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Satoru Hoshino: Surface Strata and Depth 1978–80, 2016

Only a small part of the world can be seen, and the larger part hidden from view behind that is what supports the world.
I spread a thin coat of clay onto pieces of torn newspaper, and when the newspaper is removed, thin layers of clay appear.
When I layer them several times onto a trapezoid shape cut out of the ground, eventually I arrive at structures of “surface strata and depth”. Though each of the thin, wavelike strata extends horizontally over the surface, they lead the sight-lines of the viewer in a vertical direction, toward deeper levels that cannot be seen. And the light-absorbing effect of the *kokuto* black ceramic also beckons the viewer’s sight-lines deep within.

————— Satoru Hoshino*



Surface Strata and Depth
1979 | smoked earthenware | 10×58×33.5cm (Photo: Nobutada Omote)

ARTCOURT Gallery will hold an exhibition of the work of the contemporary ceramic artist Satoru Hoshino, with a focus on his *Surface Strata and Depth* series. Featuring five new works together with five works produced between 1978 and 1980, this exhibition will approach the creative spirit of Satoru Hoshino, who continues to explore and extend the possibilities of ceramic art.

Hoshino began producing *Surface Strata and Depth* in 1978 using the *kokuto* (black ware) method. An important early work, Hoshino refers to it as his starting point as an artist. Drawing inspiration from the natural surroundings of his studio in Koya, in the town of Wazuka (in Sagara, Kyoto Prefecture), with the view of the mountains and the flow of the nearby Kizu River, Hoshino has reinterpreted clay as a substance of piled-up, stratified things, and he has undertaken an expression that awakens invisible interiors out of surface layers that exist as phenomena. The works of this series have a dualistic construction, which consists of wavelike surface layers generated from clay and torn-up paper, and their interiors. With the color and texture of the *kokuto* ceramic, these works convey visual-psychological actualizations of deep layers that cannot be seen. And their shapes were also manifestations of Hoshino’s deep contemplations, in his attempts to grasp the reality of the structure of the world from such oppositions as surface and depth strata, inner and outer worlds, and the order and chaos that would form the background of his following series. With its elevating of diverse internal qualities into a personal expression, the *Surface Strata and Depth* series has been praised for its groundbreaking qualities that expand the scope of avant-garde ceramic art, and has received numerous awards, including the Minister of Education Prize at the 5th Japan Ceramic Art Exhibition (1979). Works from the series are held in many of the collections of Japan’s major art museums. For Hoshino himself, these fluid and shifting shapes that manifested as wave patterns were to become important, persistent motifs running through the evolution of his later work.

Hoshino continued the *Surface Strata and Depth* series until 1982, when he was beset with the feeling that something was lacking in the static objects of his work. At that point, he entered a new stage in his development, and began shifting toward producing pieces of fired, clay-coated stainless steel, as well as his installation works. Then, in 1986, disaster struck when a torrential rainstorm caused the hill behind his studio to collapse and turn into a landslide, and his studio and many of the works inside it were washed away. Subsequently, while fleshing out in reality his formation concept of an “appeared figure” that emerges out of a direct dialogue between the clay and his body, Hoshino has continued to pose questions to the world with regard to the relationship between nature and humanity, and to seek out his “way of showing” it. In this exhibition, Satoru Hoshino will once again take up the challenge of his *Surface Strata and Depth* series, which spans a period of thirty-five years. “I would like to continue to indicate, within the process of creation, the orientation of living in harmony with the clay.” Perhaps this will be an opportunity for Hoshino to manifest some contemplation once again, from within the quietness of the *kokuto* ceramic. With the long history of clay and humankind, of ceramic art and people as its backdrop, it may well be something that stimulates our creativity with the certitude of its depth and gives us the power to grasp anew the essence of our world.

(The artist’s words indicated above by * and “” first appeared in the exhibition catalog “Satoru Hoshino: Appeared Figures in Black Ware”, The Museum of Modern Art, Shiga, 2002)

[Exhibition]

Exhibition title : Satoru Hoshino: Surface Strata and Depth 1978-80, 2016

Duration : October 15 (Sat) – November 12 (Sat), 2016 / Closed on Sundays, Mondays and national holidays

Venue : ARTCOURT Gallery (OAP ARTCOURT 1F, 1-8-5 Tenmabashi, Kita-ku, Osaka, 5300042 Japan)

Opening hours : 11:00 am - 7:00 pm (Saturdays 11:00 am – 5:00 pm)

◆Events : Talk Show and Reception

October 29 (Sat), 2016

▷ Talk Show : 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm / Satoru Hoshino and Mr. Koichi Mori (Art critic / Executive director, Japan Ceramics Society)

▷ Reception : 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

* Talk Show and Reception are free of charge, but an RSVP is required for the talk. Please email info@artcourtgallery.com or call

Organized by ARTCOURT Gallery / Sponsored by Mitsubishi Estate Co., Ltd., Mitsubishi Materials Corporation, Mitsubishi Jisho Property Management Co., Ltd.

*Please contact Mitsue Yagi or Miwa Ohba at ARTCOURT Gallery for any inquiries including photographic materials.

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Satoru Hoshino

1945 Born in Niigata Prefecture, Japan
 1971 Graduated from Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto
 1971–73 Leaned ceramic technique at Fujihira Pottery
 1974–80 A member of Sōdeisha group
 1979 The Minister of Education Prize, “Surface Strata and Depth II”,
The 5th Japan Ceramic Art Exhibition
 Superior Prize, “Surface Strata and Depth IV”, *The 2nd Japan Enba Art Competition*
 1980 Kyoto Prefecture Procurement Prize, “Surface Strata and Depth”,
4th Kyoto Sculpture Selected Exhibition
 1981– A member of International Ceramic Academy
 1986 Lost studio in a landslide
 1998 Saji Encourage Prize, “Ancient Wood–Land VIII”, *The Suntory Prize 1998—Challenges on Forms*
 1991–2003 Work at Environment Design Department of Osaka Sangyo University (A professor in 1998)
 Currently, Shiga Prefecture resident



“Surface Strata and Depth” 1978 | Smoked earthenware
 8×110×36cm (w:64 cm,9.5cm,9.5cm,10cm)
 Photo: Nobutada Omote

【Recent Solo exhibitions】

2016 *Hoshino Satoru Exhibition*, Gallery Keifu, Kyoto
 2015 *Black Horse in the Dark*, ARTCOURT Gallery, Osaka
Between Clay and Hand, GALLERY SOKYO, Kyoto
 2012 *Beginning Form-Spiral with Green 11*, National Academy of ART, ACADEMIA Gallery, Sofia, Bulgaria
 2011 *Spiral with Spring Snow 11*, Art Amsterdam by G. De Witte Voet, Amsterdam, Netherlands
Spiral with Spring Snow, Museion No.1, Budapest, Hungary
 2010 *Spiral with Spring Snow*, Fuguei Tauyuan, New Taipei, Taiwan
 2009 *Spring Snow 09*, G. De witte Voet, Amsterdam, Netherlands
 2008 *Beginning Form—met Spiral 08*, Yingge Ceramics Museum, New Taipei, Taiwan
Spring Snow, Frank Lloyd Gallery, California, USA
 2007 *Beginning Form—Spiral 07*, Gatov Gallery CSU-Long Beach, California, USA
 2006 *Beginning Form—Spiral*, The Museum of Ceramic Art, Alfred University, New York, USA
Beginning Form—met Spiral II, nancy margolis gallery, New York, USA
 2002 *Satoru Hoshino Retrospective Black Ware—Appeared Figure*, The Museum of Modern Art, Shiga, Shiga
 2001 *Rain in Ancient Wood-Land and Performance*, Victoria & Albert Museum, London, UK
 2000 *Ancient Wood—Land*, Province Museum Voor Moderne Kunst, Ostend, Belgium
 1999 *Reincarnate/Pre-Copernican Mud II*, Ariana Museum, Geneva, Switzerland

【Recent Group exhibitions】

2015 <Body and Matter> Kazuo Shiraga, Satoru Hoshino, Dominique Lévy, New York, USA
 2013 *Kayoko & Satoru Hoshino in Canberra*, Watson Art Center, Canberra, Canberra, Australia
 2012 *Moon & Sun by Kyoko & Satoru Hoshino*, Joan B. Mirviss LTD., New York, USA
 2011 *Terra—Cotta, Primitive Future*, ClayArch Gimhae Museum, Gimhae, Korea
 2010 *Taiwan Ceramics Biennale*, Yingge Ceramics Museum, New Taipei, Taiwan
21st International Biennale of Vallauris, Museum of the Ceramic, Vallauris, France
 2009 *Material & Image*, Witte Zaal, Sint Lucas Visual Art, Ghent, Belgium
OAP Sculpture Path 2009 “Brackish waters”/ “Opacities on the water surface”, OAP Sculpture Path / ARTCOURT Gallery, Osaka
 2008 *Satoru & Kayoko Hoshino Ceramic Art Exhibition*, The Museum of Arts and Crafts, Itami, Hyogo
 2007 *Far East meet West*, Galerie Marianne Heller, Heidelberg, Germany
 2006 *TOJI—Avant-garde et tradition du Japon*, Musee Sevres, Paris, France
Internaional Architectural Ceramic Exhibition, ClayArch Gimhae Museum, Gimhae, Korea
 2003 *The Art of Earth—Clay Works of the New Century*, The National Museum of Art, Osaka, Osaka

【Collections】

The National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto/Kyoto Prefecture/Iwaki City Art Museum/Newcastle Art Gallery, Australia/Yamaguchi Prefectural Art Museum/Faenza National Pottery Museum, Italy/Ariana Museum, Switzerland/Powerhouse Museum, Australia/Bertoran Museum, France/Everson Museum of Art, USA/The Museum of Modern Art, Wakayama/Victoria & Albert Museum, UK/Kyoto Municipal Museum of Art/Takamatsu Art Museum/The Shigaraki Ceramic Cultural Park/Aichi Prefectural Ceramic Museum/State Decorative Arts Institute, Switzerland/Province Museum voor Modern Kunst-Oostende, Belgium/The Museum of Modern Art, Shiga/Museum of Modern Ceramic Art, Gifu/The Minneapolis Institute of Arts, USA/The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo/International Ceramic Studio, Hungary/Kerameikmuseum Princershof, Netherlands/National Gallery of Australia, Australia/Hamilton Art Gallery, Australia/Yingge Ceramics Museum, Taiwan etc.