

MATSUI KŌSEI (1927-2003)

Designated as a Living National Treasure in 1993, Matsui Kōsei was hugely influential in the revival of neriage (marbleized, colored-clay ware that he perfected, studying numerous examples of ancient Chinese ceramics as a priest at Gessō-ji Temple in Kasama, Ibaraki Prefecture. Matsui far surpassed these historic predecessors by creating abstract and geometric surface patterning by applying to the surface or throwing numerous layered colored clays, often with a rough-hewn texture. His research and intense studies in this difficult technique, culminated in worldwide recognition for his tradition-steeped vessels.

1927	Born in Nagano Prefecture
1952	Graduated from Department of Literature, Meiji University
1957	Became the 24 th head priest of Gessō-ji Temple, Kasama, Ibaragi Prefecture
1960	Built a kiln at Gessō-ji Temple Studied ancient Chinese, Korean, and Japanese pottery and made facsimiles of such items; researched neriage technique and made test works
1967	Studied under Tamura Kōichi (1918-1987), later Living National Treasure
1971	Became a member of Nihon kōgeikai (Japan Crafts Association)
1988	Appointed a director of Japan Crafts Association
1993	Designated Living National Treasure
2003	Deceased

Awards:

1970	Awarded the Japan Crafts Association Prize at Dentō kōgei shinsakuten (Traditional Crafts Recent Works Exhibition)
1971	Awarded the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Board of Education Prize, Dentō kōgei shinsakuten Awarded the Japan Crafts Association Director's Prize, Nihon dentō kōgeiten (Japan Traditional Art Crafts Exhibition)
1973	Awarded the Prince Chichibu Trophy, Nihon tōgeiten Japan Ceramic Art Exhibition, sponsored by Mainichi Newspaper
1974	Awarded the Japan Ceramic Society Award
1975	Awarded the NHK Chairman's Prize, Japan Traditional Art Crafts Exhibition
1986	Awarded the Fujiwara Memorial Prize, Fujiwara Kei Memorial Foundation
1988	Awarded the Medal with Purple Ribbon, from government for artistic achievement
1990	Awarded the Japan Ceramic Society Gold Prize Awarded the Okada Mokichi Memorial Prize, MOA Museum
1992	Awarded the Ibaraki Prize, from the Ibaraki prefectural government
1993	Designated Living National Treasure
2000	Awarded the Kyokujitsu Shōjushō (The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette)

Selected Solo Exhibitions:

1972	Mitsukoshi Art Gallery, Osaka Nihonbashi Mitsukoshi Art Gallery, Tokyo (Thereafter annually)
1975	Tenmaya Gallery, Okayama

- 1976 Namba Takashimaya Art Gallery, Osaka
- 1981 Matsuzakaya Art Gallery, Nagoya
- 1986 Iwataya Art Gallery, Fukuoka
- 1988 Fujinoya Art Gallery, Sano, Tochigi
- 1993 Mitsukoshi Étoile Art Gallery, Paris
Nihonbashi Mitsukoshi Art Gallery, Tokyo
- 1994 Nihonbashi Takashimaya Art Gallery, Tokyo; also Kyoto, Osaka, and Yokohama
- 1995 Kasama Inari Museum, Ibaraki
- 1996 Ibaraki Prefectural Museum of Modern Art, Ibaraki
- 1999 Petit Musée, Daishin'en
- 2013 Living National Treasure, Matsui Kōsei: A Retrospective Ibaraki Ceramic Art Museum, Kasama

Group Exhibitions:

- 1969 First entry to the Traditional Crafts New Work Exhibition (thereafter annually)
First entry to Japan Traditional Crafts Exhibition (every year thereafter).
- 1973 Japanese Contemporary Ceramics, National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto
2nd Japan Pottery Exhibition, sponsored by Mainichi Newspaper, Daimaru Art Gallery, Tokyo
- 1974 Selected Works from Contemporary Ceramics in Japan, a traveling exhibition to the U.S., organized by Foreign Ministry
- 1976 Contemporary Japanese Ceramics, a traveling exhibition to New Zealand and Australia, organized by Japan Foundation
Selected Works from Japanese Ceramics, a traveling exhibition to Germany, sponsored by Nihon Keizai Newspaper
- 1978 100 Japanese Jars, Suntory Museum, Tokyo
Contemporary Craft Works, produced by Shiseidō (every year thereafter)
Contemporary Craft in Japan, National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto
- 1979 150 Selected Ceramic Works in Japan, sponsored by Sanyō Newspaper and Chūgoku Newspaper
100 Selected Tea Bowls, sponsored by Kyoto Newspaper
- 1980 100 Selected works from Contemporary Japanese Ceramics, sponsored by Nihon Keizai Newspaper
Flower and Ceramics, sponsored by Kyoto Newspaper
- 1981 From Yakimono to Plastic Arts, Seibu Art Gallery, Tokyo
Contemporary Ceramics in China and Japan
- 1982 Contemporary Ceramics in Japan, the Smithsonian Institutions, Washington D. C. and Victoria and Albert Museum, London
7th Asian Art Fair, Hong Kong
- 1983 Contemporary Crafts in Japan, organized by Japan Foundation for Canada
- 1984 Japanese Ceramics, Suntory Museum, Tokyo
- 1985 Contemporary Ceramics in Japan, the Kure City Museum, Kure
Incense Burners: Selected Works, sponsored by Kyoto Newspaper
Contemporary Arts in Japan, Toyama Prefectural Museum of Art, Toyama
- 1988 Contemporary Ceramics in Japan, Portland Museum of Art, Portland
Contemporary Aspects in Traditional Crafts in Japan, produced by the Japan Foundation, traveling to the South America.

- 1989 Europalia '89 Contemporary Ceramics in Japan; Tradition & Innovation
- 1991 Selected Works from Traditional Crafts, a traveling exhibition to Scandinavia, organized by National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo and Asahi Newspaper
- 1992 50 Masters; Applied Arts in Contemporary Japan, Mitsukoshi Etoile Art Gallery, Paris
- 1995 8 Living National Treasures, organized by Asahi Newspaper
- 1996 Selected Works from Contemporary Ceramics in Japan, a traveling exhibition to Asia, organized by International Cultural Association
- 1998 Primitive Images of Ceramic Artists, Museum of Contemporary Ceramic Art, Shiga Ceramic Cultural Park, Shiga
- Beauty and Techniques of Living National Treasure, Jingū Museum, Mie
- 2000 Art of Living National Treasures, Ibaraki Prefectural Ceramic Museum, Kasama, Ibaraki

Posthumous Exhibitions:

- 2003 Kosei Matsui Retrospective, Ibaraki Museum of Ceramic Art, Ibaraki prefecture
- Kosei Matsui Retrospective, The Museum of Ceramic Art, Hyogo
- 2006 Kosei Matsui Retrospective, Mitsukoshi Art Gallery, Nihonbashi, Tokyo
- 2009 Through the Seasons: Japanese Art in Nature, Stone Hill Center, Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute, Williamstown, MA
- 2010 29 Masters: Living National Treasures, Hankyū Art Gallery, Umeda, Osaka
- 2013 Living national Treasure, Matsui Kōsei: A Retrospective, Ibaraki Ceramic Art Museum, Kasama and New Ōtani Museum, Tokyo
- The Eight Winds: Chinese Influence on Japanese Ceramics, Joan B. Mirviss Ltd., NY
- 2014 The Betsy and Robert Feinberg Collection: Japanese Ceramics for the Twenty-first Century, The Walters Art Museum, Baltimore

Selected Public Collections:

Art Institute of Chicago
 Brooklyn Museum
 Chazen Museum of Art, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI
 Chinese Embassy
 Foreign Ministry of Japan
 Herbert F. Johnson Museum, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY
 Hiroshima Prefectural Art Museum
 Hokkaidō Prefectural Museum of Modern Art
 Ibaraki Prefectural Art Museum
 Indiana University Art Museum
 Japan Foundation
 Kure City Museum
 Metropolitan Museum of Art
 National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto
 National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo
 Seto City Museum
 Shiseidō Museum

Victoria and Albert Museum, London
Yale University Art Gallery

Selected References:

Matsui Kōsei tōji sakuhinshū (Ceramic Works of Matsui Kōsei), Tokyo: Kōdansha, 1974.

Matsui Kōsei, Mu no katachi, Kodansha, 1980.

Japanese Ceramics Today: Masterworks from the Kikuchi Collection. Tokyo: Hakuhōdō
Incorporated, 1983, p. 96, cat.no. 226

Matsui Kōsei neriage sakuhinshū: The works of Kōsei Matsui 1985-1990, Tokyo: Kodansha, 1990.

Baekeland, Frederick. Japanese Ceramics in American Collections New York: Japan Society,
1993, pp. 47, 153-157, cat.no. 82-4

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Rupert Faulkner, Japanese Studio Crafts: Tradition and the Avant-garde, London: Laurence King
Publishing, 1995 pp. 49-50.

Neriage harikō: ningen kokuhō Matsui Kōsei no genzai (Today's work by the living national
treasure, Kōsei Matsui), Tokyo: Mitsukoshi Art Gallery, 2000.

Wege zur Japanischen Keramik: Tradition in der Gegenwart, Berlin: Museum für Ostasiatische
Kunst zu Berlin, 2005.

Matsui Kōsei sakuhinshū: Neriage harikō (Marbleized and Chrystal-surfaced Works of Matsui
Kōsei), Tokyo: Kodansha, 2005.

Mintz, Robert and Joan Mirviss with Betsy Feinberg. The Betsy and Robert Feinberg Collection:
Japanese Ceramics for the Twenty-first Century. Exhibition Catalogue. The Walters Art
Museum, Baltimore, 2014.

Murase, Miyeko, Through the Seasons: Japanese Art in Nature, New Haven: Yale Universtity
Press, 2009, cat.no.23.

Living National Treasure, Matsui Kōsei: A Retrospective, Kasama: Ibaraki Ceramic Art Museum,
2013.