



FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION

Work by Miraku Kamei XV and Hisaaki Kamei

Pucker Gallery • Boston



FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION

Work by Miraku Kamei XV and Hisaaki Kamei

The formal tea ceremony, or *chanoyu*, originated in 11th-century China and was adopted by the Japanese 400 years later, primarily by ruling classes to reinforce social ties and structures. Held in silence, tea ceremonies place great emphasis on the interaction between the host, guests, and the tea master. The immersive quality of the choreographic ritual provides time and space for reflection and contemplation, paying homage to its Zen Buddhist roots. The intimacy of these ceremonies manifested and engrained itself early on in the physical vessels and utensils commonly used in the tea ceremony: a flower vase (*hanaire*); tea bowl (*chawan*); tea caddy (*chaire*); sweets tray (*kashiki*); and a water container (*mizusashi*). Through restricted production, limited circulation, and the patronage system under which skilled ceramicists worked, the Kuroda Lord and his subordinates controlled the Japanese tea ceremony.

Over time, ceramic traditions developed, including the extraordinary Takatori ware. Deceptively simple and modest, Takatori ware is incredibly controlled and pristine. While a piece may look spontaneous, the fine and impressionable clay leaves little room for error. Careful attention is paid to the glaze composition, quality of the clay, and the temperatures and conditions of the kiln. Producing clean glazed surfaces is particularly challenging.

Access to the sacred tea ceremony ritual spread across Japan with the advent of democratization, at the end of the Edo period in 1868. This societal

change proved a difficult transition for most ceramicist families, whose work had never before been freely sold. Takatori ware production almost became extinct, with the exception of the Kamei family. Decedents of a kiln dating back to 1606, the Kamei family resides in Fukuoka and occupies a central place in the legacy and production of Takatori ware. For 16 generations, knowledge has passed from father to son, with each new master drawing on what has preceded him. Throughout the generations, the Kameis have discovered and resurrected patterns and techniques dating back hundreds of years. The youngest Kamei, Hisaaki, explores the past through his use of ribbed *mizusashis* and *chawans*, while adding cobalt into his clay bodies to achieve a striking blue color.

The revival of the dark Oribe glazes shows the continuous growth and new mastery of each Kamei generation. Controlled craftsmanship is noticeable in both glaze compositions and design, such as the shippo openwork. Measured by eye then cut by hand, the shippo design openwork of the father, Miraku Kamei XV, has been successfully adopted by the son, Hisaaki. Both exemplify the precise nature and intense level of skill required to execute this type of ceramics.

The Kamei family's dedication to tradition and culture has brought Takatori ware into the twenty-first century. With the recent birth of Hisaaki's son, might the ceramic world see a 17th generation carry Takatori ware into the future?

—ROSE MONTERA

ON THE COVER (ALL WORKS BY MIRAKU KAMEI XV):

Top Left: FLOWER VASE (HANAIRE)

Oribe, takatori, kinuta (hammer)
8.5 x 4 x 4"
XV187

Top Right: TEA CONTAINER (CHAIRE)

Oribe, takatori
4 x 2.75 x 2.75"
XV191

Bottom: TEA BOWL (CHAWAN)

Oribe, takatori, yellow glaze
3.25 x 5 x 5"
XV189

All works are stoneware.



Miraku Kamei XV
FLOWER VASE (HANAIRE)
 Ear-shaped handles, white glaze decoration,
 shippo design openwork
 10 x 5.25 x 5"
 XV185



Miraku Kamei XV
WATER CONTAINER (MIZUSASHI)
 Kakewake with lid
 7 x 6.5 x 6.5"
 XV180



Hisaaki Kamei
WATER CONTAINER (MIZUSASHI)
 Shippo design openwork
 6.25 x 6.5 x 6.5"
 HK25



Hisaaki Kamei
FLOWER VASE (HANAIRE)
 Fish handles
 10.25 x 4.5 x 4.5"
 HK30



TEA CONTAINER (CHAIRE)
Ear-shaped handles, oribe, takatori
3.75 x 2.75 x 2.75"
XV192



WATER CONTAINER (MIZUSASHI)
Fan-shape form with lacquer lid, kakewake glaze
6 x 8.5 x 5.5"
XV167



WATER CONTAINER (MIZUSASHI)
Yellow glaze, axle shape
7.5 x 6.5 x 6.5"
XV181



FLOWER VASE (HANAIRE)
Carp-shaped handles, black glaze
12.5 x 6.5 x 6.5"
XV186

MIRAKU KAMEI XV

Miraku Kamei XV was born Masahisa Kamei in 1960, the eldest son of Miraku Kamei XIV, master potter of Takatori ware. He completed his university degree in Ceramics at Kyoto Saga University of Arts and took the title of the fifteenth generation in 2001. Mr. Kamei has been carrying on the tradition of Takatori ware for more than thirty years. In addition to exhibiting and promoting Takatori ware around Japan, he is an active teacher, training students in ceramics at a number of institutions around his home city of Fukuoka. He is also president of the Fukuoka/Hakata branch of the Japan Ceramics Association and a member of numerous arts organizations. In 2016, Kamei received the award of Contemporary Master Craftsman, designated to a craftsman with excellent skills from Fukuoka, Japan.

ARTIST STATEMENT

Takatori ware, which was born in 1606, moved its kiln from one place to another for a long time before it was settled. Takatori works have different styles depending on the period in which they were made. Enshu Kobori has such a solid and strong presence in Takatori ware, no one can possibly discuss Takatori ware without mentioning his name. His style is a dominant one in the modern Takatori ware.

For this exhibition, I focused on Oribe Furuta (the master of Enshu Kobori during the early period of Takatori Oribe Furuta history), and I created pieces adding my own interpretation. I call it Oribe Takatori. Enshu preferred gracious and thin style, while Oribe preferred *heugeta* (distorted) pieces. I hope you enjoy the differences of style.

—KAMEI MIRAKU XV



GLAZED VASE
7.75 x 7.5 x 7.5"
XV179



GLAZED VASE
7.5 x 7.5 x 7.5"
XV178



TEA BOWL (CHAWAN)
Oribe, takatori, black glaze
3 x 5 x 5"
XV188



GLAZED VASE
7.5 x 7 x 7"
XV177



EASTER EGG NO. 1
7.75 x 6.5 x 6.5"
XV182



EASTER EGG NO. 2
8.5 x 6.75 x 6.75"
XV183



TEA BOWL (CHAWAN)
 Butterfly decoration
 3 x 5 x 5"
 XV141



TEA BOWL (CHAWAN)
 Takatori, glazed
 2.75 x 5 x 5"
 XV190



TEA BOWL (CHAWAN)
 "Golden Flower" (kinka) glaze
 2.5 x 4.75 x 4.75"
 XV175

TEA BOWL (CHAWAN)
 Old Takatori style
 3 x 4.75 x 4.75"
 XV165



FLOWER VASE (HANAIRE)
Shippo design, handles
9.5 x 4.75 x 4.75"
XV83



TEA BOWL (CHAWAN)
Black tenmoku glaze
3 x 5.25 x 5.25"
XV143



WATER CONTAINER (MIZUSASHI)
Lacquer lid, altered form and cylindrical handles, kakewake
6.5 x 7.5 x 7.5"
XV170



TEA CADDY (CHAIRE)
Shouldered jar (katatsuki) form
3 x 2.5 x 2.5"
XV10



WATER CONTAINER (MIZUSASHI)
Lacquer lid, cylindrical handles, and kakewake
7 x 6.75 x 6"
XV88



FLOWER VASE (HANAIRE)
Yellow glaze
9.25 x 4.75 x 4.75"
XV36



FLOWER VASE (HANAIRE)
Gourd form, kakewake
11.5 x 3.5 x 3.5"
XV158



INCENSE BURNER (KORO)
Helmet form with ame glaze
6.5 x 5.25 x 5.25"
XV149



INCENSE BURNER (KORO)
Helmet form with golden flower pattern
6 x 5 x 5"
XV148



SWEETS TRAY (KASHIKI)
(SIDE AND TOP VIEW)
 Flower form with butterfly openwork decoration
 3.25 x 8.5 x 8.5"
 XV123



TEA BOWL (CHAWAN)
 Shippo design openwork foot
 3.25 x 5 x 5"
 XV98



TEA BOWL (CHAWAN)
 Seam decoration, kakewake
 3 x 4.5 x 4.5"
 XV159



WATER CONTAINER (MIZUSASHI)
Ceramic lid, cherry handles, kakewake
7.25 x 7 x 7"
XV93



TEA BOWL (CHAWAN)
Takatori style
2.75 x 5.25 x 5.25"
XV99



FLOWER VASE (HANAIRE)
Wide mouth, oribe, takatori
10 x 4 x 4"
XV184



WATER CONTAINER (MIZUSASHI)
Lacquer lid, cylinder form and cylindrical handles, kakewake
6.5 x 7.5 x 7.5"
XV169



TEA BOWL (CHAWAN)
Raised stamp decoration, kakewake
3 x 4.75 x 4.75"
XV61



TEA BOWL (CHAWAN)
Kakewake
3 x 4.5 x 4.5"
XV106



WATER CONTAINER (MIZUSASHI)

Takatori, three-colored
7.25 x 6.75 x 6.75"
HK26



TEA BOWL (CHAWAN)

Old Takatori style, white glaze
3.25 x 5 x 5"
HK35



TEA BOWL (CHAWAN)

Old Takatori style, icchingake
3.25 x 5.25 x 5"
HK36



WATER CONTAINER (MIZUSASHI)

Lacquer lid
6.5 x 6.75 x 6.75"
HK14



WATER CONTAINER (MIZUSASHI)

Lacquer lid, takatori glaze
6.75 x 7.5 x 7.5"
HK22

HISAAKI KAMEI

H isaaki Kamei was born as the first son of Takatoriyaki Miraku Kamei XV. Takatori started as Kuroda Clan's kiln and has been creating pottery for tea ceremony for 400 years. Based on a tea master Enshu Kobori's *kirei sabi* (bright sabi), each generation has inherited from previous masters several techniques, including symmetrical shapes, thin structures, and gradation using seven different traditional glazes. Each master has moved forward creating his own pottery. Hisaaki Kamei received a B.A. at the School of Business at Hosei University and graduated from the Forming Department, Kyoto Prefecture Pottery School. He is a Board Member of the Japan-France Tea Ceremony Association and has recently lectured in Cameroon and France.



WATER CONTAINER (MIZUSASHI)

Lacquer lid
5 x 8 x 8"
HK15



TEA BOWL (CHAWAN)

Old Takatori style, icchin, kakewake
3.5 x 5.5 x 4.75"
HK33



TEA BOWL (CHAWAN)

Old Takatori style, icchingake
3.25 x 5.5 x 6"
HK31



TEA BOWL (CHAWAN)

Old Takatori style, icchin, kakewake
3.25 x 5.5 x 5"
HK32



FLOWER VASE (HANAIRE)
Aurora stripe
9.25 x 3.75 x 3.75"
HK29



WATER CONTAINER (MIZUSASHI)
Gourd-shaped with a plum knot
6.5 x 6.5 x 6.5"
HK27



TEA BOWL (CHAWAN)
Old Takatori style, icchingake
3 x 5.5 x 5.5"
HK37



TEA BOWL (CHAWAN)
Old Takatori style, icchingake
3 x 5.5 x 5.5"
HK38



TEA BOWL (CHAWAN)
Takatori, "Clear Mirror"
3.25 x 4.75 x 4.75"
HK34



TEA BOWL (CHAWAN)
2.5 x 4.5 x 4.5"
HK18



TEA BOWL (CHAWAN)
Shippo design openwork foot
3.5 x 5 x 5"
HK6



FLOWER VASE (HANAIRE)
Gourd form
9.5 x 3.25 x 3.25"
HK5



TEA BOWL (CHAWAN)
3.75 x 5 x 5"
HK21



FLOWER VASE (HANAIRE)
Old Takatori style
9 x 4.25 x 4.25"
HK28



TEA BOWL (CHAWAN)
3.5 x 5 x 5"
HK20



TEA BOWL (CHAWAN)
3.5 x 4 x 4"
HK19



TEA BOWL (CHAWAN)
3.25 x 5.5 x 5.5"
HK17



TEA BOWL (CHAWAN)
Takatori glaze
3.25 x 5 x 5"
HK23



Hisaaki Kamei
WATER CONTAINER (MIZUSASHI)
Shippo design openwork
6.5 x 6.75 x 6.75"
HK24

FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION

Work by Miraku Kamei XV and Hisaaki Kamei

DATES: 17 October through 15 November 2020

ONLINE EVENTS: Please visit www.puckergallery.com for a list of virtual gatherings and events accompanying *From Generation To Generation*.



PUCKER GALLERY
240 Newbury Street, 3rd floor
Boston, MA 02116
Phone: 617.267.9473
Email: contactus@puckergallery.com

GALLERY HOURS:
Monday through Saturday
10:00 AM to 5:30 PM
Sunday 10:30 AM to 5:00 PM

We are open to all and taking the necessary precautions for visitor and staff safety. We welcome appointments to maximize visitor experience.

Pucker Gallery is a member of the Boston Art Dealers Association and the New England Appraisers Association.

With thanks to Andrew Maske for introducing the Kamei Family to the Gallery and sharing his immense knowledge with us.

CREDITS:
DESIGN: Leslie Anne Feagley

EDITORS: Jeanne Koles and
Jacqueline Belfield Gertner

PHOTOGRAPHY: John Davenport and
Manabu Nakamoto

© 2020, Pucker Gallery
Printed in the United States by
Modern Postcard

Please visit www.puckergallery.com to view the full catalogue for this exhibition, which includes additional works and images.