

## SIX CELESTIALS

Tomimoto Kenkichi, Kawai Kanjirō, Ishiguro Munemaro,  
Kamoda Shōji, Okabe Mineo & Tanaka Sajirō

OPENING MARCH 19, 2026, AS PART OF ASIA WEEK NEW YORK

OPENING PARTY: MARCH 19, 2026, 5PM–8PM

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For Asia Week New York this coming March, Joan B Mirviss LTD, in collaboration with Shibuya Kurodatoen, Co., LTD, presents **Six Celestials**, an exhibition featuring masterpieces by six artists whose seminal careers established the foundations of contemporary Japanese clay art. By placing their diverse bodies of work in conversation, the exhibition highlights the ways in which each of these twentieth-century icons helped pave the way for the emergence of Japanese ceramics as it exists today—one of the most dynamic and exciting fields of contemporary art.

Born as the nineteenth century drew to a close, three of the artists in this exhibition played critical roles ushering Japanese clay into the twentieth century. As the founder of the ceramics department at Kyoto City University of Arts and longtime professor, **Tomimoto Kenkichi** (1886-1963) was a fierce advocate of individuality, a trait that is captured in his own elegantly formed and decorated porcelain vessels as well as in the diverse body of work that has been produced by his many students. The work of **Ishiguro Munemaro** (1893-1968) is bold and undeniably modern even as it was rooted in the ancient Chinese techniques that he dedicated his life to researching. In contrast with these contemporaries of his, both of whom were designated with the prestigious title of Living National Treasure for their work, **Kawai Kanjirō** (1890-1966) held true to the spirit of the *Mingei* (folk art) Movement he helped pioneer by eschewing official honors or recognition for his undisputed mastery of historical glazes.

As representatives of the next generation, the remaining three artists of this exhibition developed their ceramic legacies in the second half of the twentieth century. Though he studied the historical glazes of Shino, Oribe, and celadon,



**Tomimoto Kenkichi** (1886-1963)  
*Iro-e* platter with floral patterning  
1936  
Porcelain with enamel overglaze  
2 x 11 1/4 x 11 1/4 in.



**Ishiguro Munemaro** (1893-1968)  
Platter with motif of cricket and grasses  
ca. 1965  
Glazed stoneware  
2 1/2 x 12 in.



**Kawai Kanjirō** (1890-1966)  
*Sançai* (three-color) splash vessel  
ca. 1960  
Glazed stoneware  
8 1/2 x 7 3/4 x 4 in.

**Okabe Mineo** (1919-1990) breathed new life into these traditions with his innovative and entirely unique forms. With his ever-evolving palette of glazes, patterns, and forms, **Kamoda Shōji** (1933-1983) created some of the most evocative and sought-after works of the twentieth century. Finally, **Tanaka Sajirō** (b. 1937) continues to hone his skills in the art of wood-firing with natural glazes to create vibrant and contemporary works inspired by the historical tradition of Karatsu wares.

This exhibition features more than forty masterpieces equally distributed between these six artists, many of which have been exhibited and published in Japan. Works by these luminaries can be found in the collections of prominent museums worldwide, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, NY; Art Institute of Chicago, IL; National Museum of Asian Art, Washington, D.C.; National Museums of Modern Art, Kyoto and Tokyo; Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; Musée Tomo, Tokyo; Victoria & Albert Museum, London; and Minneapolis Institute of Art, MN.

*Six Celestials* opens on March 19 and runs through April. The gallery is open to visitors weekdays, 11 am to 6pm and by appointment. For Asia Week New York, we will also have special weekend hours on Saturday, March 21 (11am to 6pm) and Sunday, March 22 (12pm to 5pm). The exhibition will also be accessible online at [www.mirviss.com](http://www.mirviss.com).

#### About Joan B Mirviss LTD

With more than forty-five 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).



**Okabe Mineo** (1919-1990)  
Oribe-glazed round waterjar with carved banding  
ca. 1964  
Glazed stoneware  
6 x 6 1/4 x 6 in.



**Kamoda Shōji** (1933-1983)  
Vessel with undulating bands of red, green, and cream  
1971  
Glazed stoneware  
11 7/8 x 6 1/8 x 6 in.



**Tanaka Sajirō** (b. 1937)  
Karatsu teabowl with dripping burgundy glaze, titled *Vermillion Cloud (Shu'un)*  
2025  
Glazed stoneware  
4 3/8 x 5 3/8 in.