

For Immediate Release

Ippodo Gallery New York

The Debut Exhibition of Ceramic Works by Yuki Hayama

– *Beauty of Life* 生命の美 –

In collaboration with Joseph Carini Carpets

Venue: 335 Greenwich Street, New York, NY 10013

September 9 – 29, 2016

*Opening Reception : September 8, 6 – 9p.m.



Bowl with *Shinrabansho* (All Nature, All Life) Motif
H6 W11 2/4 in (H14.7 W29 cm)

NEW YORK, NY, July 26th, 2016 - Ippodo Gallery is pleased to present *Beauty of Life*, the debut exhibition in the US of ceramic works by Yuki Hayama. Hayama's ceramics are exceptional, characterized by careful patterns, with meticulous attention to detail acting as a meditative aim for a better world. He personifies the forces of nature - water, flowers, trees, animals, sky, earth - across 20 works. All are encapsulated in every single bowl. Large and small, pots and dishes, each ceramic piece is shaped as a sphere, further expressing universality in design as clearly as technique. Hayama further aids in the understanding of his work with supplemental literature, explaining the hidden meanings in the patterns. He is unparalleled in the world of ceramics.

Hayama was just 15 when he began working at a pottery studio in his home area of Arita, Saga Prefecture, the leading producer of porcelain in Japan. Born in 1961 with his birth overshadowed by tragedy, he channeled his circumstances into a determination to love others and art, using ceramic craftsmanship as a vehicle to spread peace. More than an artist, Hayama is also a historian and a writer who integrates these aspects into his work. Throughout his process, he contemplates humanity's existence. He researches extensively to determine the artwork's theme, then researches the theme in-depth. Conceptualizing, he writes a story, crafting a narrative on which the work is based. By writing, the image is formed in his mind. He has even published his own picture books and novels. His stories often tell of mankind's hopes, joys and sorrows, of tomorrow and the distant past. After a thorough exploration, the craftsmanship begins. These innovative works express a contemporary vision, employing the traditional technique of 'God Hand' often used in Arita, and Hayama pours a special quality of humanity into his creations. And while humanity may be ephemeral, but one appeal of ceramics is its permanence.

After years of hard work, Hayama's single-minded and harmonic approach to art eventually led to great acclaim. Ever the modest, humble craftsman, Hayama continues to work diligently to honor his art. He first set up his own kiln at age 23 in Yamauchi-cho in Saga Prefecture, holding his first solo show five years later in Hakata, Fukuoka Prefecture, in 1990. Since then, his work has shown all around Japan, with international exposure in Helsinki, Finland as well. More recently, Hayama's works were shown in New York alongside other ceramic artists at the Museum of Arts and Design, in the exhibition, *Japanese Kogei / Future Forward*. It is an undeniable truth that the world created by Yuki Hayama embodies the diversity of the rich cultures of the world.

There are no preliminary drafts nor preemptive paintings for Hayama's *etsuke*, or porcelain painting. Instead, as is the case in the work *Ten Thousand Flowers*, the artist works from memory of 128 exactly practiced patterns. The *etsuke* art form is also strongly rooted in colors — with just five colors of hand-ground traditional glaze, 72 can be achieved through layering. The glaze is fired 12 times to achieve its beautiful sheen. The final product seeks to tell tales of the mystical, natural world, referencing the distant past to create future joy. Failure is not tolerated.

These themes are illuminating, providing a compass for life and for future hopes. But do vessels capture life? "Among the records of mankind's strength, bravery, weakness and fragility, I discovered the permanence of ceramics," Hayama writes, "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."

In league with Hayama's own interest in unity, Ippodo is collaborating with carpet producer and native New Yorker Joseph Carini. The works will be shown at Carini's Tribeca space. In harmony with Hayama, Carini is collaborating with artisans from Southeast Asia to create beautiful carpets. The carpet artisans use techniques from Nepal and Tibet with natural botanical dye and weaving to complement and incorporate Hayama's patterns. Carini believes the dyes truly inject energy into the carpets and inspire the viewer. Carini and Hayama share a passion for lasting handmade craftsmanship, and combined their interest in methodology of dyes and glazes, as well as their mutual respect for nature's gifts, in this show. Carini chose a blues palette made from pure high quality Indigo to compliment the Hayama's designs.

Founded in 1997, the eponymous carpet company strives to bridge old and new with contemporary pieces. Carini has become a leader in his field over time, remaining committed to innovative designs while maintaining the truly ancient and secret techniques. The result is contemporary carpets infused with a bygone quality and heritage rare to find in the modern world, appealing to both the eye and the heart.

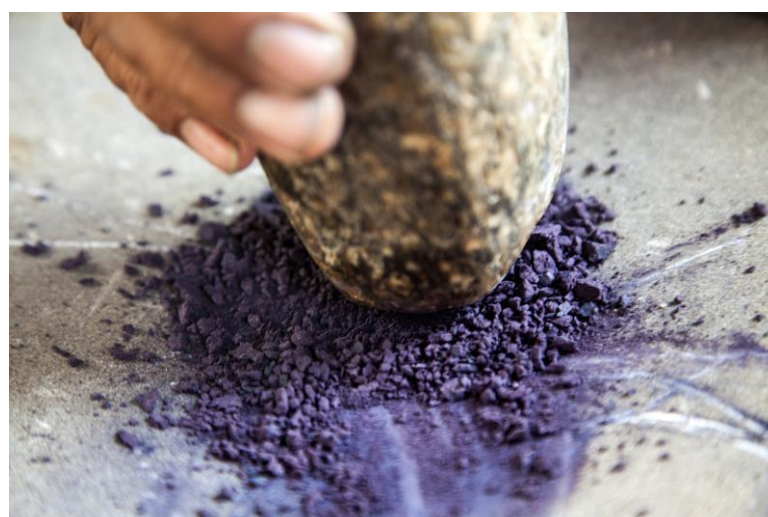
Ippodo Gallery continues to showcase artists spreading peace through interpretations of the natural world, both aesthetically and intellectually serene. The discipline spent to create these masterworks is driven by rectitude and prayer, resulting in a long-lasting work of beauty.



Unique carpet by Joseph Carini, inspired by Yuki Hayama's motif



Artisans in Nepal



Grinding vegetable dye

Yuki Hayama

- 1961 Born in Arita, Saga Prefecture, Japan
- 1975 Began working at a pottery in Arita and studying the manufacture of porcelain, including *etsuke* (painting)
- 1985 Set up his own kiln in Yamauchi, Saga Prefecture
- 1991 "World of Miniature Painting Exhibition" at Tokyo American Club
- 1996 Began literary activities
- 1998 "YUKI HAYAMA Exhibition" at O.A.G. Goethe-Institute Tokyo
- 2007 "A Pattern Odyssey YUKI HAYAMA Exhibition" at Spiral in Tokyo
- 2007 "Ceramic story YUKI HAYAMA Exhibition" at the Design Museum in Helsinki, Finland
- 2007 Special Exhibition for the Publication of *A Girl Who Turned Into A Fish* at Spiral in Tokyo
- 2007-8 Invited by the Art Department of ARABIA (iittala company) in Helsinki, as a special guest designer to produce ceramic works
- 2008 "Neo Japonisme - the 150th Anniversary Exhibition of Japan-France Friendship" at British House in Yokohama
- 2010 Special Exhibition for the Publication of *Flying Pillbug* at Spiral in Tokyo

- 2011 "Form of KAITEKI Exhibition – Chemical Reaction of Art and Technology –" at Spiral in Tokyo
- 2012 "Art Crafting Towards the Future" at the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa
- 2014 "Dogo Onsen Art 2014" (Art Festival) at Funaya Ryokan in Dogo, Ehime Prefecture
- 2015 "Japanese Kōgei | Future Forward" at the Museum of Arts and Design in New York

Published works:

- 2002 *The World Miniature Painting : Flowers of One Thousand Years, the Yuki Hayama Collection*
- 2005 *The Melody of Poetic Imagination: the Yuki Hayama Collection*
- 2007 *The Yuki Hayama Collection: A Pattern Odyssey – A 4,500,000-year journey for motif patterns –*
- 2008 *A Girl Who Turned Into A Fish* (picture book)
- 2008 *Mythical Ripples "Boli and the Sword"* (novel)
- 2010 *Flying Pillbug* (fairy tale)
- 2012 *The Collection of Seeds* (a collection of short stories)



Bowl with 'Ten Thousand Flowers' Motif
H5 3/4 W11 1/4 in (H14.4 W28.4 cm)



Bowl with Chrysanthemum and *Miru* Seaweed Motif with Gold Glaze
H6 W11 1/4 in (H14.8 W28 cm)



Vase with Sparkling and Shining Flower and Arabesque decoration
H8 3/4 W11 in (H21.7 W27.5 cm)



Vase with Fish and Aquatic Plants Motif
H9 W9 1/4 in (H22.8 W23 cm)

For more information and images, please contact Yoko Kitajo : +1 212.861.0539 / Shoko Aono : + 1 212.967. 4899 mail@ippodogallery.com

ippodo gallery

TOKYO - NEW YORK

12 East 86th street, # 507 (between Fifth & Madison Avenues) New York, NY 10028

T. +1.212. 967. 4899 | mail@ippodogallery.com | www.ippodogallery.com

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