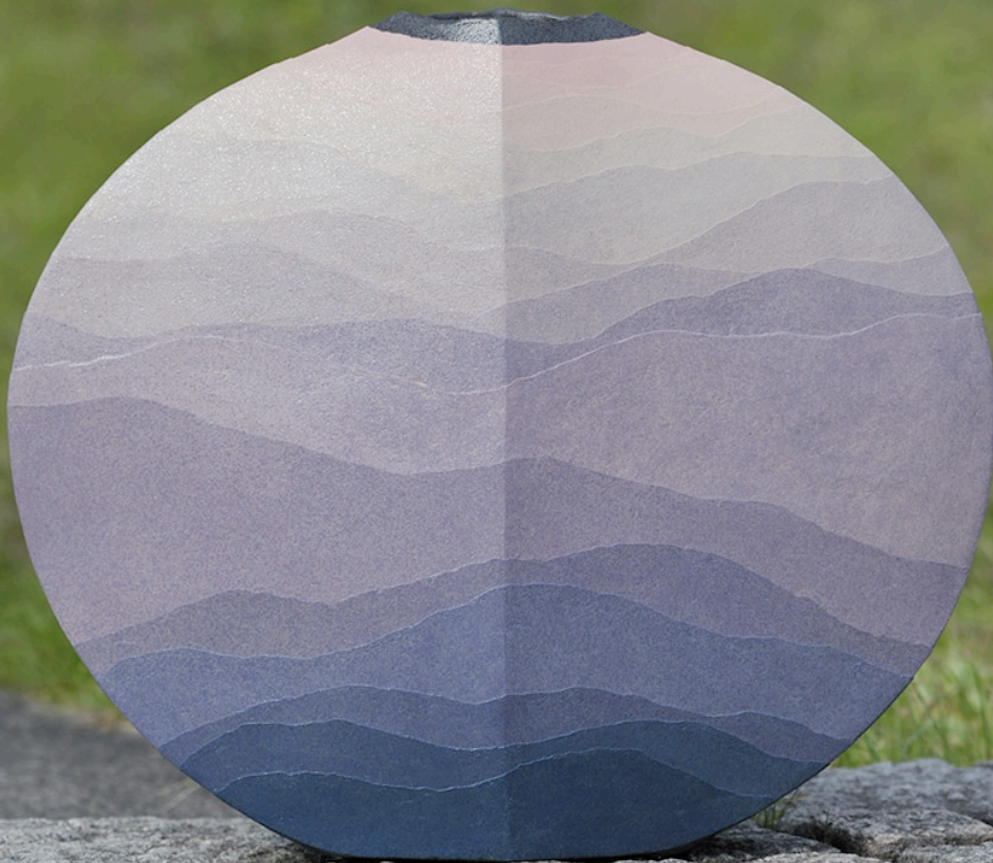


# *Mountains and Seas*

The Evocative Ceramics of  
Miyashita Zenji



JOAN B MIRVISS LTD



Suggestive of rolling waves, swirling currents, distant hills, drifting clouds, colorful sunsets and multihued sunrises, the surface patterning on the remarkable vessels created by Miyashita Zenji (b. 1939), are made from applications of extremely thin layers of colored clay (*saideri*). Only 2 or 3 millimeters in thickness and applied in irregular bands covering the surface from top to bottom of each uniquely shaped vessel, they range in gradient tones from deep purple to faint pink or from dark blue to the palest green and yellow. In other sculptural work, insertions of black-on-black linear patterns are juxtaposed against narrow rainbow-like bands that border their profiles. The largely slab-built forms vary from undulating geometric shapes to soft, breathing biomorphic sculptures. Nearly always asymmetrical, these uniquely shaped works perfectly marry sculptural form with colorful surface detail, becoming three-dimensional landscape scenes. Full of movement, each piece is accorded a poetic title, offering a key into the artist's source of inspiration.

Miyashita was born in Kyoto to the eldest son of the distinguished porcelain artist, Miyashita Zenjû (1901-1968). He was trained academically by the ceramic sculptor Kiyomizu Kyûbei at Kyoto Art University, where Miyashita later taught from 1966-85. Soon thereafter his career took off after affiliating with the prestigious Nitten Group, an association of artists working in a variety of media who exhibit in annual competitions at the Tokyo Metropolitan Museum. After his first exhibition there in 1964, Miyashita quickly established himself as a major talent and received numerous prizes. By 1993, Miyashita had already won this event 18 times. More recently, in 2005, he was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award and Cultural Award by both the city and Prefecture of Kyoto. His work has been shown in exhibitions worldwide and been acquired by major museums throughout Japan, the United States and Europe, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo, Royal Ontario Museum, British Museum and Musée des Arts Décoratifs, Paris. Joan B. Mirviss Ltd is honored to present his first solo exhibition outside of Japan at SOFA / NY and then at our Madison Avenue Gallery.

FRONT COVER *Clear Sky* 20 x 27 1/2 x 7 inches  
BACK COVER LEFT *Billow II* 6 1/4 x 8 1/8 x 7 1/2 inches  
BACK COVER RIGHT *Billow I* 7 1/2 x 8 5/8 x 8 1/2 inches





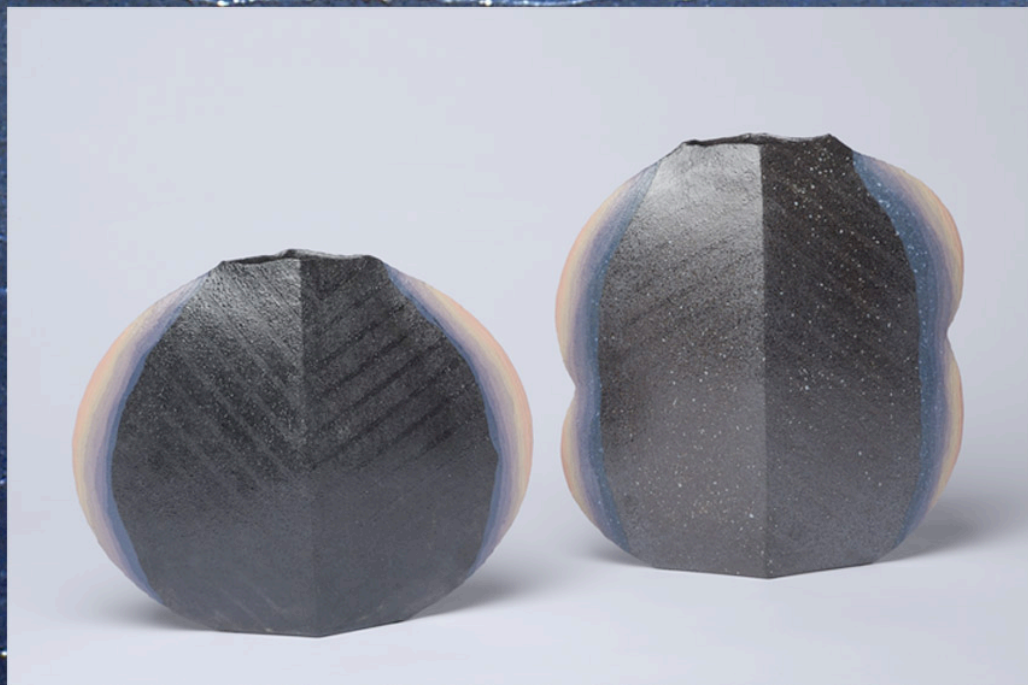
*Gust of Wind* 12 1/2 x 10 3/4 x 5 3/4 inches



*Rising Air* 22 x 13 3/4 x 8 inches

"In each work, my intention is to create a delightful musical performance — a harmony of color blending with a restrained sense of the clay — becoming a canvas for evocative tranquil landscapes."

Miyashita Zenji



LEFT *Midnight Rainbow I* 10 1/2 x 12 5/8 x 5 3/4 inches  
RIGHT *Midnight Rainbow II* 12 5/8 x 11 1/2 x 4 1/2 inches



# MIYASHITA ZENJI

*at SOFA New York 2009*  
*Park Avenue Armory at 67th Street*  
*April 16 - 17 11 am - 8 pm*  
*April 18 11 am - 7 pm*  
*April 19 12 - 6 pm*

*at Joan B Mirviss LTD*  
*April 21 - May 15*  
*Tuesday - Friday 12 - 5 pm*  
*and by appointment*



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