

JOAN B MIRVISS LTD

# Architect of the Bizen Renaissance: Mori Tōgaku

May 7–June 26, 2026



Group of works by Mori Tōgaku.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** — This May, Joan B Mirviss LTD is honored to present, in conjunction with Shibuya Kurodatoen Co. Ltd., *Architect of the Bizen Renaissance: Mori Tōgaku*. While Mori Tōgaku's (b. 1937) name has become synonymous in Japan with contemporary Bizen ceramics, *Architect of the Bizen Renaissance* marks the artist's first solo show and retrospective outside of Japan. Featuring twenty-three works that span the artist's career, this exhibition presents the remarkable aesthetic diversity that this master ceramist has been able to achieve within the Bizen tradition.

Mori Tōgaku was born on March 23, 1937, in the town of Imbe, historically part of Bizen Province. His family has been making ceramics there since the Muromachi period (1336–1573), when they were officially designated one of the six Bizen ceramic lineages that established the region's tradition of unglazed, wood-fired ceramics. A true virtuoso in this challenging and often unpredictable ceramic style, Mori Tōgaku has long impressed Japanese art critics with his mastery of highly coveted surface effects, such as scarlet straw marks (*hidasuki*) and trailing natural ash glaze reminiscent of sesame seeds (*nagare goma*), both of which can only be achieved through meticulous wood-firing. Mori has spent decades avidly researching historical sherds and kiln sites for clues about historical firing techniques. His efforts to reconstruct the communal Great Kilns used by medieval Bizen ceramists have become a central component of his artistic legacy. Since 1980, Mori has constructed several climbing Great Kilns, including the 53-meter-long Sabukaze Great Kiln and the 85-meter-long New Sabukaze Great Kiln. In this exhibition, we are delighted to present works that were fired in these magnificent kilns.

39 East 78th Street, Fl 4, New York, NY 10075



*Banded Pattern Vessel*  
1990  
Unglazed stoneware  
Fired in Sabukaze Great Kiln  
15 1/2 x 12 3/4 in.



Multi-faceted vessel with four-lobed mouth  
1980–90  
Unglazed stoneware  
20 1/4 x 14 1/2 x 15 in.



Vase with dripping ash glaze (*nagare goma*)  
2015  
Unglazed stoneware with natural ash glaze  
Fired in New Sabukaze Great Kiln  
12 1/2 x 11 1/2 x 11 1/2 in.

Mori combines his unrivaled technical prowess with a keenly contemporary and sculptural sense of form. His curvilinear *Banded Pattern* vessels undulate with dynamic rhythm, while the sharp angles of his geometrically faceted vessels cast intriguing shadows across the surface of his clay. Earlier in his career, he also experimented with techniques not typically employed in Bizen ceramics, such as *nerikomi* marbleization and oxidized silver or platinum surface decorations, both of which he typically applied to low-fired earthenware. The resulting soft and porous texture of these works is reminiscent of ancient objects unearthed in an archeological dig, imbuing a sense of timelessness to these more experimental designs.

A truly unique ceramic artist, Mori Tōgaku has used his deep knowledge of Bizen ceramic techniques to bring an entirely contemporary expression of Bizen to life. *Architect of the Bizen Renaissance* offers a wonderful opportunity to explore the artist's original approach to clay.

*Architect of the Bizen Renaissance: Mori Tōgaku* opens on May 7 and runs through June 26. The gallery is open to visitors weekdays, 11am to 6pm, and by appointment. The exhibition will also be accessible online at [www.mirviss.com](http://www.mirviss.com).

#### About Joan B Mirviss LTD

With nearly fifty years of experience, Joan B. Mirviss is a pillar in the field of Japanese art. As a dealer, scholar, curator, and advisor, she has been the driving force championing the top Japanese ceramic artists, who she represents exclusively, and whose works she has placed in major museums around the globe. Widely published as a highly respected expert, Mirviss has built many institutional and private collections of Japanese art. Joan B Mirviss LTD exhibits modern and contemporary Japanese ceramics, ukiyo-e, and Japanese paintings from its exclusive Madison Avenue location in New York City.

For more information, please contact us at 212-799-4021 or [director@mirviss.com](mailto:director@mirviss.com).