

INOUE MANJI

LIVING NATIONAL TREASURE

Pursuing the Ultimate Beauty of White Porcelain



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EXHIBITION DATES:

March 12–21, 2020

Onishi Gallery is honored to present a feature exhibition during Asia Week 2020 centered on the unparalleled work of famed Japanese ceramicist Inoue Manji. Born in the city of Arita in southern Japan where Arita porcelain originated and marked its 400th anniversary in 2016, Inoue Manji was designated a “Living National Treasure” in 1995 by the Japanese government for hakuji, Japanese white porcelain ware. Today, at the age of 90, Inoue still produces stunning works of art.

Inoue Manji was born in 1929, learning to specialize in Arita ware—a traditionally colorful pottery form. Soon, however, he began working in white porcelain and became celebrated worldwide for the graceful medium. Hakuji is created by pouring a transparent glaze over white clay (Kaolin) and firing at a high temperature. Inoue demands perfection in shape and is known to be unforgiving, rejecting even a millimeter of distortion. He states that, “*hakuji* expresses itself through form rather than added decoration,” and his pieces exemplify this truth through refined curves and purely rounded forms rather than distracting surface decor. Simple lines belie their power as viewers’ eyes are lost in the infinite depth of pure white peaks and valleys. The smooth, soft, silky surface of these delicately hardened forms characterizes the unmatched beauty of Manji’s work.

Hakuji Hanagata Kaki (white porcelain flower shaped flower vessel) and *Hakuji Mentori Kaki* (beveled white porcelain flower vessel) are the masterpieces to which Manji has devoted his life. As he has grown, however, Manji noted that, “Across my whole life, I have created only white porcelain without any patterns. I am only human, however, so sometimes I feel like adding beautiful patterns.” As a result, he began to use a red glaze in his 60s as a reference to *kanreki* (the 60th birthday). In his 70s, he began using a yellow glaze, and in his 80s, he began drawing designs with a purple glaze. Inspired by long-adored nature-based designs featuring the peony, camellia, and *seikaiha* (blue ocean waves), Manji created masterpieces that demonstrate the timeless beauty of pure porcelain as well as the perfected sophistication of graceful design. Over the course of his lifetime, Manji has exhibited his work across Japan, Europe, North America, and South America. He has turned pots for the Museum of Modern Art (Ibaraki, Japan); the Museum of Fine Arts (Gifu, Japan); the National Museum of Modern Art (Tokyo, Japan); Yale University Art Gallery (New Haven, Connecticut); and, the Minneapolis Institute of Art (Minneapolis).

Over the past 50 years, Inoue Manji has received innumerable prestigious awards including the Governor’s Award and the Art Association Award at the Saga Prefectural Exhibition; the Issuikai Award and the Member’s Grand Prize at the Issuikai Ceramics Exhibition; the Minister of Education, Science and Culture Incentive Award at the Kyusyu Yamaguchi Ceramics Exhibition; the Distinguished Service Award by Saga Prefecture; the Japanese Government’s Medal with Purple Ribbon, and the Nishinippon Cultural Award. In 1990, he was featured in a publication by James Srubek entitled, *Porcelain: An Oriental/Japanese Method with Sensei Manji Inoue*. Of utmost significance, however, was his designation as a “Living National Treasure” by the government of Japan in 1995 for the importance of his contribution to the intangible cultural heritage of Japan through his *hakuji* pottery.

Do not miss this remarkable opportunity to view the finest 30 pieces of the most recent creations by this internationally acclaimed ceramic artist.

For more information, contact Nana Onishi at 212-695-8035 or at nana@onishigallery.com

INOUE MANJI (B. 1929)

Living National Treasure (1995)

Japanese ceramist Inoue Manji has created ceramics since he was 16 and was designated a Living National Treasure (Important Intangible Cultural Property) for *hakuji* (white porcelain) in 1995. The artist is specialized in Arita ware. Today, at the age of 90, Inoue still produces stunning works of art in the city of Arita in southern Japan where Arita porcelain originated and marked its 400th anniversary in 2016.



SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

- 2020 Asia Week, New York, US
- 2019 The 66th Japan Traditional Kōgei Exhibition, Japan
- 2016 Creating Handicrafts, Living National Treasures Exhibition, Wako, Tokyo, Japan
- 2007 Solo Exhibition, Krakow Academy of Fine Arts, Poland

SELECTED PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Museum of Modern Art, Ibaraki, Japan; Museum of Fine Arts, Gifu, Japan; National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo; Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, Connecticut; Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minneapolis, Minnesota; Agency of Cultural Affairs of Japan

AWARDS

- 2002 Recipient of the Nishi Nippon Cultural Award
- 1997 Recipient of the Japanese Government’s Medal with Purple Ribbon
- 1993 Recipient of the Distinguished Service Award by Saga Prefecture
- 1987 Awarded the Minister of Education, Science and Culture Prize at the Japan Traditional Art Crafts Exhibition



Hakuji (white porcelain) Spiral Vase 01, 2019
Porcelain
h. 6 1/2 in. x dia. 9 1/4 in. (17 x 23.5 cm)



Hakuji (white porcelain) Vase, 2019
Porcelain
h. 7 1/2 in. x dia. 9 1/2 in. (18.8 x 24 cm)



Hakuji (white porcelain) Gourd Shaped Vase 01, 2019
Porcelain
h. 13 3/4 x dia. 13 in. (34.8 x 33.2 cm)



Hakuji (white porcelain) Flower Shaped Vase, 2019
Porcelain
h. 10 1/2 x dia. 6 3/4 in. (27 x 17.2 cm)



Hakuji (white porcelain) *Maizuru* (crane) Vase, 2019
Porcelain
h. 10 x dia. 7 3/4 in. (25.5 x 20 cm)



Hakuji (white porcelain) Chrysanthemum Vase, 2019
Porcelain
h. 10 1/2 in. x dia. 8 1/2 in. (27 x 22 cm)



Hakuji (white porcelain) Round Vase, 2019
Porcelain
h. 7 x dia. 7 1/2 in. (18 x 19.2 cm)



Engraved *Seihakuji* (blue white porcelain) Hexagon Pot, 2019
Porcelain
h. 11 x dia. 17 1/4 in. (28 x 44 cm)



Hakuji (white porcelain) Gourd Shaped Vase 02, 2019
Porcelain
h. 11 1/2 x dia. 9 1/4 in. (29.5 x 23.5 cm)
\$8,000.00



Engraved *Hakuji* (white porcelain)
Chrysanthemum Vase 01, 2019
Porcelain
h. 12 1/4 x 5 3/4 in. (31 x 14.5 cm)
\$6,000.00



Hakuji (white porcelain) Lily Vase, 2019
Porcelain
h. 9 x dia. 7 1/4 in. (23 x 18.5 cm)



Engraved *Hakuji* (white porcelain)
Chrysanthemum Vase 02, 2019
Porcelain
h. 8 x dia. 8 3/4 in. (20.8 x 22.2 cm)



Hakuji (white porcelain) Line Patterned Vase, 2019
Porcelain
h. 9 1/2 x dia. 6 3/4 in. (24.5 x 17 cm)



Hakuji (white porcelain) Spiral Vase 02, 2019
Porcelain
h. 11 1/2 x dia. 7 3/4 in. (29.4 x 18.4 cm)



Engraved *Hakuji* (white porcelain) Poppy Vase, 2019
Porcelain
h. 9 1/2 x dia. 6 3/4 in. (24.4 x 17.2 cm)



Engraved *Hakuji* (white porcelain) Peony Vase 01, 2019
Porcelain
h. 7 7/8 x dia. 10 in. (19.8 x 25.5 cm)



Engraved *Seihakuji* (blue white porcelain)
 Persimmon Vase, 2019
 Porcelain
 h. 7 5/8 x dia. 10 3/4 in. (19.5 x 27.2 cm)



Engraved Lily Vase with Yellow-Green Glaze, 2019
 Porcelain
 h. 10 3/4 x dia. 9 3/4 in. (27.6 x 25 cm)



Engraved Engraved *Seihakuji* (blue white porcelain)
 Lily Vase, 2019
 Porcelain
 h. 8 1/2 x dia. 7 3/4 in. (22 x 20 cm)



Engraved *Hakuji* (white porcelain)
Midori Karakusa (green arabesque) Patterned Vase, 2019
 Porcelain
 h. 11 3/4 x dia. 6 3/4 in. (30.2 x 17.5 cm)



Engraved *Hakuji* (white porcelain) Peony Vase 02, 2019
Porcelain
h. 7 3/4 x dia. 5 1/4 in. (20 x 13.6 cm)



Engraved *Hakuji* (white porcelain) Rose Vase, 2019
Porcelain
h. 5 1/2 x dia. 5 3/4 in. (14.2 x 14.7 cm)



Engraved *Hakuji* (white porcelain) Rose Vase
with Green Glaze, 2019
Porcelain
h. 10 1/2 x dia. 7 1/4 in. (27 x 18.5 cm)



Engraved *Hakuji* (white porcelain) Cherry Blossom Vase
with Green Glaze, 2019
Porcelain
h. 8 x dia. 8 3/4 in. (20.2 cm x 22.2 cm)



Engraved *Hakuji* (white porcelain)
Mudskipper Vase with Green Glaze 01, 2019
Porcelain
h. 11 x dia. 5 1/2 in. (28.5 x 14 cm)



Engraved *Hakuji* (white porcelain)
Mudskipper Vase with Green Glaze 02, 2019
Porcelain
h. 7 1/2 x dia. 5 in. (18.8 x 13 cm)



Engraved *Hakuji* (white porcelain) Chamfered Vase
with Green Glaze, 2019
Porcelain
h. 9 1/2 x dia. 5 in. (24 x 13 cm)



Engraved *Hakuji* (white porcelain) Petaroid Vase
with Green Glaze, 2019
Porcelain
h. 13 3/4 x dia. 6 in. (35 x 15.5 cm)



Hakuji (white porcelain) Morning Glory Shaped Plates, 2019
Porcelain



Persimmon Incense Burner with *Saiyu* (vivid color) Glaze, 2019
Porcelain
h. 4 1/2 x dia. 4 3/4 in. (11.7 x 12 cm)



Hakuji (white porcelain) Floral Bowl, 2019
Porcelain
h. 4 x dia. 7 1/2 in. (10.2 x 19.2 cm)



Eggplant Incense Burner, 2019
Porcelain
h. 6 1/4 x dia. 4 1/2 in. (15.6 x 10.8 cm)



Engraved *Hakuji* (white porcelain) Peony Cup, 2019
Porcelain
h. 4 3/4 x dia. 3 3/4 in. (12 x 9.5 cm)



Engraved *Hakuji* (white porcelain) Cup with Green Glaze, 2019
Porcelain
h. 4 1/2 x dia. 3 1/2 in. (11.5 x 8.7 cm)



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