

Taizo Kuroda

Tristan Hoare
www.tristanhoare.co.uk
info@tristanhoare.co.uk



Taizo Kuroda. *Untitled 27 (Mei Ping V)*, 2016. Yakishime Porcelain, 25.5 x 18.5 cm

Taizo Kuroda is one of the most important artists in Japanese contemporary ceramics. He began his training in Canada in the 1970s, and returned to Japan in 1981 where completed his apprenticeship under the master ceramicist Tatsuzo Shimaoka, who later became a Living National Treasure of Japan. In 1991, Kuroda built his home and studio in Futo, Izu Peninsula in Japan.

Rather than exploring unusual form or decorative designs in his work, Kuroda found himself captivated by the beauty of the pure white porcelain of Joseon Dynasty Korea, and in around 1992, began making high-fired, unglazed 'yakishime' white porcelain. These works include bowls and stands of all sizes, high-shouldered cylindrical vases and occasionally urn-shaped vases with full, rounded shoulders. Pure white porcelain clay is notoriously difficult to produce by hand, and to pull up on the potter's wheel. Often, it is the simplest forms that are the most challenging to make.

Some of Kuroda's most distinctive works feature breaks in the surface, jagged apertures that emphasise the irregular lines of his vessels. In explanation, Kuroda states: "What I am ultimately looking for is a perfect space. I am not ready yet to make such a form however. With a wheel, it is possible to make a piece that is almost perfect, but I cannot allow myself to do that yet."

In the last twenty years, Kuroda has devoted himself to producing white porcelain, unveiling a range of spiritual works not only in Japan, but also abroad, in New York, Basel and Seoul. His ceramics have been exhibited internationally, and have attracted the attention of both artists and connoisseurs, and include many important collectors and institutions.

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Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2019 *Taizo Kuroda*, Vangi Sculpture Garden Museum, Shizuoka, Japan
Material: Earth series, Messums Wiltshire, Wiltshire, UK
- 2018 *Taizo Kuroda*, La Frontiera, Paris, France
Taizo Kuroda, Chateau La Coste, France
Taizo Kuroda, Shibunkaku Gallery, Kyoto, Japan
Taizo Kuroda, T. Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
- 2017 *White Porcelain - Cylinders*, Yoshii Gallery, New York
- 2015 *Taizo Kuroda*, Hiromiyoshii Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan
- 2014 *Kuroda Taizo*, Utsuwa Nanohana, Odawara, Japan
- 2013 *Kuroda Taizo*, Tanimatsuya Toda Gallery, Osaka, Japan
Taizo Kuroda, Hiromiyoshii Roppongi, Tokyo, Japan
- 2012 *Kuroda Taizo*, Hakone Nanohana Tenjishitsu, Hakone, Japan
- 2000 *Kuroda Taizo*, Zetterquist Galleries, New York, USA

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2018 *Geometrica*, Tristan Hoare, London, UK
- 2016 *Enso*, Tristan Hoare, London, UK
- 2015 *Simple Forms: Contemplating Beauty*, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan
- 2014 *Contemporary Kogei Styles in Japan*, The Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens, Miami, USA
- 2013 *Gendai no Kogei*, Rakusuitei Museum of Art, Toyama, Japan
Gendai no Meiwai, Musee Tomo, Tokyo, Japan
- 2012 *New Footing*, The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo, Japan
Japan the Land of Enchantment, Galleria Palanatina di Palazzo Pitti, Florence, Italy

Public Collections

Tokyo National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo, Japan
Cleveland Museum of Art, Ohio, USA
Brooklyn Museum of Art, New York, USA
Byrd Hoffman Water Mill Foundation, New York, USA
The Ruth & Sherman Lee Institute for Japanese Art, California, USA
Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK

Selected Publications

Kuroda, Taizo, *Taizo Kuroda: White Porcelain*, 2015
Hoare, Tristan, *Taizo Kuroda*, 2016
Jodidio, Phillip, *Taizo Kuroda*, 2009
Fumio, Nanjo, *Simple Forms: Contemplating Beauty*, 2015