

SILVERLENS
MANILA



SHOZO MICHIKAWA
HAIKU IN CLAY

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22 September to 22 October 2022

Poetry in the Abstract

For Shozo Michikawa's second solo show in the country, fifteen new ceramic works will be exhibited for *Haiku in Clay*. Like the Japanese literary form the show is named after, the pieces call to mind nature imagery transformed into concise strokes directed with focused emotion and expression.

In its earliest form, the haiku is derived from hokku which means "starting verse" which compares to clay as the stuff of beginnings, of the oldest materials used by man. For the artist, though, everything comes back to his birthplace in Hokkaido. The island is a continuous source of inspiration for his work because of growing up in an assemblage of landscapes: mountains, valleys, and lakes interspersed with the jarring, precarious beauty of accumulated lava and acid. He says he tries to retain the natural intentions of clay, which begins as a lump in his hands. It slowly takes form as it is kneaded, twisted, and stretched, a performance of art in itself and a form of applied philosophy.

In online videos of Michikawa's demonstrations, he uses both wheel throwing and hand-building techniques where the outer layers of a vase are sliced and shaped using various tools. A long wooden stick like a rolling pin is inserted and used to massage the clay further, highlighting not just the creative labor of making an object but the hidden physical exertion of it that is unseen in the final result.

His works of Shino sculptural forms are made with a glaze of natural ash in muted colors partially enveloping its surface but mostly letting the overlapping layers show through the vessels. The base sheets of these appear like they were slapped into shape. On the other hand, the Kohiki sculptural forms in white glaze come in various sizes from tall elongated vessels that seem to have floating fragments to stout ones that resemble bowls to something flat, large and solid like a throne or seat blanketed in thick glaze.

The artist says the time of no travel during the pandemic made him think about his practice even more. This is reflected in the new works, where the abstractions in form retain their jagged lines but are tempered with softer waves of movement or undulations. The works, when seen in actuality, also have the surface texture and mass of something very old, like the walls of ruined temples or forgotten cities. One can even imagine they could have been totems from another planet because of their complicated, faceted shapes. Amid a long-standing climate crisis, these pieces inspired by nature make us think of our own encounters with nature itself and how we've tried to control something that was never ours to begin with.

Shozo Michikawa is a widely exhibited ceramicist and has held demonstrations all over the world from museums to art centers and universities. *Haiku in Clay* will run from September 22 through October 22 at Silverlens Manila.

Words by Josephine V. Roque







Kohiki (Sculptural Form), 2022

stoneware cut and throwing

3.94h x 10.43w x 6.10d in • 10h x 26.50w x 15.50d cm

SPI_SM038



Natural ash (Sculptural Form), 2022

stoneware cut and throwing

12.99h x 8.66w x 8.86d in • 33h x 22w x 22.50d cm

SPI_SM034

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Natural ash (Shino Sculptural Form), 2022

stoneware cut and throwing

13.19h x 3.74w x 7.68d in • 33.50h x 9.50w x 19.50d cm

SPI_SM032

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Kohiki (Sculptural Form), 2022

stoneware cut and throwing

15.16h x 6.50w x 6.50d in • 38.50h x 16.50w x 16.50d cm

SPI_SM040

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***Kohiki (Sculptural Form)*, 2022**

stoneware cut and throwing

10.63h x 6.10w x 6.89d in • 27h x 15.50w x 17.50d cm

SPI_SM042

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Natural ash (Sculptural Form), 2022

stoneware cut and throwing

25.20h x 7.87w x 5.91d in • 64h x 20w x 15d cm

SPL_SM036

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Natural Ash (sculptural form), 2016
stoneware cut and throwing, woodfiring
20.47h x 4.92w x 4.33d in • 52h x 12.50w x 11d cm
SPI_SM010

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Kohiki (Mizusashi with glass lid), 2017

stoneware cut and throwing

6h x 6.25w x 6.25d in • 15.24h x 15.88w x 15.88d cm

SPL_SM007

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Kohiki (topology form), 2015

stoneware cut and throwing

5.51h x 8.66w x 3.35d in • 14h x 22w x 8.50d cm

SPI_SM006

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Natural ash (Shino Sculptural Form), 2022
stoneware cut and throwing
11.42h x 8.27w x 7.48d in • 29h x 21w x 19d cm
SPI_SM033

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Natural Ash (sculptural form), 2016
stoneware cut and throwing, woodfiring
19.69h x 5.71w x 6.30d in • 50h x 14.50w x 16d cm
SPI_SM009

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Kohiki (Sculptural Form), 2022

stoneware cut and throwing

12.80h x 5.51w x 5.91d in • 32.50h x 14w x 15d cm

SPI_SM039

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Kohiki (Sculptural Form), 2022

stoneware cut and throwing

6.30h x 8.07w x 8.07d in • 16h x 20.50w x 20.50d cm

SPI_SM041

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Natural ash (Shino Sculptural Form), 2022
stoneware cut and throwing
16.34h x 10.63w x 9.84d in • 41.50h x 27w x 25d cm
SPI_SM031

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Kohiki (Sculptural Form), 2022

stoneware cut and throwing

21.46h x 8.07w x 7.68d in • 54.50h x 20.50w x 19.50d cm

SPI_SM037

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SHOZO MICHIKAWA

Bio

Shozo Michikawa was born in Hokkaido, the most northern area of Japan, in 1953. After graduating from Aoyama Gakuin University in 1975, he settled his base of ceramics activity at Seto, Aichi. His exhibitions are held widely in Japan and countries like Philippines, Mongolia, France, USA, and the UK.



SHOZO MICHIKAWA

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Michikawa_Natural ash (Shino Sculptural Form), 2022

AWARDS

- 2018 Gold, International Craft fair, Munchi
- 2005 Grand Prix CERAMICA MOSAICO, Ravenna

COLLECTIONS

- 2022 Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, USA
Ibaraki Ceramic Art Museum, Ibaraki, Japan
Portland Art Museum, USA
- 2018 Musee Cernuschi, Paris
- 2017 International Museum of Ceramic, Faenza, Italy
Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento
Worcester Art Museum, Massachusetts
Ashmolean Museum of Art, Oxford, UK
- 2016 Museo Carlo Zauli, Faenza, Italy
- 2015 National Museum of Wales, Wales
- 2014 Hamburg Museum, Germany
- 2013 Shimada City Museum, Japan
- 2012 Modern Glass & Ceramic Museum of Coburg, Germany
- 2010 Los Angeles County Museum of Art, USA
- 2009 National Museum of Wales, Wales
Aberystwyth University of Wales, Wales
- 2007 Philadelphia Museum of Art, USA
- 2006 China-Japan Exchange Center, China
Qinglingsi Temple, China

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2022 *Haiku in Clay*, Silverlens. Manila
- 2021 *Shozo Michikawa*, Erskine Hall & Coe, London
Shozo Michikawa, Japan Art, Frankfurt
Shozo Michikawa, Hostler Burrows, Los Angeles
- 2020 *Shozo Michikawa*, Erskine Hall & Coe, London
- 2018 *40ans Shozo Michikawa*, Paris
40th anniversary Exhibition, Frankfurt, Germany
40th anniversary Exhibition, Milan, Italy
- 2017 *40years 40pots*, Erskin, Hall&Coe, London
Shozo Michikawa, Lacoste Gallery, Concord, USA
Nature Into Art, Silverlens, Manila
- 2016 *Shozo Michikawa*, Centro Cultural Las Condes, Santiago, Chile
Shozo Michikawa, Galerie Friedrich Muller, Germany

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- Nature Into Art*, Di Legno Gallery, Singapore
Nature Into Art, Seto Ceramics and Glass Art Center, Seto
Shozo Michikawa, Museo Carlo Zauli, Faenza, Italy
- 2015 *The Forbidden City*, Erskin Hall & Coe, London
Ballades en Terres, Mizen Gallery, Paris
Shozo Michikawa, Puls Contemporary Gallery, Brussels
- 2014 *Shozo Michikawa*, Galerie Friedrich Muller, Frankfurt
Shozo Michikawa, Helene Aziza, Paris
Nature into Art, Galerie hu, Nagoya
- 2013 *Shozo Michikawa*, Erskine Hall & Co, London
Shozo Michikawa, Peter Kummermann, Geneva
Shozo Michikawa, Nihonbashi Mitukoshi Art Gallery, Tokyo
- 2012 *Nature Into Art*, MATERIA, Quebec
Shozo Michikawa, Galerie Helene Poree, Paris
- 2011 *Shozo Michikawa*, Erskine Hall & Coe, London
The Nature of Clay, Cavin-Morris Gallery, New York
Shozo Michikawa, Puls Contemporary Gallery, Brussels
Shozo Michikawa, Terra Rossa, Leipzig
Nature Into Art, Galerie hu, Nagoya
- 2009 *Nature Into Art*, Galerie Besson, London
Shozo Michikawa, Art Gallery Oyama, Osaka
- 2008 *Shozo Michikawa*, Clara Scremini Gallery, Paris
Shozo Michikawa, Gallery hu, Nagoya
- 2007 *30years, 30 pots*, Galerie Besson, London
30 years, 30 pots, Izukan Gallery, Manila
Shozo Michikawa, Gallery Tokyo Eizo, Tokyo
- 2006 *Shozo Michikawa*, Puls Contemporary Gallery, Brussels
- 2005 *Shozo Michikawa*, Blue Spiral Gallery, Asheville
Returning to Nature's Simplicity and Truth, Shandong Museum, Shandong
Returning to Nature's Simplicity and Truth, Forbidden City, Beijing
Shozo Michikawa, Wa-noi, Shizuoka
Shozo Michikawa, Izukan Gallery, Manila
- 2004 *Shozo Michikawa*, Galerie Besson, London
- 2003 *Shozo Michikawa*, Izukan Gallery, Manila
Shozo Michikawa, Matsuzakaya Department Store Gallery, Shizuoka
Shozo Michikawa, TOBU Department Store Gallery, Tokyo
- 2001 *Shozo Michikawa*, UlaanBaatar Art Gallery, Mongolia
Shozo Michikawa, TOBU Department Store Gallery, Tokyo

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- 2000 *Shozo Michikawa*, TOBU Department Store Gallery, Tokyo
Shozo Michikawa, Mitsukoshi Department Store Gallery, Kurashiki
- 1997 *Shozo Michikawa*, Hiraya Gallery, Manila
Shozo Michikawa, Tokyu Department Store Gallery, Tokyo
- 1996 *Shozo Michikawa*, Hiraya Gallery, Manila
- 1995 *Shozo Michikawa*, Hankyu Department Store Gallery, Osaka

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2022 *Art Basel*, Taka Ishii Gallery, Basel
TEFAF NY, Hostler Burrows, New York
SIZED/Sougetu, Los Angeles, USA
FOG DESIGN + ART, San Francisco, USA
Vessel or Not?, Sokyo Gallery, Lisbon
Small Works, Great Artists, Erskine Hall & Coe Gallery, London
Japan Art, Frankfurt
- 2021 *Art Basel Hong Kong*, Taka Ishii Gallery
ARCO LISBOA, Lisbon, Portugal
DESIGN MIAMI/BASEL, Basel
Ceramic and Paintings, Japan Art, Frankfurt
C ramique Japonaise, La Borne, France
Tougei no Shisa, Mosaic Tile Museum, Tajimi, Japan
- 2020 *Art Fair Philippines*, Silverlens, Manila
NOMAD, St, Moritz
BICMA 2020, Marratxi, Spain
- 2019 *Art Fair Philippines*, Silverlens, Manila
Watchfire, Silverlens, Manila
- 2018 *60th edition of the Faenza prize*, MIC, Faenza, Italy
About a Vace, Museo Montelupo, Italy
NIHON NOW, Galerie Du Don, France
Modern Masters, Munich, Germany
Masterpieces-400 years of japanese ceramics, Hoganas, Sweden
- 2017 *Design Basel*, Pierre Marie Giraud, Switzerland
Art Fair Philippines, Silverlens, Manila
Love and Violence, Mizen Fine Arts, Padova, Italy
- 2016 *Contemporary Japanese Ceramics*, Officine Saffi, Milan
Singapore Contemporary Art Show, Singapore
- 2015 Shimada City Museum, Shimada
International Ceramics, London
- 2014 *Art Ceram*, S vres

SHOZO MICHIKAWA

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- Japanese Ceramics, London
Tea Bowl Show, The Oxford Ceramics Gallery, Oxford
ICC Delhi 2014 Art Fair, Delhi
- 2012 **Modern Masters**, International trade fair, Munich
The world in a cup, NCECA, Seattle
SOFA, New York
COLLECT, London
Hanhyanglim Onggi Museum, Heyri
- 2011 **Pots from Seven Countries**, Galerie Besson, London
Arts of Pacific Asia Show, Seattle
- 2010 SOFA, New York
COLLECT, London
Pots & Paper, Museum Ludwig, Cologne
Summer Exhibition, Galerie Besson, London
Keramicos Collection, Haarlem
- 2009 **Soft Beauty of Traditional Shinos: Momoyama Era**, Concord University, USA
The Art of Japanese Craft 1870 to the Present, Philadelphia Museum, USA
SOFA, Chicago
- 2008 SOFA, New York
A Japanese Dialogue, The Scottish Gallery, Scotland
The Great North Art Show, Yorkshire
Twenty Years - Twenty Pots, Galerie Besson, London
Sussex Barn Gallery Tutor Exhibition, Sussex
International Ceramics, Giroussens, France
- 2006 **Japanese Crafts Exhibition**, Galerie Besson, London
- 2005 Ceramica mosaico exhibition, Ravenna
Summer Exhibition, Galerie Besson, London
The Signature Shop & Gallery, Atlanta
- 2004 **Japanese Ceramics**, Galerie Besson, London
Maiden Bridge Farm Maiden Bridge Exhibition, Lancaster
SOFA, Chicago
- 2003 **Summer Exhibition**, Galerie Besson, London
- 2002 **Accompaniments of Tea**, Daiichi Gallery, New York
- 1999 **Gallery Pots**, Galerie Besson, London
- 1996 **101 Pitcher Exhibition**, Terres de Provence, Paris

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