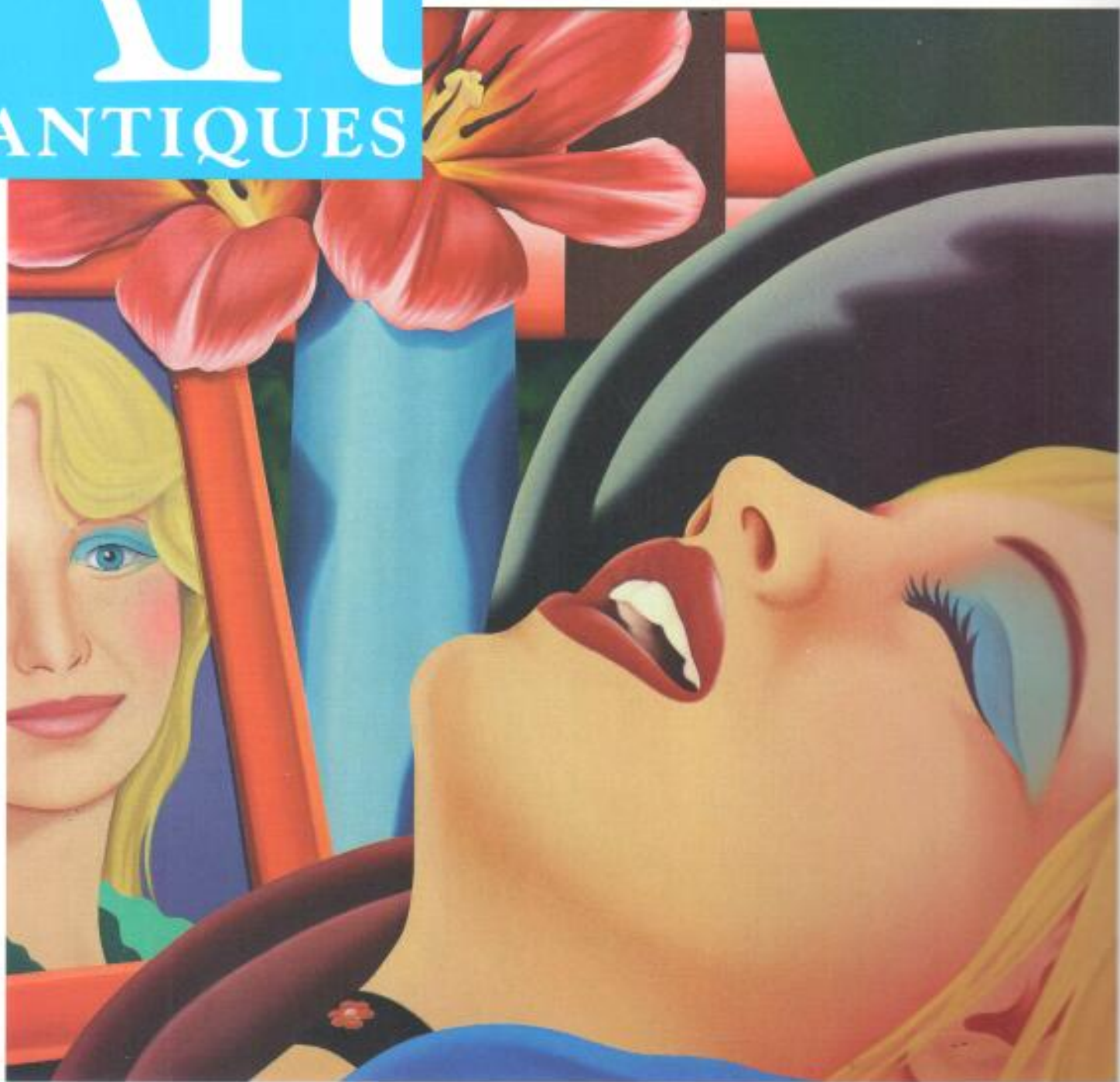


SEPTEMBER 2

# Art & ANTIQUES

FOR COLLECTORS OF THE FINE AND DECORATIVE ARTS



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## Pattern Seeking

*Kogei*, or "artisan crafts" is the term for seven traditional Japanese decorative arts—ceramics, lacquerware, dolls, woodwork, textiles, and metalwork—that are still practiced today. Some *kogei* artists stick to tradition, as finalized in the late 19th century, during the Meiji period. Others respect tradition and classical technique but innovate by bringing more personal expression into their work. One of these innovators is Yuki Hayama, a ceramicist who specializes in *etsuke*, or porcelain painting. *Etsuke* uses five colors but can achieve 72 through layering. The glaze is then fired 12 times, which gives it its unique sheen. Hayama has created 128 patterns which he has memorized and paints directly onto the ceramics, without preliminary drawing. One of those patterns, *Flowers Sparkling and Shining*, is shown here. The spherical vessel is covered all over with a skein of delicate blue, white, and red tendrils, heightened with gold; the overall effect is at the same time botanical and cosmic. Entering into Hayama's pattern, one feels as if one may never come out again, nor want to.

Born in 1961, Hayama began working in a pottery studio in his home region of Arita, Saga Prefecture, when he was 15. He set up his own kiln at the age of 23 and had his first solo show five years later, in 1990, in Hakata, Fukuoka Prefecture. Since then, he has shown all over Japan, and earlier this year, his work was featured in the exhibition "Japanese Kogei: Future Forward" at the Museum of Arts and Design in New York. The piece shown here will be in Hayama's debut U.S. solo show, "Beauty of Life," at Ippodo Gallery in New York, which opens September 9 and runs through the 29th.

As part of the exhibition, Hayama is collaborating with carpet producer Joseph Carini, who is creating textiles based on Hayama's patterns and made by artisans from Southeast Asia. For Hayama, who has written novels and illustrated his own picture books, moving between media is nothing new. However, ceramics remain his central preoccupation. "Among the records of mankind's strength, bravery, weakness and fragility, I discovered the permanence of ceramics," Hayama has written. "Even when broken, fragments of ceramics remain, never to be totally destroyed but serving as a bridge between the past and the people of the future."

