



CROW
MUSEUM OF
ASIAN ART



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**CROW MUSEUM OF ASIAN ART OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS PRESENTS
HANDS AND EARTH: CONTEMPORARY JAPANESE CERAMICS FEATURING MASTER WORKS
FROM JAPAN'S CERAMIC ARTISTS OF THE LAST 80 YEARS MARCH 9, 2019-JAN. 5, 2020**

On display for the first time in North Texas, the exhibition features avant-garde works by 35 master artists, including work by seven artists designated by the Japanese government as "Living National Treasures"

DALLAS (Feb. 28, 2019) – The **Crow Museum of Asian Art of The University of Texas at Dallas** will present the exhibition ***Hands and Earth: Contemporary Japanese Ceramics***, featuring stunning works by the country's greatest ceramicists, including seven artists deemed "Living National Treasures" by the Japanese government. Free and open to the public, the exhibition runs March 9, 2019-Jan. 5, 2020, at the Dallas Arts District museum located at 2010 Flora St., Dallas, Texas 75201. The exhibition is presented by **ORIX Stewardship Foundation**.

Marking the first time these world-renowned pieces are to be displayed publicly in North Texas, this exhibition will feature an in-depth selection of important works by master Japanese ceramic artists of the last 80 years. Visitors will enjoy a rare opportunity to see significant examples of avant-garde approaches to clay in a range of shapes and glazes.

The exhibition draws from the collection of Carol and Jeffrey Horvitz, who have amassed an important, encyclopedic collection of major Japanese modern and contemporary ceramics. Their collection of more than 1,000 works is the largest – public or private – of contemporary Japanese ceramics outside of Japan.

Since 1950, the Japanese government has bestowed the title of "Living National Treasure" upon its practicing artists who have attained the highest level of mastery in their chosen fields of discipline. Of the 35 artists whose works will be shown in this exhibition, seven have been honored with this designation.

"As passionate collectors of Japanese ceramics, Carol and Jeffrey Horvitz have been on a mission to not only assemble these works by world-renowned master artists – including several deemed Japanese 'Living National Treasures' – but to also share and educate people regarding the artistry, beauty, cultural significance and intention of their works," said Amy Lewis Hofland, director of the Crow Museum. "How fortunate that the Crow Museum of Asian Art has a chance to present these works to North Texans for the first time!"

The Horvitz collection features works by some of the most innovative and experimental practitioners of Japanese ceramic tradition, many of whom are considered Japan's greatest living ceramicists. Additionally, the Boston couple has been instrumental in introducing Japanese ceramics to a much wider audience through their loans, gifts and support of these works outside of Japan.

"ORIX Stewardship Foundation is proud to present *Hands and Earth: Contemporary Japanese Ceramics* at the Crow Museum of Asian Art," said Hideto Nishitani, chairman, president and chief executive officer of ORIX Corporation USA. "As a global organization with headquarters in Japan, we greatly appreciate the efforts of the Horvitzes and the Crow Museum to elevate understanding and enhance appreciation for Japanese arts and cultures."

"The ceramics reflect a duality of character, blending ingenuity with a dynamic relationship and deep respect for tradition," says Dr. Jacqueline Chao, senior curator of the Crow Museum of Asian Art. "Current Japanese ceramic artists are widely considered among the most aesthetically and technically innovative in the world today."

“The Horvitz Collection is one of the most important collections of modern and contemporary Japanese ceramics in the world. We are deeply grateful to Carol and Jeffrey for their efforts in promoting this art form and sharing their wonderful collection with us, and to ORIX Stewardship Foundation for helping us bring these incredible works to Dallas,” added Chao.

Below are a few examples of the groundbreaking ceramic innovation that will be featured in the *Hands and Earth: Contemporary Japanese Ceramics* exhibition.



KONDŌ Takahiro (b. 1958) followed his father, uncle and grandfather into ceramic art creation. He specializes in distinctive, highly original glazes including his patented "silver mist" (*gintekisai*), an amalgam of platinum, gold, silver and glass frit that renders effects from a shimmer to a stream of molten drops that cling and pool over the porcelain surfaces. This technique causes the appearance of perpetual condensation on the exterior of the piece.



AKIYAMA Yō (b. 1953) explores the tension between surface and form, the ordered and the organic, inherent in clay's materiality and essential geologic nature. The deep fissures in his surfaces juxtaposed against the clean, modern lines of the sculptural form create a striking visual tension. This commitment to understanding all the possibilities of clay has made Akiyama one of Japan's most important contemporary sculptors and has led him to serve as the chairman of the ceramics department at Kyoto City University of Arts. In 2015, he received the prestigious lifetime achievement award from the Japan Ceramic Society, having already been designated artist of the year in 1996.



KOIKE Shōko (b. 1943) is one of the first female graduates of the prestigious ceramics department of the Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music, and she is one of just a few female ceramists who supports herself as a studio-artist. She has become one of the most recognized ceramists in Japan, with works in museum collections throughout the world. Koike draws inspiration from the sea, creating shell-like forms in Shigaraki stoneware with irregular, pinched, and ruffled edges that protrude from hand-built and wheel-thrown bodies. Her forms melt under a creamy white opaque glaze; the edges are further accentuated with dark brown iron glaze and sometimes supplemented with metallic, iridescent, and turquoise glazes.

In addition to **ORIX Stewardship Foundation** serving as presenting sponsor, further support is provided by the City of Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs, the Dallas Tourism Public Improvement District and the Texas Commission on the Arts.

A variety of programming will be available, including a member preview on Thursday, March 7, from 7-9 p.m. where Hofland and Chao will provide a first look of the exhibition in the recently renovated Crow Museum of Asian Art (for members only). Other events are to be announced at a later date.

***Hands and Earth: Contemporary Japanese Ceramics* opens March 9, 2019. For more information, visit crowmuseum.org**

The Crow Museum of Asian Art of The University of Texas at Dallas is open Tuesdays-Sundays (10 a.m.-5 p.m.). The museum is closed on Mondays. Admission is free. The museum is located at 2010 Flora St., Dallas, Texas 75201. For more information, please go to crowmuseum.org or call 214-979-6440.

For exhibition photos, click [here](#)

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About the Crow Museum of Asian Art of The University of Texas at Dallas.

Founded in 1998, the Crow Museum of Asian Art inspires and promotes learning and dialogue about the arts and cultures of Asia through its exhibitions, the research and preservation of its collections, artistic and educational programming, and visitor experience and engagement. The museum accomplishes this in accordance with the highest professional standards and through collaboration with diverse audiences and community partners within North Texas and throughout the world. Free and open to the public, this museum celebrates the arts and cultures of Asia—from ancient eras to contemporary times—through a variety of permanent and traveling exhibitions that showcase the arts of a multitude of countries. With an array of beautiful spaces and galleries, the museum offers a serene setting for quiet reflection in the heart of the Dallas Arts District. Learn more at crowmuseum.org.

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