KONDÔ TAKAHIRO (b. 1958)

Kondô Takahiro was born in Kyoto, into a lineage celebrated for their traditional *sometsuke* (cobalt blue-and-white porcelain ceramics). From an early age, he was also a competitive sportsman and became a champion in table tennis traveling abroad for competitions. His early ceramics followed the *sometsuke* tradition mastered by his grandfather and father, and like them, was highly influenced by the work and writings of Tomimoto Kenkichi and his concept of balancing and integrating technique with originality. Kondô has continually striven to determine his own independent artistic identity, developing his now-patented *gintekisai* (silver mist representing “water born from fire”) glaze comprised of an amalgam of platinum, gold, silver and glass that appears as metallic droplets of condensation glistening on his porcelain surfaces, while he also experiments with new media, particularly metal and cast glass.

Having grown up near the Kiyomizu (“Pure water”) Temple in Kyoto, water is a constant theme throughout Kondo’s work and “silver mist” illustrates his fascination with its various states including mist, ice, and steam. The artist was deeply affected by the disasters that befell Japan in 2011 and has incorporated the subject in much of his recent work, as well as raising funds and working with those areas most devastated by the cataclysmic events.

1958 Born in Kyoto  
1982 Graduated from the Literature Department, Hôsei University  
1985 Completed training at Kyoto Ceramics Training School  
1986 Completed training at Kyoto Industrial Research Institute  
2002-3 Masters of Design and Applied Arts, Edinburgh College of Art

Awards:

1986 Awarded the Nikkei Newspaper Award, *Nihon dentô kôgeikaiten* (Japan Traditional Arts and Crafts Exhibition), Kinki District  
1994 Awarded the Kyoto City Emerging Artists Award  
2003 Awarded the Inglis Allen Masters of Design Award, Edinburgh College of Art

Selected Solo Exhibitions:

1990 *Works of Sometsuke*, São Paolo Museum of Art, São Paolo, Brazil  
1992 *Sometsuke and Drawing*, Azabu Museum of Arts and Crafts, Tokyo  
Gallery Sanjô, Kyoto  
1993 *Mud-ing*, Osaka Contemporary Art Center, Osaka  
1994 Gallery Yügen (also in 1996)  
Takashimaya Art Gallery, Tokyo and Kyoto  
National Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh, UK  
Imura Art Gallery, Kyoto (also in 1997, 1999)  
Takashimaya Gallery, Kyoto and Okayama (also in 1997, 2001, 2002)  
1997 Gallery Okumura, Tokyo  
1999 Gallery 213, Paris, France  
Gallery Kögen, Nagoya, Aichi (also in 2001)  
2000 Scottish Gallery, Edinburgh, Scotland, UK (also in 2004)
Takashimaya Art Gallery, Kyoto

2001  Nihonbashi Takashimaya, Tokyo

2002  Namba Takashimaya Art Gallery, Osaka (also in 2006)

_Celestial Ceramics; The Art of Kondō Takahiro_, Barry Friedman Gallery, New York, organized by Joan B. Mirviss, Ltd.

Akasaka Yū Gallery, Tokyo

Yufuku Gallery, Tokyo (also in 2004)

2003  Blue Mist: _the Works of Takahiro Kondō_, the Paramita Museum, Mie

2005  _Kondō Takahiro/ Silver Mist_, Barry Friedman Gallery, New York, organized by Joan B. Mirviss Ltd

*Journey from Ceramics: Works 1985-2005_, Ginza Wako Hall, Tokyo

2006  _Shinra Banshō (All of Creation)_, Tenmaya Art Gallery, Fukuoka, Okayama and Hiroshima

Gallery Cellar, Nagoya

2007  _Metamorphose_, Paramita Museum, Mie; Nariwa-cho Museum, Okayama +Kyoto Art Center

_Mist_, Matsuzakaya Art Gallery, Tokyo

_Kondō geijutsu no sekai_(Arts of a Kondō Family), Maruei Skae Art Gallery, Aichi

_TRANS-FORM_, Spiral Garden, Tokyo

_Transformations_, The Scottish Gallery, Edinburgh

2007-08  _Oil Wall_, Gallery Cellar, Tokyo and Nagoya

2008  Transformation, Barry Friedman Ltd., in collaboration with Joan B Mirviss, Ltd.

_Kin to Gin_ (Gold and Silver), Takashimaya Art Gallery, Kyoto and Tokyo

101 Collins, Melbourne, Australia

Hamilton Art Gallery, Hamilton, Australia

2010  _Self Portrait_, The Museum of Arts and Crafts, Itami, Hyogo

2010-11  _Takahiro Kondo: Reflections_, Barry Friedman LTD, NY

2011  The Scottish Gallery, Edinburgh, UK

2013  _Clay Bodies: Contemporary International Figurative Sculpture_, Barry Friedman LTD, NY

Group Exhibitions:


1987  New “Takumi” _Crafts Exhibition_, Kyoto City Museum (also in 1988)

1988  “Wan” (Bowls) Exhibition, Kyoto Daimaru Art Gallery (also annually from 1987 to 1991)

1989  _Ceramic Frames Exhibition_, Kobe OLD & NEW and Gallery Sanjō

1990  _Kondō-kai_ (Works by the Kondō Family), Takashimaya Art Gallery, Kyoto

_Yūfū-kai_ (Works by the Yūfū Group), Osaka Matsuzakaya Art Gallery (annually thereafter)

_Junkō-kai_ (Works by the Junkō Group), biannual exhibition, Sendai, Hiroshima and Yokohama

1991  Two-person show with Kondō Hiroshi, Daimaru Art Gallery, Kobe

_Innovative Crafts for Flower and Tea Exhibition_, Isetan Museum, Tokyo

1992  _THE WALL Exhibition_, Kyoto, Tokyo, and Mashiko

20th Century Japanese Blue-and-white, Fitzwilliam Museum, UK

1993  _JOURNEY EAST_, Moscow National Museum, Russia

_Three Generations of Contemporary Blue-and-white Ceramics – Works by Kondō Yūzō, Hiroshi, and Takahiro_, organized by Asahi Newspaper; exhibited in Tokyo, Osaka,
1994  Contemporary Ceramicists in Kyoto Today, Daimaru Art Gallery, Kyoto (annually)
  Beyond Vessel, Robert MacDougall Museum, New Zealand
  Le Parfum, Gallery KOUKI, Paris, France
  Kyoto New Artists Awardees Exhibition, Kyoto Shijō Gallery
1996  Selected Avant-garde Art, Kyoto Municipal Museum of Art, Kyoto
  Autour de la Terre, Vendôme, France
  Fire, Clay, and Works, Izu Oshima, Tenkawa, and Maui
1997  Gifts from the Heart, Tokyo Spiral, Tokyo
  International Contemporary Art Festival '97, NICAF, Tokyo
  Moon, Fire, Water Exhibition, Gallery Okumura, Tokyo
1998  Fire, Earth, Water Works, Maui, Kamakura, and Dewa
1999  Three Generations of Modern Blue-and-white, Eki Museum, Kyoto with Kyoto Newspaper Company
2000  Three-person show with Namiki Tsunenobu, Senju Hiroshi, and Kondō Takahiro, Gallery Okumura, Tokyo
  Exhibition of Chinese Blue-and-White Porcelain and Modern Japanese Kondō (Family)
  Sometsuke, Palace Museum, Beijing
  Senju Hiroshi, Ikenobō Yuki, and Kondō Takahiro: Connected Across Time by Imagination, Nanba Takashimaya Grand Hall, Osaka
2001  Two-person show with Ichino Masahiko, Kōgei Ima, Tokyo
  Masters of Clay: Five Artists from Kyoto, Barry Friedman Gallery, New York, organized by Joan B. Mirviss, Ltd.
  International Asia-Pacific Contemporary Ceramics Invitational Exhibition, Yingko Ceramics Museum, Taipei, Taiwan
2002  16/16, Anniversary Ceramics Exhibition, Scottish Gallery, Edinburgh, England
2004  Collect, Victoria & Albert Museum, London (thereafter annually)
2005-06  Three Generations of Kondō: Works by Yūzō, Hiroshi and Takahiro, Ono Gallery, Fukushima
2008  Celebrating Kyoto, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
2008-09  The Dauer Collection, California State University, Sacramento, University Library Gallery
  Through the Seasons: Japanese Art in Nature, Stone Hill Center, Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute, Williamstown, MA
  Mono kara mono e (From Object to Matter), The Kyoto University Museum, Kyoto
2010  Kondō togei no sekai (Ceramics of the Kondō Family), Wako Art Gallery, Tokyo
  Kondo Yutaka: The Transformation of a Traditional Kyoto Family, Joan B Mirviss Ltd.
  Domani: The Art of Tomorrow, National Art Center Tokyo
  Monokeiro, Kiyohaku Temple, Kyoto
  Monokeirokemono, Tokyo Gallery, Tokyo
  TIFAF, Maastricht, Netherlands
2012  Art Machiya Project, Kyoto
  Kenchiku to mujō (Architecture and Impermanence), Institut Français du Japan-Kansai, Kyoto
*Fired Earth, Woven Bamboo: Contemporary Japanese Ceramics and Bamboo Art*, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

*Japan in Black and White: Ink and Clay*, Joan B. Mirviss, Ltd., NY

Lectures and Demonstrations:

2005  California College of the Arts, Oakland, sponsored by The California College of the Arts Ceramics Guild, DeAnza College Ceramics Department, The Clay and Glass Arts Foundation, Orchard Valley Ceramic Arts Guild

2009  Installed a kiln titled “Tenkawa Kama” as artwork, Tenga Shrine, Nara

2010  Lecture at International Research Center for Japanese Studies, Kyoto
Lecture at The Donald Keene Center for Japanese Culture, Columbia University, NY

2011  Workshop at Pier Arts Centre, Orkney, UK

Selected Public Collections:

Aberdeen Art Gallery, Australia
Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY
Cultural Foundation of the New York Times, NY
Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, England
Hamilton Art Gallery, Australia
Los Angeles County Museum of Art
Metropolitan Museum of Art, NY
Miho Museum, Shiga Prefecture
Minneapolis Institute of Art, MN
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA
Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX
National Gallery, Victoria, Australia
National Museum of Scotland
Paper Museum, Tokyo
Paramita Museum, Mie
Rhode Island School of Design Museum, Providence, RI
São Paolo Museum, Brazil
Spencer Museum of Art, Lawrence, KS
Yale University Art Gallery, CT

References:


Yellin, Robert, “Ceramic Scene; Quality so good you can smell it,” The Japan Times, Saturday July 10, 1999.


