

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*Quiet Elegance:*

*The Ceramics of Fukumoto Fuku*

Joan B Mirviss LTD

September 13 – October 25, 2024

The sensuous work in porcelain by FUKUMOTO Fuku (b.1973) continues to enthrall collectors and curators with their soft, radiant, unglazed surfaces punctuated by glistening glazes in shades of blue ranging from the deepest cobalt or teal to powder blue or soft gray. This cool palette is often complemented by the addition of gold or platinum leaf. It is with great pleasure that Joan B Mirviss LTD will be hosting a third solo show for Fukumoto. Opening this autumn during Asia Week New York on September 13<sup>th</sup> and running through October, *Quiet Elegance, The Ceramics of Fukumoto Fuku*, will feature over two dozen of her captivating sculptures and teabowls.

Starting on the wheel, Fukumoto masterfully shapes each thinly walled form with organically irregular rims. For her current series of sculptural vessels, she next slices the the forms into multiple sections before the initial bisque firing. She then re-stacks the often-undulating pairings, applying gradated, colorful glazes as the “glue” between the segments before the second high-temperature firing. The re-assembled elements move slightly in the kiln as the glazes liquify and harden, transfiguring the final sculptural form. Fukumoto, understanding this second firing to be uncontrollable, is happy to let the kiln complete her process, enjoying the serendipitous results. She further explains,

*“The form that clay takes to maintain balance is different from the form that is shaped by human hands and has its own beauty. As the clay and glaze find their own form as a vessel, they combine to reveal their inherent, unquantifiable potential.”*

With the final addition of platinum or gold leaf, her finished forms may reference the ephemeral radiance of the sun or a full moon peeking through clouds or mist – a wistful beauty that belies the permanence of these heavenly bodies.

After losing a mentor, Fukumoto explains how she is striving in this most recent body of work to convey her newfound understanding that there are always “sweet memories in



**FUKUMOTO FUKU** (b. 1973)  
*Kumo; Clouds*, 2023  
Glazed porcelain  
17 7/8 x 18 1/2 x 14 1/8 in.



**FUKUMOTO FUKU** (b. 1973)  
*Hi; Sun*, 2024  
Glazed porcelain with gold leaf  
10 3/8 x 12 5/8 x 11 3/4 in.



**FUKUMOTO FUKU** (b. 1973)  
*Plachina no tsuki no shimo; Platinum Lunar Frost*, 2024  
Glazed porcelain with platinum leaf  
16 x 16 7/8 x 16 1/8 in.

sadness, light in the shadows, warmth in loneliness, and stability in the seemingly ephemeral." Her ceramic practice and the resulting works speak to this dichotomy.

Additionally, our exhibition will feature her alluring teabowls— no two of which are alike. It is with these vessels that the viewer understands her mastery of glazes. Each elegantly formed teabowl fits snugly in the hand and invites the holder to gently turn it, discovering the remarkably nuanced surface patterning. Its melting glaze calls to mind transient landscape imagery, while the weight of the teabowl serves as the counterbalance, reminding one of its inherent stability.

Fukumoto Fuku, who took up ceramics to distinguish herself from her parents— both successful textile artist— has become celebrated for her remarkably thin, gracefully shaped porcelain sculptures. Although she studied at university under renowned Akiyama Yō, who for his own work, focuses on geologically inspired rough stoneware forms, she found working with the challenges of porcelain more intriguing. Her work has been exhibited and acquired by major museums in Japan and the US and is currently featured in the traveling exhibition and its related publication, *Radical Clay Contemporary Women Artists from Japan*. That show, now on view at the Ringling Art Museum in Sarasota, Florida, runs concurrently with our gallery exhibit.

*Quiet Elegance: The Ceramics of Fukumoto Fuku*, is open to the public during regular gallery hours, Mondays – Fridays 11 am – 6 pm from September 13 – October 25, 2024. On Saturday September 14<sup>th</sup> during Asia Week NY, we will also be open.

### About Joan B. Mirviss LTD

With more than forty-five years of experience, Joan B. Mirviss remains a pillar in the field of Japanese art. As a dealer, scholar, curator, and advisor, she has been the driving force championing the top Japanese clay artists, who she represents exclusively, and whose works she has placed in major museums around the globe. Widely published as a highly respected expert, Mirviss has built many institutional and private collections of Japanese art.

JOAN B MIRVISS LTD exhibits modern and contemporary Japanese ceramics, *ukiyo-e*, and Japanese paintings from its exclusive Madison Avenue location in New York City.

For more information, please contact us at 212-799-4021 or [director@mirviss.com](mailto:director@mirviss.com).



**FUKUMOTO FUKU** (b. 1973)  
*Tsuyunoyo; Fleeting Morning Dew*, 2024  
Glazed porcelain with platinum leaf  
4 1/4 x 5 1/4 x 5 1/4 in.



**FUKUMOTO FUKU** (b. 1973)  
*Yomosugara; From Dusk to Dawn*, 2024  
Glazed porcelain  
4 x 5 1/4 x 5 in.



**FUKUMOTO FUKU** (b. 1973)  
*Kanashi; Wistfulness*, 2024  
Glazed porcelain with gold leaf  
3 3/4 x 5 1/8 x 5 in.