

鼓動 *KODÔ/PULSE*

Awakenings in Clay

the sculptural art of
MIHARA KEN



J O A N B M I R V I S S L T D



Joan B. Mirviss Ltd. is honored to open its autumn season with an exhibition of more than twenty new works by Japanese master ceramist **MIHARA KEN** (b. 1958). Marking the US debut of Mihara's latest series entitled *Kodô* (literally "pulse"), this will be the artist's second solo exhibition in the US and with the gallery.

Kodô is the latest body of work in an ever-evolving dialogue between this artist and his medium. Mihara's first collection was titled 'Serenity,' the next 'Genesis' and now, with 'Pulse,' his oeuvre has taken on a sense of movement and vitality. As the title suggests, these works embody an exciting

burst of energy. Using clay from his native town of Izumo, the mystical enclave where the Shinto gods are said to return each October, Mihara hand-builds all of his forms in an organic process informed as much by the surrounding landscape as by his direct experience handling the clay. Previously known for austere linear vessels evocative of ancient bronzes, he now creates forms that evince both fluidity and plasticity. These strong yet serene forms are taken in a fresh and original direction.

Having trained under the *mingei* potter Funaki Kenji (b. 1927), Mihara has been pursuing his unique approach and aesthetic since 1983 when he set up his own studio. "I consider it my job to help the clay express its beauty," Mihara recently stated. He is an artist who continues to listen to his medium, resulting in the steady rise of his reputation both in the Japanese clay world as well as the international art market.

Mihara was awarded the prestigious Japan Ceramic Society Award in 2008 and Shizuoka Prefecture's Cultural Encouragement Award in 2009, adding to the long list of prizes and accolades he has received to date. His works can be found in the collections of many important museums in Japan and in the West including the Los Angeles County Museum of Art; Metropolitan Museum of Art; National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo; New Orleans Museum of Art; Peabody Essex Museum; Philadelphia Museum of Art; Victoria & Albert Museum, London; and Yale University Art Gallery.



Kodô 14.13 x 8 x 7.25 inches



Kodô 19.75 x 20 x 13.63 inches



Kodô 14.75 x 17 x 16.5 inches



Kodô 14.5 x 17.38 x 6.88 inches

All works: Multi-fired unglazed stoneware, 2011
Photography: Kobayashi Tsunehiro
COVER: *Kodô* 15 x 16.13 x 17.13 inches



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MIHARA KEN

09.12.11 - 10.29.11

Monday - Friday

11 am - 6 pm

SATURDAYS BY APPOINTMENT

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