



AGSA reveals Japan's modern revolution in clay

Adelaide, Australia: Opening on 21 May, *Pure Form: Japanese sculptural ceramics* uncovers the story of a daring ceramics movement that emerged in mid-20th century Japan following the Second World War. Through a kaleidoscopic array of more than 100 objects made from earthenware, stoneware and porcelain, *Pure Form* reveals a 'revolution in clay' which redefined ceramics for a new age, favoured form over function, and fostered the emergence of female makers as a creative force.

In postwar Japan, young ceramicists formed art collectives in Kansai's urban centres (Kyoto, Osaka and Kobe). Their ground-breaking abstract sculptural forms drew inspiration from the history of Asian ceramics as well as European modernism, challenging existing hierarchies of taste and functionality. *Pure Form* showcases these pioneers and explores their ongoing influence through works by contemporary artists such as Tanaka Yū, whose large-scale illusionistic clay objects are informed by the Japanese cloth wrapping practice of *furoshiki*.

Art Gallery of South Australia Director, Rhana Devenport ONZM says, '*Pure Form* brings together generous loans from private and public collections within Australia and Japan, accompanied by works in AGSA's collection, to reveal the world-leading shift in ceramic expression that took place in mid-century Japan. *Pure Form* also highlights the work of Japan's female ceramic artists who, unfettered by the weight of history, injected a vital new energy and perspective into their sculptural, biomorphic forms.'

Largely unrecognised prior to the war, Japan's female ceramic artists began to assert their agency, empowered by the birth of a homegrown feminist movement. *Pure Form* showcases works by Japan's first generation of female makers including Tsuboi Asuka and Kishi Eiko, and their successors who continue to test the limits of clay.

Pure Form curator Russell Kelty, Curator of Asian Art, AGSA, says, 'Japan is home to one of the most dynamic ceramics cultures in the world, with artists who display a limitless pursuit of technical innovation and perfection. *Pure Form* includes works by members of the pivotal avant-garde group Shikōkai (*Society of the four harvests*) and Sōdeisha (*Crawling through Mud Association*) like Hayashi Yasuo and Yagi Kazuo, the late master of meditative ceramics Miyashita Zenji as well as monumental sculptures by leading ceramicists Akiyama Yō and Jun Kaneko.'

Rhana Devenport says, 'With *Pure Form* on display concurrently with Yayoi Kusama's recently installed *THE SPIRIT OF THE PUMPKINS DESCENDED INTO THE HEAVENS* and Chiharu Shiota's popular *Absence Embodied*, there's a wealth of modern and contemporary Japanese art to be discovered at AGSA.'

Pure Form is accompanied by a major 208-page publication, fully illustrated, and featuring essays by Russell Kelty, Raphy Star, Daicho Tomohiro, Lesley J. Kehoe, Daniel McGowan and Aoyama Wahei, available from the AGSA Store for \$49.95.

Pure Form: Japanese sculptural ceramics is on display at AGSA from 21 May to 6 November 2022, free entry.

PURE FORM ARTISTS

Akio Takamori アキオ・タカモリ 高森昭夫 | Akiyama Yō 秋山陽 | Fujikasa Satoko 藤笠都子 | Fujioka Shūhei 藤岡周平 | Fukami Sueharu 深見陶冶 | Futamura Yoshimi 二村好美 | Hayashi Hideyuki 林秀行 | Hayashi Yasuo 林康夫 | Higashida Shigemasa 東田茂正 | Hitomi Masatsugu 人見政次 | Hoshino Satoru 星野暁 | Ichino Masahiko 市野雅彦 | Izumita Yukiya 泉田之也 | Kako Katsumi 加古勝己 | Kakurezaki Ryūichi 隠崎隆一 | Kanegae Kazutaka 金ヶ江和隆 | Kaneko Jun 金子潤 | Kaneshige Kosuke 金重晃介 | Kato Takahiko 加藤隆彦 | Katsumata Chieko 勝間田千恵子 | Katsuno Hirokuni 勝野博邦 | Kawakami Rikizō 川上力三 | Kawakami Tomoko 川上智子 | Kawase Shinobu 川瀬忍 | Kishi Eiko 岸映子 | Kitamura Tsuruyo 北村鶴代 | Kohyama Yasuhisa 神山易久 | Koie Ryōji 鯉江良二 | Koike Shōko 小池頌子 | Kondō Takahiro 近藤高弘 | Kondō Yutaka 近藤豊 | Kumakura Junkichi 熊倉順吉 | Matsuda Yuriko 松田百合子 | Matsui Kōsei 松井康成 | Matsutani Fumio 松谷文生 | Mihara Ken 三原研 | Misaki Mitsukuni 美崎光邦 | Mishima Kimiyo 三島喜美代 | Miyanaga Rikichi (Miyanaga Tozan III) 三代宮永東山 (宮永理吉) | Miyashita Zenji 宮下善爾 | Mori Seishi 森静止 | Morino Hiroaki Tamei 森野泰明 | Moriyama Kanjiro 森山寛二郎 | Nagae Shigekazu 長江重和 | Nakashima Harumi 中島晴美 | Ohira Kazumasa 大平和正 | Sakiyama Takayuki 崎山隆之 | Shingu Sayaka 新宮さやか | Sugitani Keizo 杉谷恵増造 | Suizu Kazuyuki 水津和之 | Suzuki Osamu 鈴木蔵 | Takauchi Shūgō 高内秀剛 | Takegoshi Jun 武腰潤 | Tanaka Yū 田中悠 | Tanoue

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MEDIA RELEASE

13 April 2022

Shinya 田上真也 | Tsuboi Asuka 坪井明日香 | Tsujimura Kai 辻村塊 | Tsujimura Shirō 辻村史郎 | Tsumori Hidenori 津守秀憲 | Uetake Satoshi 植竹敏 | Uranishi Kenji 浦西健司 | Wada Morihiro 和田守卑良 | Wakimoto Hiroyuki 脇本博之 | Yagi Kazuo 八木 一夫 | Yamada Hikaru 山田光 | Yamada Kazu 山田和 | Yasuhara (Yoshiaki) Kimei 安原喜明 | Yoshikawa Masamichi 吉川正道

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KEY DATES Exhibition Season | 21 May - 6 November 2022

IMAGES https://files.artgallery.sa.gov.au/ftp/marketing/MEDIA/2022/Pure_Form_Images.zip

Image caption: Tanaka Yū, born Ehime prefecture 1989, *Yellow sculpture in the shape of a furoshiki*, c.2018, Kyoto, stoneware, matte glaze, 46.0 x 54.0 x 38.5 cm; Collection of Raphy Star, © Tanaka Yū, photo: Hazuki Kani.