

# MIMESIS

Chikako Inaba . Jun Matsumura . Nami Takahashi  
Sayaka Shingu . Yu Tanaka . Yuri Takemura



23 July - 21 August 2021

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Chikako Inaba

Jun Matsumura

Nami Takahashi

Sayaka Shingu

Yu Tanaka

Yuri Takemura

Cover

**Sayaka Shingu**

**Erosion I**

2021

Semi Porcelain

H 15 x 29 x 24 cm

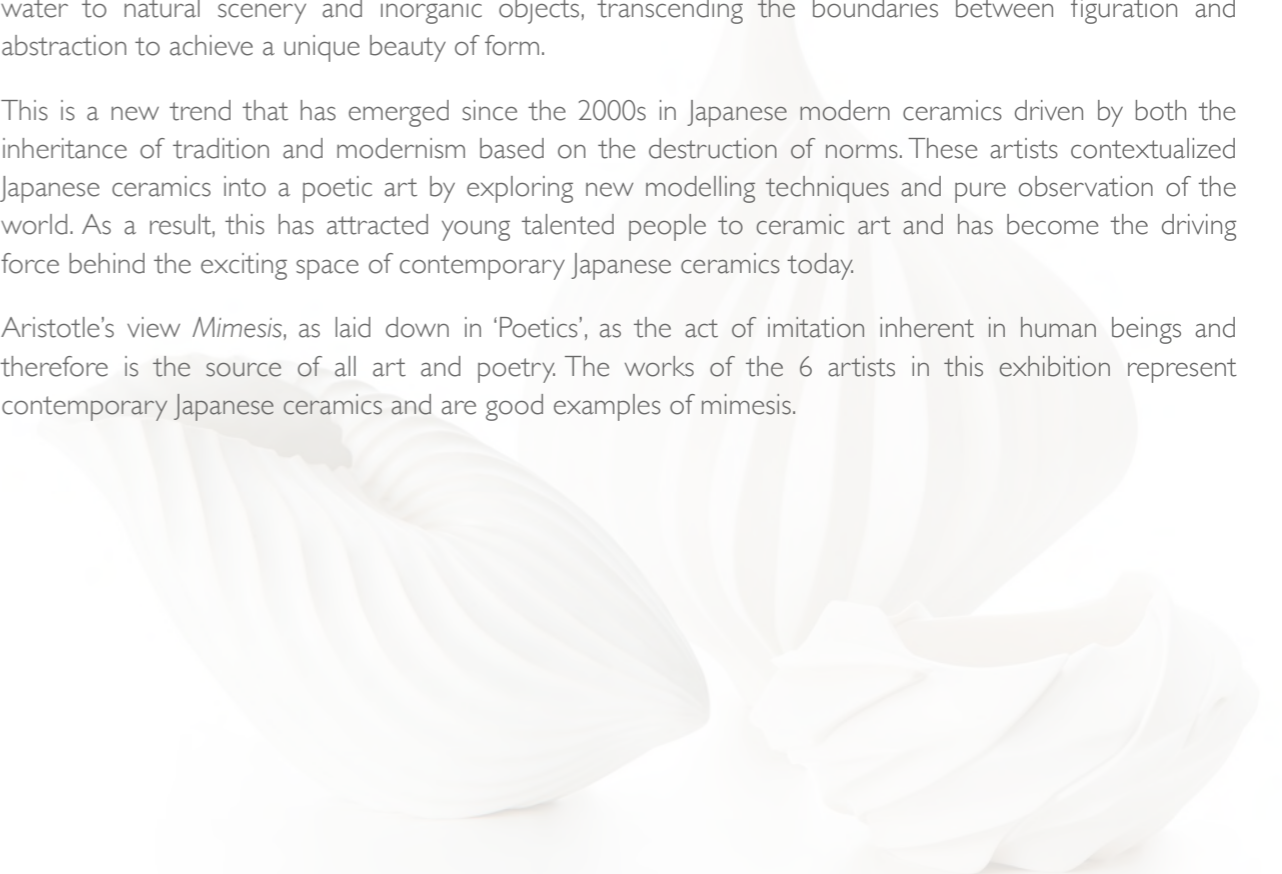


## MIMESIS

Mulan Gallery is proud to present a group exhibition of 6 contemporary Japanese ceramicists, namely **Chikako Inaba**, **Jun Matsumura**, **Nami Takahashi**, **Sayaka Shingu**, **Yu Tanaka**, and **Yuri Takemura**, whose focus is the creation of original works by imitating things and transforming them. The objects range from plants and water to natural scenery and inorganic objects, transcending the boundaries between figuration and abstraction to achieve a unique beauty of form.

This is a new trend that has emerged since the 2000s in Japanese modern ceramics driven by both the inheritance of tradition and modernism based on the destruction of norms. These artists contextualized Japanese ceramics into a poetic art by exploring new modelling techniques and pure observation of the world. As a result, this has attracted young talented people to ceramic art and has become the driving force behind the exciting space of contemporary Japanese ceramics today.

Aristotle's view *Mimesis*, as laid down in 'Poetics', as the act of imitation inherent in human beings and therefore is the source of all art and poetry. The works of the 6 artists in this exhibition represent contemporary Japanese ceramics and are good examples of mimesis.





**CHIKAKO INABA (b. 1974)**

Flower Vase  
2013  
Stoneware  
H 17 x 29.9 x 21.5 cm

*'I am inspired by the shape of the leaf, the flow of its veins and the way it withers and curls; resembling the strength and will of life. The withered and curled shape of a leaf reminds me of a bowl, lying on the ground with water in it preparing for its return to the soil and nurturing the next life. The pottery cannot return to the soil, but I would like to create vessels that can embody both the vitality and transience of life.'*

~ Chikako Inaba





CHIKAKO INABA (b. 1974)

YOHKI Vessel

葉器

2016

Stoneware

H 17.5 x 24.5 x 12 cm





**JUN MATSUMURA (b. 1986)**

Divergence I.01

2021

Porcelain

H 19.5 x 17.7 x 10.4 cm



*'I create my work based on the practice of 'Kogei' (Japanese traditional arts and crafts) by extracting forms out of nature. I use porcelain as a medium to reflect the fragility of our modern society and the understanding of feeling of one's existence.'*

~ Jun Matsumura



**JUN MATSUMURA (b. 1986)**

Tea Bowl  
2019  
Porcelain  
H 10 x 17 x 17 cm





**JUN MATSUMURA (b. 1986)**

Water Container

2019

Porcelain

H 9 × 18 × 18 cm







**NAMI TAKAHASHI (b. 1973)**

Fruit 0024  
2017  
Porcelain  
H 17.6 x 14.7 x 13 cm



**NAMI TAKAHASHI (b. 1973)**

Fruit 0051  
2019  
Porcelain  
H 13.5 x 12.5 x 12.5 cm



**NAMI TAKAHASHI (b. 1973)**

**Fruit 0041**  
2019  
Porcelain  
H 29 x 22 x 20 cm



*'I am attracted to the beautiful lines and forms of seeds, berries and flower buds in the natural world.'*

~ Nami Takahashi



**NAMI TAKAHASHI (b. 1973)**

**Fruit 0016**

2016

Porcelain

H 26.2 x 22.4 x 21.3 cm



*'Most of my works resemble fragile dried flowers. I mix clay with black pigments in varying proportions in order to create a monochromatic palette.*

*I keep in mind the need to express various movements and shape of the individual petals as it is important for me to convey a sense of growing, in order to express the flower in its final stage of life.*

*When I observe the stages of life of a single flower, I am reminded of the same stages of life of a human being. This is the source of my inspiration as I am deeply touched by the invisible pulsating life form of flowers.'*

*~ Sayaka Shingu*

**SAYAKA SHINGU (b. 1979)**

**Erosion II**

2021

Semi Porcelain

H 22 x 36 x 31 cm

SAYAKA SHINGU (b. 1979)

Erosion I  
2021

Semi Porcelain  
H 15 x 29 x 24 cm





YUTANAKA (b. 1989)

tsutsumimono I

包み物

2020

Stoneware

H 26 x 16 x 16 cm



YU TANAKA (b. 1989)

tsutsumimono II

包み物

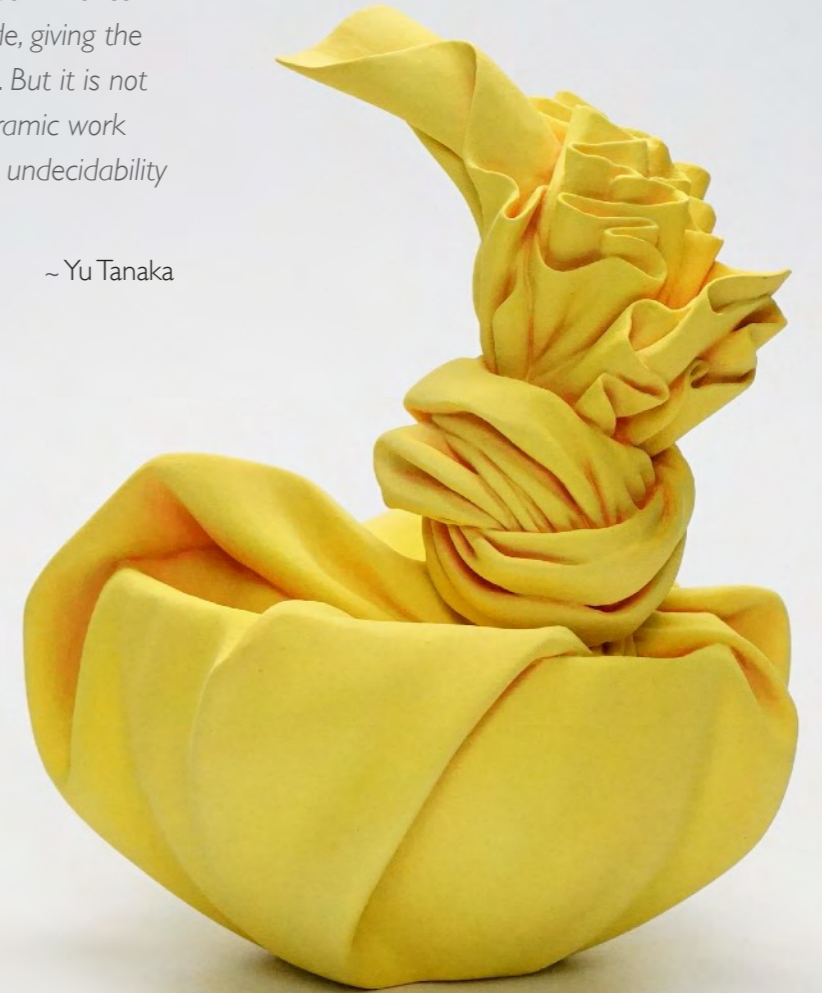
2021

Stoneware

H 26 × 21 × 21 cm

*'I find beauty in the object that is wrapped with 'furoshiki', a traditional Japanese wrapping cloth. The soft curve of the drape of the work makes you feel like there is something inside, giving the cloth the power to stand on its own. But it is not possible to untie the knot of this ceramic work and see what is inside. I believe this undecidability is one of the charms of my work.'*

~ Yu Tanaka





**YURI TAKEMURA (b. 1980)**

Tea Bowl: Clown  
2017  
Porcelain/Silver Foil  
H 9 x 12.3 x 12.3 cm

*'The beautiful lines and subtle gradations of colour in natural landscapes, plants and creatures are my inspiration. Most of my works are not sketched to details but rather a flash of inspiration I get at that moment when I touch the clay.'*

*'There is much to discover by using the tea bowl. The temperature transmitted to the palm changes with the thickness of the clay and the surprise when you look at the foot of the bowl.'*

*~ Yuri Takemura*





**YURI TAKEMURA (b. 1980)**

Tea Bowl: Hazy Moon Night  
2017

Porcelain/Silver Foil  
H 9.5 x 12 x 12 cm





YURITAKEMURA (b. 1980)

Tea Caddy  
2020  
Porcelain  
H 8.1 x 7.2 x 7.2 cm



## Chikako Inaba 稲葉 周子

b. 1974, Japan

### EDUCATION

- 1996 Musashino Art University Junior College of Art and Design, Japan  
2001 Tajimi City Pottery Design and Technical Center, Tajimi, Japan

### SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2020 *Ephemeral Beauty: Sculptural Vessels*, Joan B Mirviss Ltd, USA  
PLUS Notion, Japan  
2017 Gallery Tosei, Japan  
2016 稲葉 周子 個展, Gallery Petituluxe, Japan  
Gallery HINATA-DO, Japan  
2011 Space Prism Designers Gallery, Japan

### SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 *White*, Sokyō Gallery, Japan  
2020 Duo Exhibition, Gallery Wearme, Japan  
2019 Duo Ceramics Exhibition, Utsuwa Ikkyaku, Japan  
「TEXTURE」, Sokyō Gallery, Japan  
*Japanese Spring*, Gallery Terra Delft, Netherlands  
2018 'Japan' GÄSTE 2018, Seeschloss Ort, Austria  
3-men Exhibition, Art Gallery Ikebukuro Seibu, Japan  
2017 *The Present Situation of Ceramic Art - Form consisting of the clay - Part XV, Gallery VOICE*, Japan  
*Water Mother*, HT Gallery, Taiwan

### AWARDS

- 2017 The 11<sup>th</sup> International Ceramics Competition MINO, Japan  
2016 Silver; The 6<sup>th</sup> Taiwan International Gold Teapot Prizes, Taiwan  
Honourable Award, Yingge Ceramic Museum, Taiwan  
2014 The 10<sup>th</sup> International Ceramics Competition, MINO, Japan  
2003 Takaoka Craft Exhibition

## Jun Matsumura 松村 淳

b. 1986, Japan

### EDUCATION

- 2018 Utatsuyama Kogei Kobo, Kanazawa, Ishikawa, Japan  
2015 Tajimi City Pottery Design and Technical Center, Tajimi, Japan  
2010 BA, University of South Alabama, USA

### SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 *Metafictional Adaptation Cycle*, Sokyō Gallery, Japan  
2020 松村 淳 作品展 (Jun Matsumura Exhibition), Koubou Ikuko, Japan  
2017 *Vol. 5 Jun Matsumura*, Ishoken Gallery, Japan  
*MOMENT*, Giant Year Gallery, Hong Kong

### SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 Bunkindo, Japan  
*Chato*, Ibaraki Ceramic Art Museum, Japan  
*No Man's Land - The Future of Ceramic Art, the Unseen Beyond the Horizon*, The Museum of Ceramic Art, Hyogo, Japan  
2020 *BLUE or WHITE? - Celadon, White Porcelain, and Bluish - White Porcelain*, Ibaraki Ceramic Art Museum, Japan  
*Sokyō Gallery × sequence KYOTO GOJO [Week Ties]*, sequence KYOTO GOJO, Japan  
2019 *Yuki Nara + Jun Matsumura Exhibition*, Kakiden Gallery, Japan  
2018 *Real - Possibility of Ceramic Art*, Yoshiaki Inoue Gallery, Japan  
*Art Fair Tokyo*, Sokyō Gallery, Japan  
2017 *Kanazawa Contemporary Kogei Exhibition*, Seibu Shibuya, Japan  
*TEFAF Maastricht*, Sokyō Gallery, Netherlands  
*Art Fair Tokyo*, Sokyō Gallery, Japan  
*Art Beijing*, Sokyō Gallery, China  
*COLLECT*, Sokyō Gallery/Saatchi Gallery Booth, UK  
*KOGEI Art Fair Kanazawa*, Sokyō Gallery, Japan

### AWARDS

- 2021 Commended, Paramita Ceramic Art Grand Prix Exhibition, Japan  
2016 Commended, 3<sup>rd</sup> Triennale of KOGEI in Kanazawa, Japan  
2015 Commended, Meijer × Shigaraki Award Competition: Tradition and Innovation - Japanese Ceramics Now, Japan

## Nami Takahashi 高橋 奈己

b. 1973, Japan

### EDUCATION

- 1997-1999 Istituto Statale d'arte, Faenza, Italy  
1997 BFA, Musashino Art University Junior College of Art and Design, Japan

### SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 Terada Bijutsu, Japan  
2019 *The Language of White Porcelain*, LIXIL Gallery, Japan  
Nihombashi Mitsukoshi Art Square, Tokyo  
2017 Gallery Yunor, Tokyo  
*Contemporary Ceramics Salon Tosei*, Daimaru, Osaka, Japan

### SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 *Modern Crafts and Tea Utensils: Furnishings in Each Season*, National Crafts Museum, Japan  
*The Path of Contemporary Ceramics for Tea Ceremony*, Toki City Historical Museum of Mino Ceramics, Japan  
2020 Kobe Hankyu, Japan  
2019 「TEXTURE」, Sokyō Gallery, Japan  
*The 14<sup>th</sup> Paramita Ceramic Art Awards Exhibition*, 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Okada Cultural Foundation, Paramita Museum, Japan  
2018 Aoyama Gakuin University, Japan  
Kakiden Gallery, Japan  
Sogo Museum of Art, Japan  
Faenza City Hall, Italy  
2017 COLLECT 2017, London  
Cheongju Craft Biennale, China  
Toyama Prefectural Museum of Art and Design, Japan

### SELECTED AWARDS

- 2017 Commended, 3<sup>rd</sup> Triennale of KOGEI, Japan  
Commended, 57<sup>th</sup> East Japan Traditional Crafts Exhibition, Japan  
Commended, 64<sup>th</sup> Japan Traditional Crafts Exhibition, Japan  
2016 Commended, 4<sup>th</sup> Tobi Award, Japan  
New Face Award, 63<sup>rd</sup> Japan Traditional Crafts Exhibition, Japan  
Mr. T Award, 50<sup>th</sup> Woman Ceramic Art Exhibition, USA

### COLLECTIONS

The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo, Japan  
Ibaraki Ceramic Art Museum, Japan  
Inax Museum, Japan  
International Museum of Ceramic, Faenza, Italy

## Sayaka Shingu 新宮 さやか

b. 1979, Japan

### EDUCATION

- 2003 Artist-in-Residence, The Shigaraki Ceramic Cultural Park, Japan  
2001 BFA, Osaka University of Arts, Japan

### SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2020 *Shingu Sayaka*, Gallery Labo, Japan  
2019 *Pulsation*, Rokurokudo, Japan  
*Chasing after a kind of Mirage*, Utsuwakan, Japan  
2018 Takashimaya Nihombashi, Japan  
2017 *Longing for Something Far Away*, Utsuwakan, Japan  
Kochukyo, Japan  
2015 Gallery Tosei, Japan  
2013 *Sayaka Shingu-Eclipse of Black*, Gallery Suchi, Japan  
2012 Gallery Yuragi, Japan  
2011 INAX Live Museum, Japan

### SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2020 飾りの行方 - *Decoration of the whereabouts*, Gallery Utsuwa-note, Japan  
*New Directions: Japanese Women Artists*, LaiSun Keane, USA  
2019 SPARKLE, Rokurokudo, Japan  
*Transcendental World*, Setouchi City Museum of Art, Japan  
Ryosokuin Kenninji Temple, Japan  
2017 *Object Exhibition*, Yakata Yusai, Japan  
2015 Art Osaka, Japan

### SELECTED AWARDS

- 2012 7<sup>th</sup> Paramita Museum Ceramic Art Grand Prize Exhibition, Paramita Museum, Japan  
2008 Kyoto Art and Craft Biennale, The Museum of Kyoto, Japan  
2004 Asahi Ceramic Exhibition, Japan

### COLLECTION

Anadolu University Museum, Turkey

**Yu Tanaka 田中 悠**

b. 1989, Japan

#### EDUCATION AND TENURE

2015-2018 Assistant, Ceramics Department, Kyoto Saga University of Arts

2013 Kyoto Saga University of Arts

#### SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2021 陶芸の提案-間近に見る, Gallery Haku, Japan

2020 *Interiors: Mysteries in Clay*, Joan B Mirviss Ltd, USA  
Nihonbashi Takashimaya, Japan

2019 フクロモノ - Fukuromono, Kyoto Ceramic Center, Japan  
Kyoto Takashimaya, Japan

2017 Gallery Haku, Japan  
Kyoto Takashimaya, Japan

#### SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2021 *Only in Tokonoma*, The Terminal Kyoto, Japan  
*Beautiful Ornament*, Gallery Nakamura, Japan  
*Ceramic x Arts x Technic*, FEI Art Museum, Japan

2020 *Beautiful Ornament*, Gallery Nakamura, Japan  
*Self Portrait*, Gallery Maronie Kyoto, Japan  
*Popular Shape II*, Gallery Suki, Japan  
BIWAKO Biennale, Japan

*Galleism in Nakatsu*, Pias Tower, Japan  
*Guinomi Exhibition*, Gallery Suki, Japan

2019 Art Fair Philippines  
*70<sup>th</sup> Kyoto Exhibition of Flower Ceremony*, Daimaru Museum, Japan  
*Popular Shape - Growth and Decoration*, Gallery Suki, Japan  
*Exist by means of Beauty*, Takashimaya Kyoto, Japan  
Art Fair Asia, Fukuoka, Japan

#### AWARDS

2015 Grand Prize, 49<sup>th</sup> Women's Association of Ceramic Art, Kyoto Municipal Museum of Art, Japan

#### COLLECTIONS

Seattle Art Museum  
Saga Go-ryū, Japan

**Yuri Takemura 竹村 友里**

b. 1980, Japan

#### EDUCATION

2006-2009 Kanazawa Utatsuyama Crafts Workshop, Ishikawa, Japan

2005-2006 Artist in Residence, Shigaraki Ceramic Cultural Park, Shiga, Japan

2004 BFA Aichi Prefectural University of Fine Arts and Music, Japan

#### SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2020 Mitsukoshi Nihonbashi, Japan  
Matsuzakaya, Nagoya, Japan

2016 Mitsukoshi Nihonbashi, Japan

2013 Mitsukoshi Nihonbashi, Japan

2012 Matsuzakaya Nagoya, Japan

#### SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2019 *The Glory of Tainan*, Tainan Art Museum Building I, Taiwan

2018 *Art Crafting Towards the Future Continued*, Wako Hall, Japan

2017 *Rising Stars: The Dancing Colors of Takemura Yuri*, Joan B. Mirviss Ltd, USA

2015 *Japanese Kogei | Future Forward*, The Museum of Arts and Design, USA  
*Contemporary Fantastic Ceramics*, Wako Hall, Japan  
*Tea Exhibition*, AHAF Hong Kong

#### AWARDS

2010 Encouragement Award, The 66<sup>th</sup> Kanazawa Crafts Exhibition, Ishikawa, Japan

2009 President of The Hokkoku Shinbun Award, The 65<sup>th</sup> Kanazawa Crafts Exhibition, Japan

2008 Special Judges Award (Piet Stockmans), The 8<sup>th</sup> International Ceramics Competition Mino, Japan  
Yomiuri Shinbun Award, The 47<sup>th</sup> Japan Crafts Exhibition, Japan

2007 Encouragement Award, The 63<sup>th</sup> Kanazawa Crafts Exhibition, Ishikawa, Japan  
Encouragement Award, The 2<sup>nd</sup> Kikuchi Biennale, Japan

#### COLLECTIONS

Shigaraki Ceramic Cultural Park, Japan  
Ibaraki Ceramic Art Museum, Japan  
Kanazawa Utatsuyama Crafts Workshop, Japan  
21<sup>st</sup> Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, Japan  
Anadolu University Contemporary Arts Museum, Turkey  
Portland Art Museum

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