SHIMAOKA TATSUZŌ (1920-2007)

Shimaoka Tatsuzō was the foremost pupil of Hamada Shōji (1894-1978) until his recent death, was regarded as Japan’s leading folk craft potter. Shimaoka’s signature style, known as "Jomon-zogan" in Japanese, combines cord-impressed decoration and the white-slip inlay technique used in the Punch’ong ware, popular in the Choson Dynasty of Korea. Shimaoka's use of a variety of glazes enhanced the richness of his folk style tableware. He also successfully developed a Western-influenced salt glaze technique that Hamada had first introduced. For his mastery of the Jōmon technique of rope-impressed stoneware, he was named a Living National Treasure in 1996. He was also an incredibly influential teacher of a new generation of ceramists.

1920  Born in Tokyo
1941  Graduated from the ceramic department of Tokyo Technical University
1946  Became pupil of Hamada Shōji (1894-1978)
1949  Worked for the Tochigi Prefecture Ceramic Training Institute
1950  Helped Shirasaki Shunji make replicas of Jomon earthenware
1954  Built kiln in Mashiko next to Hamada
1968  Visiting lecturer at summer courses at University of California, Long Beach and University of California, San Diego. Traveled to Europe.
1982  Lecture tour to Canada sponsored by the Japan Foundation
1989  The Tokyo National Modern Art Museum adds Salt Glaze Inlay Jōmon Plate to their collection.
1996  Hosted NHK educational television series, part 13 The New Ceramics
2007  Passed away in December

Awards:
1962  Japan Folk Art Museum Prize, Japan Folk Art Museum Exhibition of New Works
1980  Tochigi Prefecture Cultural Merits
1994  Gold Prize, Japanese Ceramic Exhibition
1996  Designated by the Japanese government as Living National Treasure Mino Prefecture Folk Art Prize

Solo Exhibitions:
1954  First solo exhibition, Izumi Craft Shop, Tokyo
1960  Chuo Koron Gallery, Tokyo (five times thereafter)
1964  Matsuya Department Store Gallery, Tokyo (annually thereafter)
1966  Mitsukoshi Department Store Gallery, Osaka (first of three these shows)
1973  Takashimaya Department Store Gallery, Yokohama (biannually thereafter)
1974  Solo show in Boston (also in '76)
1984  Tochigi Prefectural Art Museum, Tochigi
2001  Japanese Embassy Information and Culture Center, DC

Group Exhibitions:
1964  Canada and American to exhibit and demonstrate his work
1970  *Contemporary Ceramics: Japan and Europe*, National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto
1971  *Japan Ceramics Exhibition* (annually thereafter)
1977  *Shimaoka Tatsuzo and Gerd Knapper*, Hamburg National Craft Museum, Germany
1982  *Shimaoka Tatsuzo, Yomo Takashi, and Natsume Arihiko Exhibition*, San Diego
1984  *Contemporary Art of Tochigi Prefecture 1983-84*, Tochigi Prefectural Art Museum, Tochigi
       *Traditional Ceramics of Contemporary Japan*, German Museum of Munich
1988  *Tochigi Artists ’88*, Tochigi Prefectural Art Museum, Tochigi
1990  *National Artist’s Competition*
       *Vier Elemente Drei Länder*, Museum für Kunsthandwerk Frankfurt am Main, Ausstellung, Germany
2006  *Tôji: Avant-Garde et Tradition de la Céramique Japonaise*, Musée national de céramique Sèvres, France
2008-09  *Generosity in Clay: Modern Japanese Ceramics from the Natalie Fitz-Gerald Collection*, Clark Center for Japanese Art, California
2010  *29 Masters: Living National Treasures*, Hankyû Art Gallery, Umeda, Osaka

Selected Public Collections:

Art Complex Museum, Duxbury Massachusetts
Art Institute of Chicago
Arthur M. Sackler Museum, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.
Asian Art Museums of San Francisco
Brooklyn Museum
Cleveland Museum of Art
Honolulu Academy of Arts
Los Angeles County Museum, CA
Metropolitan Museum of Art
Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe, Hamburg
Victoria and Albert Museum, London
Worcester Art Museum, Worcester, MA

Selected References:


