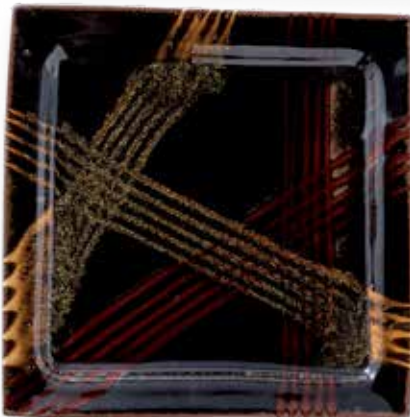
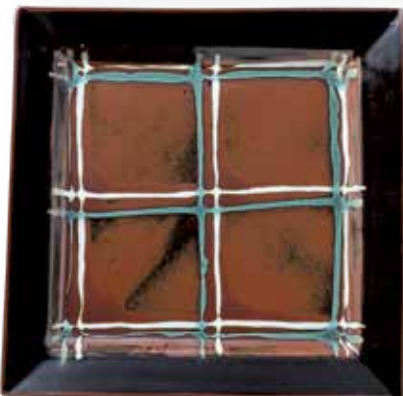


# THE BEAUTY OF USE

Work by Yoshinori Hagiwara



Pucker Gallery • Boston

# THE BEAUTY OF USE

Work by Yoshinori Hagiwara



*Single flower vase*  
Black glaze  
6 x 4 x 4"  
YH927

*Single flower vase*  
Black glaze  
5.5 x 4.5 x 4.5"  
YH926

IN A GALLERY FILLED WITH BRIGHT AND COLORFUL POTTERY, THE work of Yoshinori Hagiwara sits quietly, understated.

The work of the potter is not always seen as art. So many of us (me included!) have daily use plates and dishes from big box stores that we buy at a “dime a dozen”. The beauty of handmade pottery comes from a place that is so close to home, yet it is often overlooked and undervalued. Why would we not want items of daily use to be hand-crafted, well made, and connected to our most basic human roots? We live with them moment to moment, and in the case of pottery, handle them and eat from them regularly. In this regard, they are as important a source of nourishment as the food which they carry. We consume with our eyes; if this were not the case, we would not read, watch television, fill our homes with aesthetic things, or watch the sunset. If the eyes are the window into the soul, then we should expose them to beauty every time we eat and drink. Why not extend this absorption of beauty to our plates, mugs, and cups? When you think about it, we see our dishes even more than the images which scroll endlessly through our lives through various forms of media.

In our modern lives, functional pottery has in many ways become a throwaway, and with it the craftsman artist who makes it. In some ways this feels

ALL WORKS ARE STONEWARE.

incongruous in a world where we often seek items made with human skill. Perhaps it stems from the distance between the moment of the potter's creation and the moment when a potential user encounters a pot. The assembly lines of the industrial era have increased the gap between us and our potters, sometimes so much so that we do not even know the potter exists and the potter never knows the person who ends up using their pots. Many people, understandably, do not know what it looks like when a potter labors with earth and fire; they do not know how it feels to daily hold a bowl or mug made directly by another's skillful and caring hand. They do not recognize the slight differences from one pot to the next that make each one unique. They do not realize how the depth of glaze and the texture of clay from a wood-fired kiln is lost when pots are made by machines.

Yoshinori Hagiwara's pots may be quiet, but they are exuberant and bold in precision and detail. His hands are steeped in knowledge of material and technique handed down from generation to generation. Many of his works are coated with characteristic and stylistic starbursts, flowers, and fabric-like crosshatching. Look very closely at these marks, and you will find blooming cascades of yellow, gold, and white made of microcrystals which set aglow in the sunlight. For example, in *Square Plate with Black Glaze* (YH886) and *Container with Lid in Black Glaze* (YH916), the simple looking yellow lines are composed of a delicate crystalline structure. The stripes descending the sides are drawn onto the pot before firing, a gesture that is reinforced by the microcrystals that develop during the firing process due to the chemical composition of the glaze and time allotted during the cooling phase of the kiln.

Hagiwara also uses historical glazes with the utmost flare. One of the most attractive is the kaki glaze, which originated in Mashiko, Japan, the pottery town where Hagiwara lives today. 'Kaki' translates to 'persimmon' because of its rich color. His *Mug with Kaki Glaze* (YH951) shows the deft application of the glaze, which along with the latticework relates to the relationship of the mug to the handle. His glazes do not simply cover his forms but interact with them symbiotically. Cascades flow around spherical silhouettes and matte glazes, and his organic, yet controlled applications often allow for the clay body underneath to peak through. This effect is done beautifully in *Single Flower Vase with Black Glaze* (YH926; YH927), marrying and harmonizing surface and body as one.

In this era of mass production and disposability, the pots of Hagiwara are an oasis of beautiful and one-of-a-kind functionality. His is the excellent and honest modus operandi of a true craftsman artist. His cups, bowls, and mugs are not overburdened when filled with liquid or food and they sit well in the hand. His flower vases are ideally sized to hold a single flower, in the Japanese tradition, or a small bouquet. Whether for dining or simple pleasure, the pottery by Yoshinori Hagiwara in this exhibition humbly and quietly invites each of us to enrich the daily practices of life through handmade and functional works of art.

— CAROLINE STALLER



*Mug*  
Kaki glaze  
4.75 x 4.5 x 3.5"  
YH951



*Mug*  
Black glaze  
3.75 x 4.5 x 3.5"  
YH946



*Plate*  
Black glaze  
3 x 11.25 x 11.25"  
YH898



Vase  
Kaki glaze  
8.5 x 5.75 x 5.75"  
YH901



Sake cup  
Yohen, kaki glaze  
2.5 x 2.5 x 2.5"  
YH960



Sake cup  
Yohen, kaki glaze  
2.25 x 2.5 x 2.5"  
YH962



Vase  
Yohen, kaki glaze  
9.5 x 4.25 x 4.25"  
YH911



Sake bottle  
Black matte glaze  
5 x 3.5 x 3.5"  
YH941



Container with lid  
Black matte glaze  
4.25 x 5 x 5"  
YH919



Sake bottle  
Yohen, kaki glaze  
4.25 x 3.25 x 3.25"  
YH942



Vase  
Yohen, kaki glaze  
10.25 x 6.5 x 6.5"  
YH902



Sake cup  
Black matte glaze  
2.25 x 2.5 x 2.5"  
YH968



Sake cup  
Black matte glaze  
2.25 x 2.5 x 2.5"  
YH965



Sake cup  
Black matte glaze  
2.25 x 2.25 x 2.25"  
YH964



*Cup*  
Black matte glaze  
4.5 x 3.5 x 3.5"  
YH955



*Cup*  
Black matte glaze  
4 x 3.5 x 3.5"  
YH956



*Vase*  
Kaki glaze  
14 x 10.75 x 10.75"  
YH900





Vase  
Black matte glaze  
10 x 3.5 x 3.5"  
YH1907



Vase  
Yohen, kaki glaze  
8.75 x 5.5 x 5.5"  
YH905



Sake cup  
Yohen, kaki glaze  
1.5 x 3.5 x 3.5"  
YH958



Sake cup  
Yohen, kaki glaze  
1.75 x 3.25 x 3.25"  
YH1957



Container with lid  
Black matte glaze  
3.75 x 3.75 x 3.75"  
YH922



Container with lid  
Black glaze  
3.5 x 3.75 x 3.75"  
YH924



Vase  
Black matte glaze  
7.5 x 5.5 x 5.5"  
YH913



Plate  
Kaki glaze  
2.5 x 11.5 x 11.5"  
YH894



*Hanaire*  
Black matte glaze  
7.5 x 3.5 x 3"  
YH933



*Hanaire*  
Yohen, kaki glaze  
7 x 3.5 x 3"  
YH934



*Vase*  
Black matte glaze  
9.25 x 6 x 6"  
YH903



*Container with lid*  
Black glaze  
4.5 x 5.25 x 5.25"  
YH915



*Container with lid*  
Black matte glaze  
3.75 x 3.75 x 3.75"  
YH923



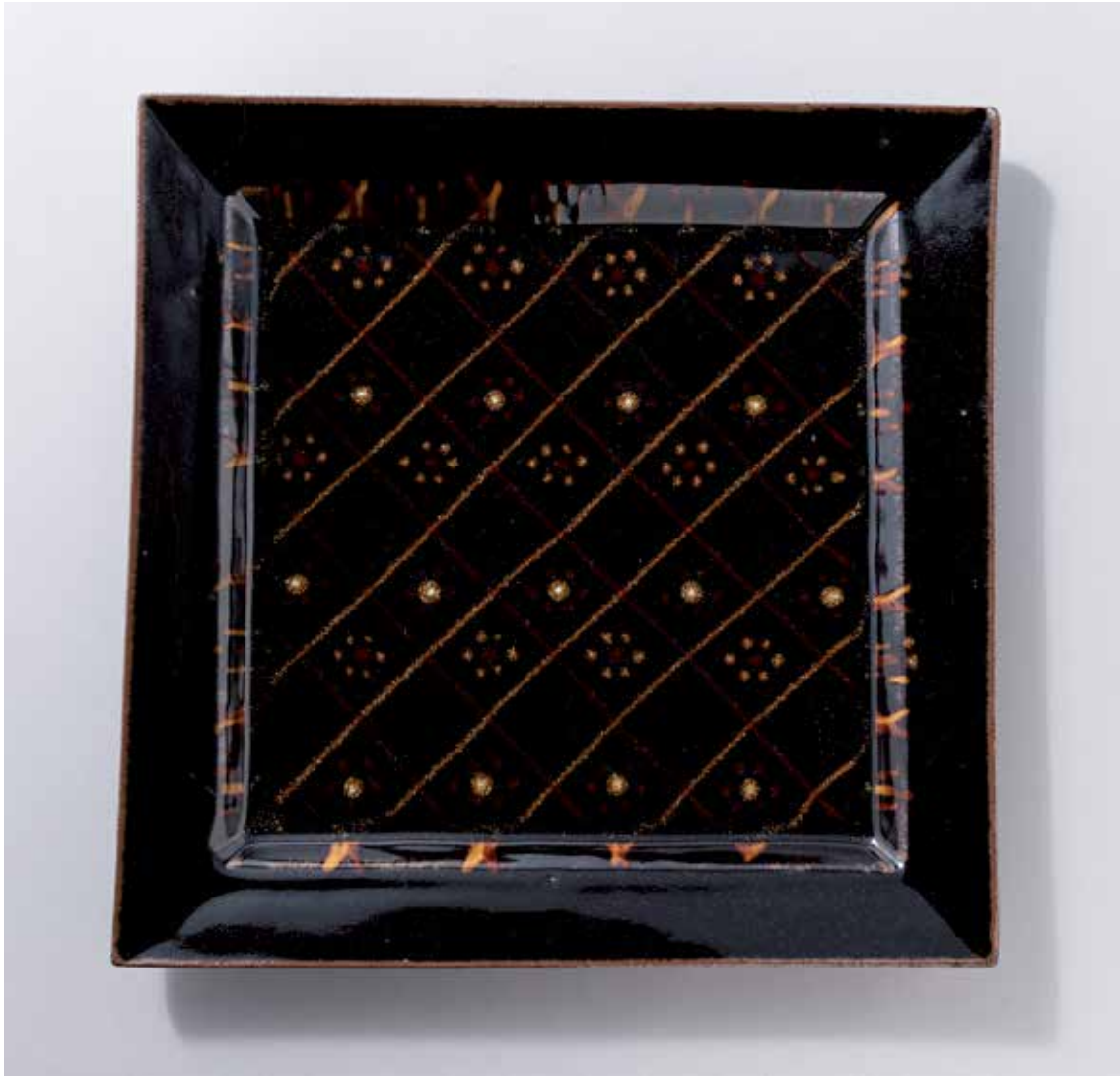
*Mug*  
Black glaze  
3.5 x 4.5 x 3.5"  
YH944



*Mug*  
Black glaze  
3.5 x 4.25 x 3.25"  
YH949



*Single flower vase*  
Black matte glaze  
7.5 x 3.25 x 3.25"  
YH908



*Square plate*  
Black glaze  
1.25 x 12 x 12"  
YH891



*Sake cup*  
Yohen, kaki glaze  
2.25 x 2.5 x 2.5"  
YH961



*Sake cup*  
Yohen, kaki glaze  
2.25 x 2.5 x 2.5"  
YH959



*Chawan*  
Black matte glaze  
3 x 5 x 5"  
YH935



*Chawan*  
Yohen, kaki glaze  
3.25 x 5.25 x 5.25"  
YH940



*Bowl*  
Kaki glaze  
3.5 x 10.5 x 10.5"  
YH899



Vase  
Black glaze  
9 x 5.25 x 5.25"  
YH910



Mug  
Black glaze  
3.5 x 4.5 x 3.5"  
YH948



Mug  
Black glaze  
3.75 x 4.5 x 3.5"  
YH945



*Chawan*  
Yohen, kaki glaze  
3 x 4.75 x 4.75"  
YH939



*Mug*  
Black glaze  
3.5 x 4.75 x 3.5"  
YH947



*Chawan*  
Black matte glaze  
3.25 x 5.5 x 5.5"  
YH938



*Mug*  
Kaki glaze  
3.25 x 4.5 x 3.5"  
YH950





*Chawan*  
Yohen, kaki glaze  
3 x 6 x 6"  
YH937



*Big plate*  
Black glaze  
2.75 x 13.75 x 13.75"  
YH896



*Plate*  
Kaki glaze  
3.75 x 16.75 x 16.75"  
YH897



*Single flower vase*  
Black matte glaze  
6 x 4.5 x 4.5"  
YH928



*Single flower vase*  
Black matte glaze  
5.75 x 4 x 4"  
YH930



*Cup*  
Black matte glaze  
5.75 x 3.5 x 3.5"  
YH954



*Cup*  
Black matte glaze  
5.5 x 3.25 x 3.25"  
YH953



*Cup*  
Black matte glaze  
5.75 x 3.5 x 3.5"  
YH952



*Vase*  
Black matte glaze  
9 x 5.75 x 5.75"  
YH904



*Square plate*  
 Ame glaze  
 1.25 x 11.5 x 12"  
 YH888



*Container with lid*  
 Black glaze  
 5.25 x 6.25 x 6.25"  
 YH914



*Container with lid*  
 Black matte glaze  
 4.5 x 4.75 x 4.75"  
 YH918



*Sake cup*  
Black matte glaze  
2 x 2.25 x 2.25"  
YH967



*Sake cup*  
Black matte glaze  
2 x 2.5 x 2.5"  
YH966



*Sake cup*  
Black matte glaze  
2.5 x 2.25 x 2.25"  
YH963



*Vase*  
Black matte glaze  
9 x 4.25 x 4.25"  
YH912



*Plate*  
Black glaze  
2.5 x 11.5 x 11.5"  
YH895



*Square plate*  
Kaki glaze  
1 x 9.25 x 9.25"  
YH885



Vase  
Black matte glaze  
9.25 x 4.25 x 4.25"  
YH909



Sake bottle  
Black matte glaze  
5 x 3.75 x 3.75"  
YH943



Single flower vase  
Black matte glaze  
6.25 x 4.5 x 4.5"  
YH932



Vase  
Black matte glaze  
9.5 x 5 x 5"  
YH906



Single flower vase  
Black matte glaze  
6.75 x 4.5 x 4.5"  
YH931



Container with lid  
Black matte glaze  
3.5 x 3.5 x 3.5"  
YH921





*Single flower vase*  
 Black matte glaze  
 5.25 x 4.25 x 4.25"  
 YH1929

BORN IN 1974, AS THE FIFTH GENERATION OF THE Hagiwara family ceramic workshop, Hagiwara Yoshinori currently resides in Mashiko, Japan. He studied and researched at the Tochigi Prefectural Ceramics Instructional Institute, and his work has since been selected for inclusion, and has won numerous prizes, at the National Art Exhibition for multiple years. Hagiwara's recent ceramics have broadened beyond his well-known persimmon glaze, and he has incorporated yellow kaki, blue nuka, and namijiro glaze into his artistic vocabulary. He has created his own expression through using these glazes, and exhibits great control in creating elegant forms. In 2014, Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry designated Hagiwara as a "Traditional Craftsman." His ceramics are included in significant public collections including the Art Institute of Chicago, the Schein Joseph Museum of Ceramic Art at Alfred University in Alfred, New York and the Tikotin Museum of Art in Haifa, Israel. Since 2019, Hagiwara has been a full member of Kokuga-kai, and a judge with the organization since 2020. His work has been exhibited by Pucker Gallery since 2010.



PUCKER

ESTABLISHED 1967 BOSTON

GALLERY

PUCKER GALLERY

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GALLERY HOURS:

Monday through Saturday  
10 AM to 5:30 PM  
Sunday 1 to 5 PM

We are open to all and taking the necessary precautions for visitor and staff safety. We welcome appointments to maximize visitor experience.

Pucker Gallery is a member of the Boston Art Dealers Association and the New England Appraisers Association.

CREDITS:

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*Photography:*

Kan Matsuzaki

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COVER:

Top left to right:

*Square plate*

Nuka blue glaze

1 x 9.25 x 9.25"

YH882

*Square plate*

Kaki glaze

1 x 9 x 9.25"

YH887

*Square plate*

Kaki glaze

1.25 x 12 x 12"

YH892

Middle left to right:

*Square plate*

Kaki glaze

1.25 x 12 x 12"

YH893

*Square plate*

Kaki glaze

1 x 9 x 9.25"

YH884

*Square plate*

Kaki glaze

1 x 9.25 x 9.25"

YH883

Bottom left to right:

*Square plate*

Black glaze

1 x 9.25 x 9.25"

YH886

*Square plate*

Nuka blue glaze

1.25 x 12 x 12"

YH889

*Square plate*

Ame glaze

1.25 x 11.5 x 12"

YH890

# THE BEAUTY OF USE

Work by Yoshinori Hagiwara

DATES: 11 March through 9 April 2023

PUBLIC OPENING RECEPTION: Saturday 1 April 2023 • 3 PM to 6 PM

ONLINE EVENTS: Please visit [www.puckergallery.com](http://www.puckergallery.com) for a list of virtual gatherings and events accompanying *The Beauty of Use*.



Container with lid  
Black matte glaze  
4.25 x 3.75 x 3.75"  
YH920



Container with lid  
Black matte glaze  
4.5 x 4.5 x 4.5"  
YH917



Container with lid  
Yohen, kaki glaze  
3.75 x 3.5 x 3.5"  
YH925



Container with lid  
Black glaze  
4.25 x 4.25 x 4.25"  
YH916

Please visit [www.puckergallery.com](http://www.puckergallery.com) to view current and past exhibition catalogues and subscribe to the Pot of the Week email list.