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Appreciating kutane-ware: the art of Takegoshi Jun

By Marc Rubens Posted on Sep. 29, 2010 at 12:26pm | [0 comments](#)



Square vase with rounded shoulders by Takegoshi Jun

There's probably no better place to start collecting art than with ceramics. Comparatively, they are more economical to begin with. And just like prints and paintings, they are flexible even with themed decorating.

With several artists rising to become popular ceramics painters, there are several selections that are a good place to start a collection.

One such artist is Takegoshi Jun, who is set to exhibit his creations at Joan Mirviss's gallery in a masterworks display called *Flights of Fancy*. Appropriately so, the enameled porcelains that serve as Takegoshi's canvases are adorned with intricate paintings of birds and dragons taking flight.

But among the kingfishers, sparrows, and different depictions of dragons is a strange— but appealingly so— departure. Each creature wears a facial expression usually attributed only to humans.



Tall square vase by Takegoshi Jun

Painted on the flat surfaces of a variety of porcelain vessels—vases, boxes, incense burners, plates—Takegoshi does this all by hand and rejects the technique that uses several artists to make one piece. With the said technique, some would work on forms while others painted the polychrome enamel decorations.

All of this would be usually done using vivid colors of peacock blue, mustard yellow, eggplant purple, brick red and emerald green.

The art of painting porcelains are part of an ancient Japanese tradition aging almost 300 years old, the kutani-ware. Takegoshi inherited the tradition from his father, and was further educated at university in traditional nihonga painting.

Where the art back then demanded the technique described above, Takegoshi hand-paints all of his pieces by himself with designs so intricate that a casual observer would not be able to notice them immediately.

An example would be fringes of gold in corners and rims that could not be seen immediately but adds to the overall impact of the piece. His use of colors on the delicately enameled porcelain emphasizes a contemporary angle to the ancient art.



Tall square vase by Takegoshi Jun

With his masterpieces being sought after by big names in the art world such as The Met, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Victoria & Albert Museum, and Yale University Art

Gallery among others, it won't be long before Takegoshi's pieces will become harder to find and harder to procure.

Right now, prices range from \$3,000 to \$13,000—not a bad price for pieces that embody mastery, discipline and technique. Takegoshi has also been the recipient of the prestigious Japan Ceramic Association Award in 2007 and his work has been displayed in important galleries in Japan.

Forty of his new works will be displayed in Joan Marviss's gallery on New York's Upper East Side, including several larger scale forms, created specifically for this show.



Covered square box by Takegoshi Jun

Source: [Luxist](#) and [Joan B. Mirviss](#)

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