artist, “somewhat in the manner of modern color-field painters such as Mark Rothko.”

1933	Born in Ishikawa Prefecture, the eldest son of Tokuda Yasokichi II
1954	Studied at Kanazawa College of Art, Ceramic Department. Studied under his grandfather (Yasokichi I) and father (Yasokichi II)
1978	Juror at <i>Japan Traditional Crafts Exhibition</i>
1988	Succeeded to the name, Tokuda Yasokichi
1997	Designated as a National Living Treasure

Awards:

1960	Komatsu-city Mayor's Award, <i>Contemporary Art Exhibition</i> , organized by Ishikawa Prefecture Art & Culture Association (also Mayor's award in '62, Governor's award in '61)
1964	Shizuoka Prefecture Governor's Award, <i>Asahi Ceramic Exhibition</i> (also Ishikawa Prefecture Governor's Award in '66, '68, '72, and Excellence Award in '70)
1971	NHK Chairperson Award, 18th <i>Japan Traditional Crafts Exhibition</i> (annually since then winning several important prizes)
1977	Japan Art Crafts Association Patron's Prize, 24th <i>Japan Traditional Crafts Exhibition</i> (invited artist in '78)
1984	Work acquired by The Ministry of Cultural Property
1985	Northern Country Cultural Award, <i>400 Years of Japanese Porcelain</i> , organized by Asahi Newspaper
1986	Japan Ceramic Association Prize Designated as a Cultural Property of the Ishikawa Prefecture for <i>Kutani</i> ware
1988	The 3rd Fujiwara Kei Memorial Award
1990	Grand Prize, <i>1990 International Ceramic Exhibition</i>
1991	Prince Chichibu Trophy, 11th <i>Japan Ceramics Exhibition</i>
1992	Received prize from Prince Mikasano Miya
1993	Received Purple Ribbon Medal from Emperor
1997	Grand prize, 10th Mokichi Okada Competition, MOA Museum, Atami Made an Honorary Citizen of Komatsu city, Ishikawa Prefecture

Solo Exhibitions:

1986	<i>Egypt-Japan Week</i> , Cairo, Egypt Paris-Japan Culture, Paris, France
1987	Mitsukoshi Art Gallery, Nihonbashi, Tokyo (also in '91)

- 1988 *LA-Japan Week*, Japanese Consulate in Los Angeles, CA
Karinbō, Kanazawa
- 1990 *Moscow-Japan Week*, Moscow Youth Hall, Moscow, Russia
- 1991 Washington Culture Information Center, Washington D.C.
Bank of Boston, organized by The Japanese Consulate in Boston, MA
Nippon Club, organized by The Japanese Consulate in New York, NY
Japanese Culture Exhibition: Tokuda Yasokichi, Berlin, Germany
- 1992 Shizuoka Country Club, sponsored by Kawamura Foundation
- 1994 Lafayette Center Gallery and Consulate of Washington D.C. (exhibited as a part of
Cherry Blossom Festival, Washington D.C.)
- 1996 Exhibition in Detroit, MI
- 2000 Japan Cultural Center, Rome, Italy
- 2002 Iwataya, Kumamoto
- 2003 *The Master of Yosai Porcelain: Tokuda Yasokichi at Seventy*, Mitsukoshi Art
Gallery, Tokyo
- 2010 *The Master of Yosai Porcelain: Tokuda Yasokichi memorial*, Kintetsu Art
Gallery, Osaka
29 Masters: Living National Treasures, Hankyū Art Gallery, Osaka
- 2011-12 *The Power of Colour, Drawing on the Past*, MOA Museum of Art, Atami, Shizuoka
(with multiple trips to museums throughout Japan)

Group Exhibitions:

- 1953 *Contemporary Art Exhibition*, organized by Ishikawa Prefecture Art & Culture
Association (thereafter, entered many times)
- 1963 *Asahi Ceramic Exhibition*
Nitten Exhibition (also in '64-'66, '68 and subsequently 4 times)
- 1964 Entry to *Japan Contemporary Crafts & Art Exhibition*
- 1965 *Berlin Art Festival*, Berlin, Germany
- 1978 *Japanese Vases 100*, Suntory Museum, Tokyo
- 1980 *Japanese Beauty: 100 Selected Works of Contemporary Ceramics*, Tōkyū Art
Gallery, Tokyo
- 1981 *Japan-Taiwan Contemporary Ceramic Exhibition*, Taipei National Museum of History,
Taipei, Taiwan
- 1983 *All Japan Traditional Crafts Selected Works Exhibition*
30 Years of Traditional Crafts, National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo
- 1984 *Japanese Ceramics: 100 Plates and Bowls*, Suntory Museum, Tokyo
- 1989 *Japan-Thailand 4 Ceramic Artist Exhibition*, National Bangkok Culture Center,
Bangkok, Thailand
- 1990 *Japanese Contemporary Craft Exhibition*, a travel exhibition to Northern Europe,
organized by The Japan Foundation, The National Museum of Art, Tokyo and
Asahi Newspaper
- 1992 *La Ceramique au Japon: Un Art Majeur 58 Createurs Contemporains*, Mitsukoshi
Etoile, Paris, France
- 1993 *Japanese Contemporary Ceramics*, a traveling exhibition to six major US cities
organized by The Japan Foundation
- 1995 *Close up of Japan: Japanese Porcelain*, organized by Ministry of Culture in Brazil, San
Paulo, Brazil

- Japanese Contemporary Ceramics: Three Masters*, Japanese Consulate of Chicago, International Culture Center, Chicago, IL and Detroit, MI
- 1996 *Quiet Clarity "Rin": Beauty in Contemporary Ceramics*, Shigaraki Ceramic Park, Shiga
- 2006 *Cool & Sophisticated: Contemporary Master Ceramists of Eastern Japan*, Ibaraki Ceramic Art Museum, Ibaraki
- 2008-09 *The Dauer Collection*, California State University, Sacramento, University Library Gallery, Sacramento, CA
- 2009 *Through the Seasons: Japanese Art in Nature*, Stone Hill Center, Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute, Williamstown, MA
- 2013 *Evolution of Chinese Ceramics and their Influence*, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY
- 2014 *The Betsy and Robert Feinberg Collection: Japanese Ceramics for the Twenty-first Century*, The Walters Art Museum, Baltimore, MD
- Tradition on Fire: Contemporary Japanese Ceramics from the Paul and Kathy Bissinger Collection*, Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, CA

Selected Public Collections:

British Museum, London, United Kingdom
 Chazen Museum of Art, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI
 Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY
 Ministry of Culture, Japan
 National Museum, Tokyo
 National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo
 Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C.

References:

- Kutani Saiyū-jiki: The Works of Tokuda Yasokichi; A Kaleidoscope of Imaginative Colors*, Kunsthal Rotterdam, 1998.
- The Legacy of Modern Ceramic Art, Part 1: From Artisan to Artist, The Evolution of Japanese Ceramic Art*, Museum of Modern Ceramic Art, Gifu, 2002, p.111.
- Mintz, Robert and Joan Mirviss with Betsy Feinberg. *The Betsy and Robert Feinberg Collection: Japanese Ceramics for the Twenty-first Century*. Baltimore: The Walters Art Museum, 2014.
- Murase, Miyeko, *Through the Seasons: Japanese Art in Nature*, New Haven: Yale University Press, 2009, cat. no.17.
- Ningen Kokuhō Tokuda Yasokichi shinsaku ten*, Tokyo: Mitsukoshi, 1997.
- Quiet Clarity "RIN": Beauty in Contemporary*, Shiga: The Museum of Contemporary Ceramic Art, The Shigaraki Ceramic Cultural Park, 1996, pp. 58-61.
- Sandai Tokuda Yasokichi Yōsai ten*, Kumamoto: Iwataya, 2002.
- Wege zur Japanischen Keramik: Tradition in der Gegenwart*, Berlin: Museum für Ostasiatische Kunst zu Berlin, 2005