TOKUDA YASOKICHI III (MASAHIKO) (1933 – 2009)

Tokuda Yasokichi III was born in Ishikawa Prefecture as the eldest son of Tokuda Yasokichi II. After having withdrawn from the Kanazawa Arts and Crafts College, he helped his father to pursue the traditional family ceramic business. He learned the traditional methods of kutani glaze preparation and decoration from his grandfather, Tokuda Yasokichi I. At first Tokuda confined himself to traditional style pieces with a modern flavor. However, after 1973, he was prompted by his peers to develop a personal style. He invented a technique that enabled him to control the suffusion of kutani color glazes, creating a starburst effect that is, according to the artist, “somewhat in the manner of modern color-field painters such as Mark Rothko.”

1933 Born in Ishikawa Prefecture, the eldest son of Tokuda Yasokichi II
1954 Studied at Kanazawa College of Art, Ceramic Department.
Studied under his grandfather (Yasokichi I) and father (Yasokichi II)
1978 Juror at Japan Traditional Crafts Exhibition
1988 Succeeded to the name, Tokuda Yasokichi
1997 Designated as a National Living Treasure

Awards:

1960 Komatsu-city Mayor’s Award, Contemporary Art Exhibition, organized by Ishikawa Prefecture Art & Culture Association (also Mayor’s award in 62, Governor’s award in ‘61)
1964 Shizuoka Prefecture Governor’s Award, Asahi Ceramic Exhibition (also Ishikawa Prefecture Governor’s Award in ’66, ’68, ’72, and Excellence Award in ’70)
1971 NHK Chairperson Award, 18th Japan Traditional Crafts Exhibition (annually since then winning several important prizes)
1977 Japan Art Crafts Association Patron’s Prize, 24th Japan Traditional Crafts Exhibition (invited artist in ‘78)
1984 Work acquired by The Ministry of Cultural Property
1985 Northern Country Cultural Award, 400 Years of Japanese Porcelain, organized by Asahi Newspaper
1986 Japan Ceramic Association Prize
Designated as a Cultural Property of the Ishikawa Prefecture for Kutani ware
1988 The 3rd Fujiwara Kei Memorial Award
1990 Grand Prize, 1990 International Ceramic Exhibition
1991 Prince Chichibu Trophy, 11th Japan Ceramics Exhibition
1992 Received prize from Prince Mikasano Miya
1993 Received Purple Ribbon Medal from Emperor
1997 Grand prize, 10th Mokichi Okada Competition, MOA Museum, Atami
Made an Honorary Citizen of Komatsu city, Ishikawa Prefecture

Solo Exhibitions:

1986 Egypt-Japan Week, Cairo, Egypt
Paris-Japan Culture, Paris, France
1987 Mitsukoshi Art Gallery, Nihonbashi, Tokyo (also in ‘91)
1988  
**LA-Japan Week**, Japanese Consulate in Los Angeles, CA  
Karinbō, Kanazawa

1990  
**Moscow-Japan Week**, Moscow Youth Hall, Moscow, Russia

1991  
Washington Culture Information Center, Washington D.C.  
Bank of Boston, organized by The Japanese Consulate in Boston, MA  
Nippon Club, organized by The Japanese Consulate in New York, NY  
*Japanese Culture Exhibition: Tokuda Yasokichi*, Berlin, Germany

1992  
Shizuoka Country Club, sponsored by Kawamura Foundation

1994  
Lafayette Center Gallery and Consulate of Washington D.C. (exhibited as a part of Cherry Blossom Festival, Washington D.C.)

1996  
Exhibition in Detroit, MI

2000  
Japan Cultural Center, Rome, Italy

2002  
Iwataya, Kumamoto

2003  
*The Master of Yosai Porcelain: Tokuda Yasokichi at Seventy*, Mitsukoshi Art Gallery, Tokyo

2010  
*The Master of Yosai Porcelain: Tokuda Yasokichi memorial*, Kintetsu Art Gallery, Osaka  
*29 Masters: Living National Treasures*, Hankyū Art Gallery, Osaka

2011-12  
*The Power of Colour, Drawing on the Past*, MOA Museum of Art, Atami, Shizuoka  
(with multiple trips to museums throughout Japan)

**Group Exhibitions:**

1953  
*Contemporary Art Exhibition*, organized by Ishikawa Prefecture Art & Culture Association (thereafter, entered many times)

1963  
*Asahi Ceramic Exhibition*  
*Nitten Exhibition* (also in '64-'66, '68 and subsequently 4 times)

1964  
Entry to Japan Contemporary Crafts & Art Exhibition

1965  
*Berlin Art Festival*, Berlin, Germany

1978  
Japanese Vases 100, Suntory Museum, Tokyo

1980  
Japanese Beauty: 100 Selected Works of Contemporary Ceramics, Tōkyū Art Gallery, Tokyo

1981  
Japan-Taiwan Contemporary Ceramic Exhibition, Taipei National Museum of History, Taipei, Taiwan

1983  
*All Japan Traditional Crafts Selected Works Exhibition*  
30 Years of Traditional Crafts, National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo

1984  
Japanese Ceramics: 100 Plates and Bowls, Suntory Museum, Tokyo

1989  
Japan-Thailand 4 Ceramic Artist Exhibition, National Bangkok Culture Center, Bangkok, Thailand

1990  
Japanese Contemporary Craft Exhibition, a travel exhibition to Northern Europe, organized by The Japan Foundation, The National Museum of Art, Tokyo and Asahi Newspaper

1992  
La Ceramique au Japon: Un Art Majeur 58 Createurs Contemporains, Mitsukoshi Etoile, Paris, France

1993  
Japanese Contemporary Ceramics, a traveling exhibition to six major US cities organized by The Japan Foundation

1995  
Close up of Japan: Japanese Porcelain, organized by Ministry of Culture in Brazil, São Paulo, Brazil
Japanese Contemporary Ceramics: Three Masters, Japanese Consulate of Chicago, International Culture Center, Chicago, IL and Detroit, MI
1996 Quiet Clarity "Rin": Beauty in Contemporary Ceramics, Shigaraki Ceramic Park, Shiga
2006 Cool & Sophisticated: Contemporary Master Ceramists of Eastern Japan, Ibaraki Ceramic Art Museum, Ibaraki
2008-09 The Dauer Collection, California State University, Sacramento, University Library Gallery, Sacramento, CA
2009 Through the Seasons: Japanese Art in Nature, Stone Hill Center, Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute, Williamstown, MA
2013 Evolution of Chinese Ceramics and their Influence, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY
Tradition on Fire: Contemporary Japanese Ceramics from the Paul and Kathy Bissinger Collection, Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, CA

Selected Public Collections:

British Museum, London, United Kingdom
Chazen Museum of Art, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY
Ministry of Culture, Japan
National Museum, Tokyo
National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo
Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C.

References:


