

Toshinori (Toshi) Munakata
Artexpo New York
October 28-31, 2021

Dialogue Gallery

Toshi Munakata was born in Aizu (northern Japan) in 1985. Toshi is a ninth-generation potter as his ancestor started his kiln in 1719.

After completing Tokyo Metropolitan College in 2005, he graduated from the Traditional Arts Super College of Kyoto in 2007.

He then served an apprenticeship under his grandfather (Munakata the 7th) and father (Munakata the 8th).

Toshi won the Silver Prize at the 2nd China Tea Ware Contest in 2018. His works were collected by Idemitsu Museum in Tokyo.

He won the Gold Prize at The ceramic tea set 2020 annual award, China. His works were exhibited at Tokyo American Club's Solo Exhibition in 2021.

1985

2005



Toshi's works were exhibited at Milan's "MIA Exhibition" (2007), Fukushima Contemporary Art Biennale (2012, 2016), Hotel Chinzanso Tokyo's Solo Exhibition (2014), Ibaraki Ceramic Art Museum (2014), Urabandai Kogen Hotel's "Munakata the 8th and 9th" (2015), Kandori's Solo Exhibitions (2016, 2018), Japan Teapot Exhibition in Shanghai (2018), and Dialogue Gallery's Solo Exhibition in Hangzhou, China (2019).

2020



*Flower Vase
Blue Jade*

The clay with a rough texture was glazed twice by white and green glazes. The bottom part turned to indigo blue.

D: 8.6 in. / H 25.5 in.

*Flower Vase
Green Jade*

*The surfaces were carved
to form striped patterns,
so that the clay (in
reddish brown color) is
seen through.*

D: 3.8 in. / H 16.1 in.





*Flower Vase
Blue Jade*

*The upper part was
glazed with white and
green ash glazes, while
the bottom part was
glazed with iron glaze.*

D: 6.8 in. / H 19.4 in.

*Crane-neck
Flower Vase
Green Jade*

*This vase has a long neck
with a beak on the top,
expressing a crane just
taking off
from a tree.*

D: 6.6 in. / H 18.9 in.





D: 8.3 in. / H 14.9 in.



D: 7.4 in. / H 20.9 in.



D: 7.8 in. / H 22.2 in.

These flower vases are in greenish-blue jade colors.



D: 8.4 in. / H 17.9 in.



D: 8.5 in. / H 19.3 in.



D: 7.7 in. / H 18.6 in.

All works were newly created in 2020 for the New York show.

Toshi Munakata

According to Toshi, he is inspired by the nature of his homeland and makes pottery using local clays and plant ash glazes. Also, he is impressed by plants and animals, as well as by their vital energy. He aims to create works of elegant lines and curves with delicate surfaces of gradation and gloss. He uses green glazes to express the fresh green leaves of spring after the long, severe winter of his homeland. Raised in a cold region, he hopes to give form to his longing for spring.

Toshi said that he learned a lot from the long-established techniques practiced at the Munakata kiln, such as throwing a wheel, glazing ceramics, refining clays and firing clays. Being able to easily access the accumulated knowledge and experiences of the Munakata kiln is his advantage. On the other hand, as a contemporary person, he creates original works distinct from those of the Munakata kiln. He aims to produce a new style of works, which have beautiful curved lines and delicate colors.



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