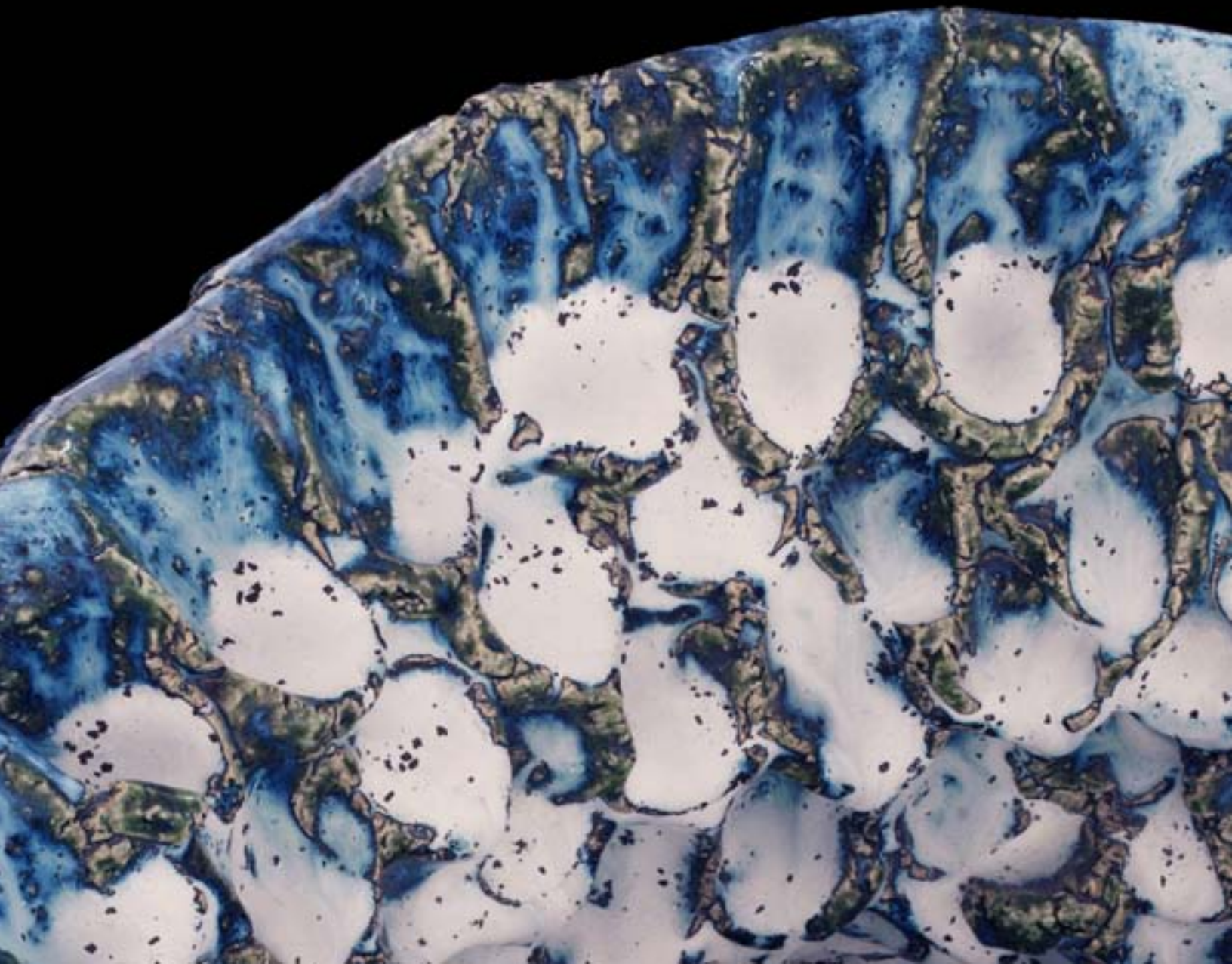


NATURE, TRADITION & INNOVATION

CONTEMPORARY JAPANESE CERAMICS FROM
THE GORDON BRODFUEHRER COLLECTION





Installation image courtesy of the Mingei International Museum, San Diego, California



Fig. 2 Kako Katsumi, *Large Ash Glazed Bowl* (detail)



Fig. 3 Taijiro Ito, *Untitled*



Fig. 1 Yokoyama Naoki, *Bizen Ware Nerikomi (Vase)*, 20th

Featuring 43 exceptional Japanese ceramists, this exhibition showcases ceramic objects of unsurpassed beauty made for everyday use. The 55 ceramic works chosen are closely associated with Japan's historical pottery centers, and reinterpret traditional methods in a modern context. The almost spiritual link between ceramic making and nature is poetically highlighted by eleven digital photographs taken by photographer Taijiro Ito.

The exhibition provides a dynamic survey of the diverse and innovative practices of ceramic-making in Japan—from exquisite flower vases and serene tea bowls to whimsical candle holders and robust platters—revealing the earthly beauty of Japanese ceramics.

Stoneware ceramics occupy a uniquely esteemed position in Japanese culture. In the West, ceramics have been considered a minor “decorative” art form, eclipsed for centuries by the “fine” arts of painting and sculpture and

even in China, where porcelain has been collected by Emperors for centuries, stoneware vessels had little cultural or financial value. In Japan, however, rustic-looking tea bowls, tea caddies, and flower vases, with their naturally occurring glazes and imperfect forms, have long been treasured by rulers, tea masters, and connoisseurs, baffling 16th-century Portuguese Jesuit missionaries, who remarked that these simple pots and bowls were “prized beyond belief” and “the jewels of Japan.”

This admiration for rugged-looking stonewares derives in part from the aesthetic of *wabi*—a cultivated simplicity and rusticity—which has been highly valued within the context of the tea ceremony from the fifteenth century onwards. However, it also derives from the Japanese deep-rooted love of nature and reverence of the *kami*—higher beings, or spirits, that inhabit it. For centuries, Japan's potters have used the natural elements of earth, water, and fire to create vessels that evoke nature, taking inspiration from



Fig. 4 Tetsuya Ishiyama, *Mizunsashi (Water Container)*



Fig. 5 Kaku Hayashi ,Large Vase From 'Kegon Falls'



Fig. 6 Taijiro Ito, *Untilted*

“Nature underlies not only the tradition but the innovation in Japanese ceramic art. Potters still use nature’s clay, a product of the earth, continuing Japan’s ancient tradition.”

—Martha Ehringer, Mingei International Museum



Fig. 7 Ando Hidetake, Large “Chozara” Oribe Platter

the moss coating on a stone statue of a Buddha, the stain on an ancient rock or the bark of a majestic cryptomeria tree. Many of their forms and glazed finishes harmonize with these natural tones and textures and are often believed to be created by the *kami* themselves during the firing of the kiln.

The artists in this exhibition have been profoundly inspired by the natural world. Many have created works associated with some of Japan’s most ancient kilns,

established 1,000 years ago. These are the Rokkoyo or “Six Old Kilns” of Bizen, Echizen, Shigaraki, Seto, Tamba and Tokoname. Ceramics from these old kilns have such distinctive styles—such as the smooth, unglazed Bizen wares and the rugged, feldspar-encrusted Shigaraki wares—that the styles of wares are named after these regional kilns. For nearly a millennium the Rokkoyo have been producing functional stoneware vessels for daily use and for 400 years also made wares for the tea ceremony. Naoki Yokoyama’s oval Bizen vase (Fig. 1) bears the



Fig. 8 Satoru Hoshino, *First Snow of Spring*, Large Hand Formed Vase From

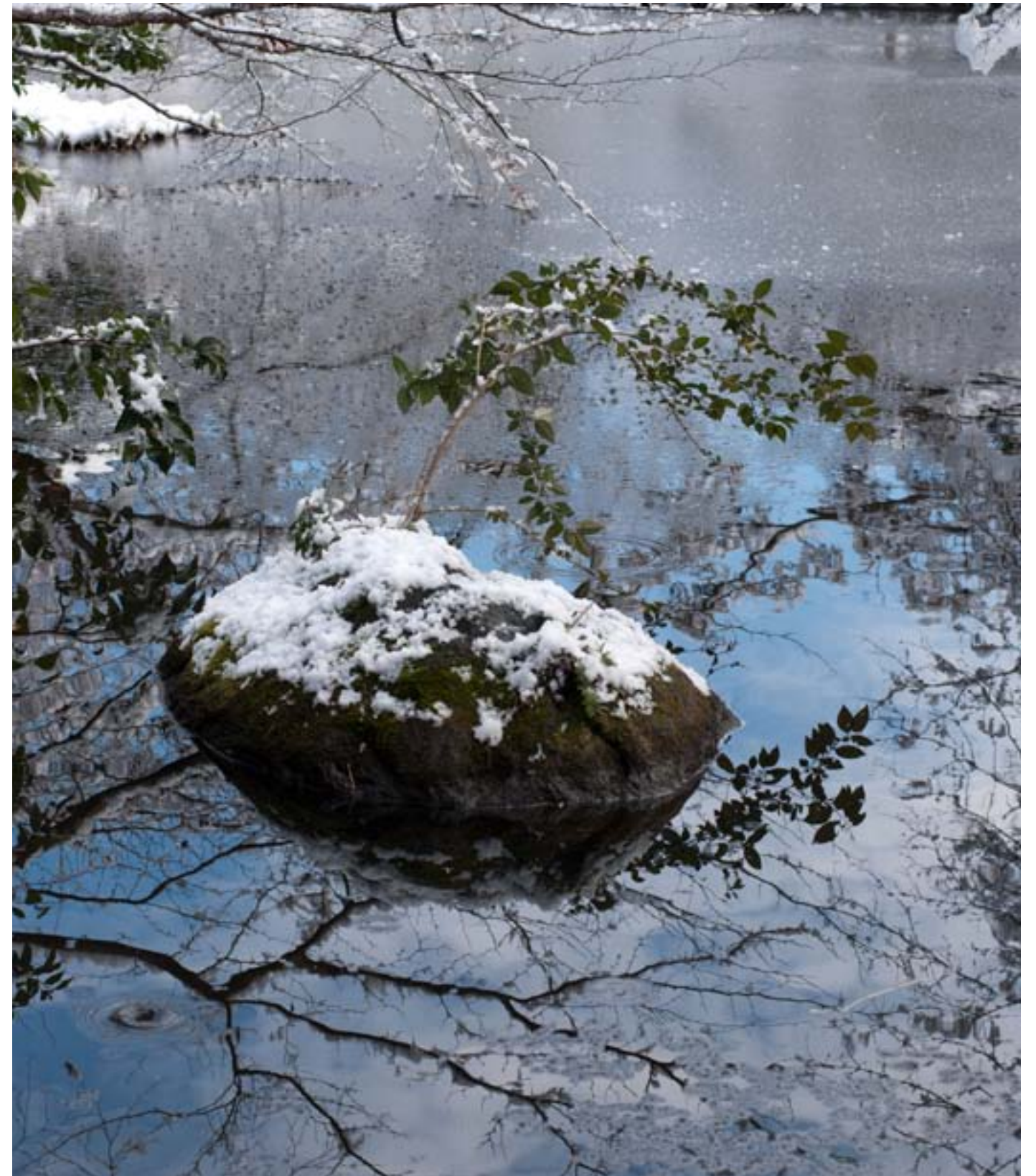


Fig. 9 Taijiro Ito, *Untitled*



Fig. 10 Mitsunori Tokuzawa, *Karatsu Platter/Tray "Sea Spray Breaking on Rocks"*

graceful form and fire marks associated with classical Bizen containers, while Ajiki Hiro's "Stone Gate," also created in the unglazed Bizen style, is more sculpture than vase in its dramatic angular form. Keichi Shimizu's vases and dishes combine the elegance of form and austere color of ancient Tamba food vessels with the geometry of modern sculpture, while Yasuhiro Kohara's Shigaraki handled basket takes the rough texture of traditional Shigaraki wares to a higher level with its aggressively jagged edges and surfaces.

Other artists represented in this exhibition have created ceramics in the style of wares from Japanese kilns established in the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries specifically to produce wares for the tea ceremony. The celebrated thick white glaze of the Shino kilns near Nagoya graces a number of artists' works, from the slightly warped tea bowls of Shogo and Shusen Toen to Goto Hideki's exploding Shino Shell Vessel. Oribe wares, made in the same region as



Fig. 11 Taijiro Ito, *Untitled*



Fig. 12 Ken Matsuzaki, *Oribe/Shino Ware (Vase)*, 20th ce.

the Shino kilns since the late sixteenth century, have always had a playful quality with their copper-green glaze, underglaze iron-brown painting and innovative forms. They have inspired some of the most whimsical pieces in the exhibition, including Kato Yasukabe XIV's "Large Oribe Platter" and Shakunaga Gaku's "Spiralling Oribe Pyramid." Two artists from the Karatsu lineage of northern Kyushu take radically different approaches to their dishes. Okamoto Sakurei's round dish, "Ancient Tree" continues the Karatsu tradition of painting stylized natural motifs in iron-brown pigment beneath a clear glaze, while Toguzawa Mitsunori (Fig. 8) departs from the form yet evokes the sentiment of Karatsu wares in his square platter "Sea Spray Breaking on Rocks," a lyrical work with relief modeling in clay and glaze of a breaking wave.

Nature, Tradition & Innovation features tea bowls, caddies, sake bottles, and cups as well as larger flower vases and food platters, which possess the beauty and drama of contemporary sculpture while also serving a utilitarian function. All of the works in this exhibition are from the private collection of San Diego-based collector Gordon Brodfuehrer, who has been passionately building his collection for almost ten years.

The exhibition was originally organized by the Mingei International Museum in San Diego, California, and was curated by Christine Knoke, director of exhibitions and chief curator. It has been adapted for travel by Meher McArthur, an independent Asian art curator, author, and educator.



Fig. 13 Takeuchi Shingo, *Tokkuri Sake Dispensing Vessel*



Fig. 14 Yukiya Izumita, *Sekisoh Flower Vase*, 20th ce. (detail)

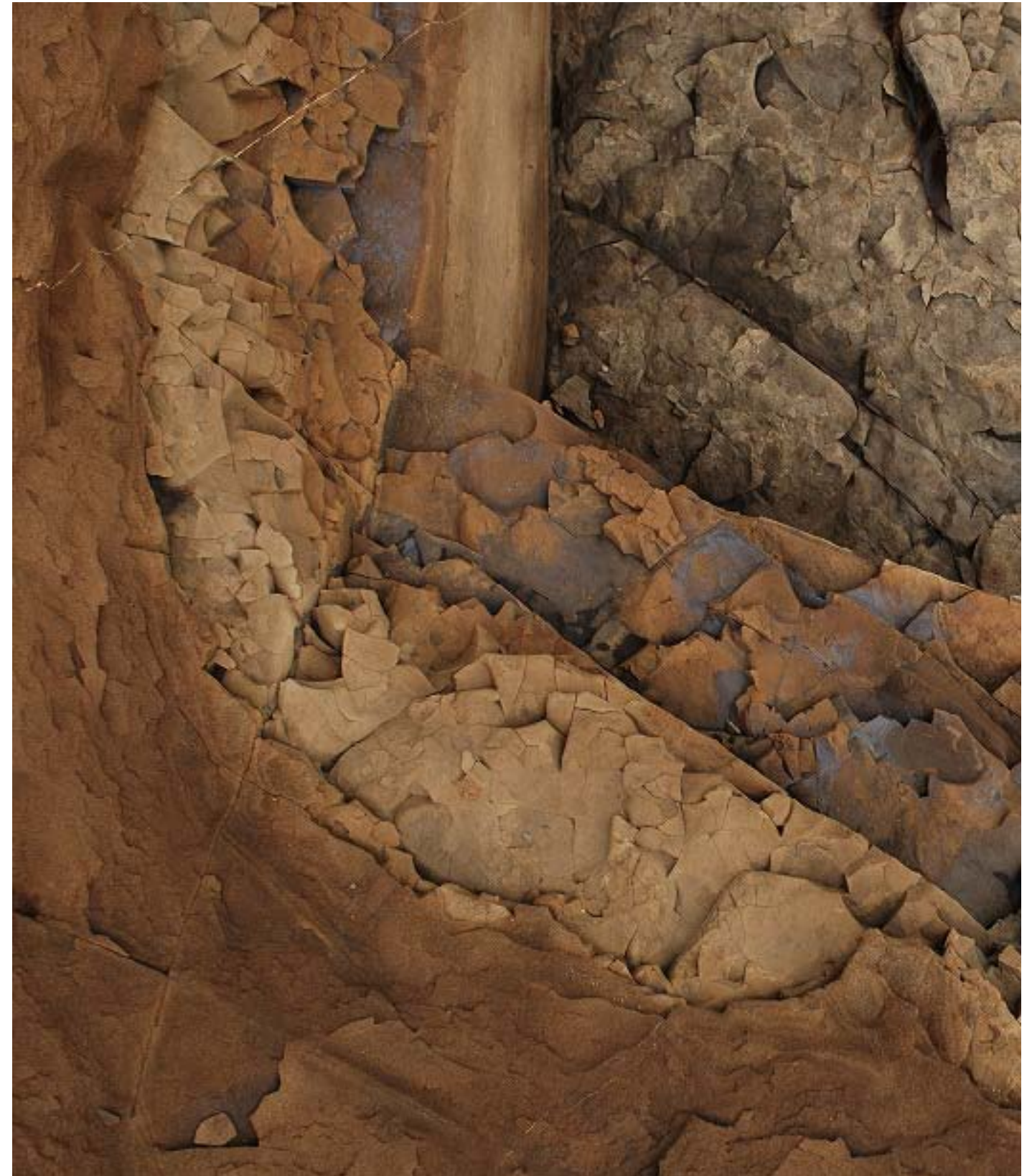


Fig. 15 Taijiro Ito, *Untitled*

ABOUT INTERNATIONAL ARTS & ARTISTS

Working to Inform, Inspire and Educate through the Arts

International Arts & Artists (IA&A) presents art that communicates diverse perspectives. We place a special emphasis on developing exhibitions with aesthetic value that foster greater cultural appreciation and understanding of the world around us. Since 1995, IA&A has provided international and cross-cultural experiences to millions of people who have engaged with art from Cuba, Iran, Israel, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Northern Ireland, Sweden, Vietnam and other cultures around the globe through a visit to their local museum.

Our exhibitions have tremendous reach. We have the distinction of producing the largest number of fine and decorative arts traveling exhibitions in the U.S. with nearly 30 exhibitions touring or in development at any given time. To date, IA&A has developed and circulated over 75 fine art exhibitions, and made over 500 presentations to large and small institutions throughout the U.S. and abroad.

What follows is a selected list of current and past exhibitions. For a more complete list, visit www.artsandartists.org/exhibitions.php.

SELECTED CURRENT EXHIBITIONS

Archipenko: A Modern Legacy (2015-2016)

Major retrospective featuring more than 50 works by this pioneer in modern sculpture

The Art of Seating: Two Hundred Years of American Design (2011-2016)

A survey of exceptional American chair design from the early 19th century to the present

Folding Paper: The Infinite Possibilities of Origami (2012-2016)

Exploring the evolution of origami from craft to fine art and its applications in science and math

Arte en la Charrería: The Artisanry of Mexican Equestrian Culture (2012-2014)

Exquisite artisanship of Mexican craft designed specifically for the charro, or Mexican cowboy

The Tsars' Cabinet: Two Hundred Years of Russian Decorative Arts under the Romanovs (2011-2016)

More than 200 objects formed a comprehensive collection of luxury during the Romanov reign



Robert Colescott, *Homage to Delacroix; Liberty Leading the People*. Featured in *American Stories: Amidst Displacement and Transformation* (1997 to 1998), an exhibition that brought 19 American artists of diverse cultural backgrounds to seven venues in Japan.



Eva Hild, *Loop 1054*, 2006, stoneware, silica color. Featured in *Voices: Contemporary Swedish Ceramics* (2009 to 2010), an exhibition that presented ten leading Swedish ceramic artists to American audiences.



Tōsei gusoku armor with multi-colored lacing and flesh-colored cuirass, 18th century, iron, silk, lacquer, gold, boar fur, and boar bristle. Featured in *Lethal Beauty: Samurai Weapons and Armor* (2013 to 2015), which is traveling to six venues in the US.



The Cupid Vendor, mid first century AD, fresco. Featured in *In Stabiano: Exploring the Ancient Seaside Villas of the Roman Elite* (2005 to 2008), an exhibition featuring art objects and artifacts found in four ancient Roman villas located in the Bay of Naples.



From the Fire: Contemporary Korean Ceramics (2004 to 2008) showcased 108 vibrantly diverse artworks by 54 of Korea's most notable ceramic artists. Photo: Installation at the Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, CA. March 24 to May 21, 2006.

SELECTED PAST EXHIBITIONS**Andrew Wyeth: The Helga Pictures (2004-2005)**

Rarely seen works from the Helga series by Andrew Wyeth

Frank Lloyd Wright and the House Beautiful (2006-2008)

Frank Lloyd Wright's passion for creating a new way of life for Americans that included furnishings and accessories for the home

Man Ray, African Art and the Modernist Lens (2009-2011)

Featured Man Ray's photographs that translated the vogue for African art into a modernist aesthetic

From the Fire: Contemporary Korean Ceramics (2004-2008)

Showcased 108 vibrantly diverse artworks by 54 of Korea's most notable ceramic artists

Polaridad Complementaria: Recent Works from Cuba (2010-2011)

Offered audiences the opportunity to become acquainted with Cuba's current artistic production

In Stabiano: Exploring the Ancient Seaside Villas of the Roman Elite (2005-2008)

Art objects and artifacts found in four ancient Roman villas located in the Bay of Naples

Life as a Legend: Marilyn Monroe (2006-2011)

Captured the spark, sex appeal and sensation that was Marilyn Monroe through visual arts

The Dutch Italianates: 17th Century Masterpieces from Dulwich Picture Gallery, London (2008-2010)

The Italian landscape of the 17th century through the eyes of some of the most accomplished Dutch artists of the Golden Age

James McNeill Whistler: Selected Works from the**Hunterian Art Gallery (2004-2007)**

Selected works from the artist's estate highlight 40 years of Whistler's career that characterized him as an iconoclastic American artist

Material Terrain: Contemporary Sculpture in Landscape (2005-2008)

Twenty large-scale works by ten artists exploring the theme of landscape and the complex relationships between the man-made and natural worlds

SELECTED COLLABORATING PARTNERS OR LENDERS**UNITED STATES**

The Adolph & Esther Gottlieb Foundation, New York, NY
 The Archipenko Foundation, Bearsville, NY
 Baltimore Museum of Art, MD
 The Barnes Foundation, Philadelphia, PA
 Brandywine Workshop, Philadelphia, PA
 California African American Museum, CA
 Chazen Museum of Art, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI
 Chicago History Museum, IL
 Clark Center for Japanese Art and Culture, Hanford, CA
 Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, DC
 Dance Theatre of Harlem, New York, NY
 Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, Scottsdale, AZ
 Hancock Shaker Village, Pittsfield, MA
 Man Ray Trust, Long Island, NY
 Milwaukee Art Museum, WI
 Minneapolis Institute of Arts, MN
 Mint Museum of Art, Charlotte, NC
 Muscarelle Museum of Art, College of William & Mary, Williamsburg, VA
 Museum of Contemporary Art, Jacksonville, FL

Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA

Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX

National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC

National Museum of African Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC

National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, DC

National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC

New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, NY

The Newark Museum, NJ

Pacific Asia Museum, Pasadena, CA

Philadelphia Museum of Art, PA

Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, DC

University of Maryland University College, Adelphi, MD

Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, Hartford, CT

EUROPE

Arts Council of Northern Ireland, Belfast, UK

Craft Council of Ireland, Kilkenny, Ireland

Dulwich Picture Gallery, London, UK

Hessisches Landesmuseum, Darmstadt, Germany

Hunterian Museum and Art Gallery, University of Glasgow, Scotland, UK

Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna, Austria

Museum of Decorative Arts, Prague, Czech Republic

Musee d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, France

Musée du quai Branly, Paris, France

Musée National d'Art Moderne, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France

Náprstkovo Museum, Prague, Czech Republic

National Museums and Galleries of Wales, Cardiff, UK

Nationalmuseet, Copenhagen, Denmark

Restoring Ancient Stabiae Foundation, Italy

Superintendency of Archaeology of Naples, Italy

Vienna Academy of Visual Arts, Austria

ASIA

Art Vietnam, Hanoi, Vietnam

Museum of Contemporary Ceramic Art at the Shigaraki Ceramic Cultural Park, Shigaraki Prefecture, Japan

Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art, Iran

NORTH AMERICA (NON-US)

Canadian Centre for Architecture, Montreal, Canada

Centro de Arte Contemporáneo Wifredo Lam, Havana, Cuba

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