

EVERYDAY BEAUTY

Shoji Hamada | Shinsaku Hamada | Tomoo Hamada



Pucker Gallery | Boston

*“What is old and beautiful is always new,
and what is beautiful and new, is always old.”*

– BROTHER THOMAS –



– PLATE –
Tenmoku and nuka glaze with ladle poured decoration
1.5 x 9.5 x 9.75"
H82 (GB53)

As we share our greatly enhanced collection of art by the three generations of the Hamada family of Mashiko, Japan, we are reminded that beauty can be paired with use.

Yo no bi: “The beauty of use” was the foundational commitment of the Mingei movement, founded in part by Shoji Hamada. What a joy to have been able, over the past decade, to assemble a superb collection of his art and combine it with the creations of his son, Shinsaku (age 94), and his grandson, Tomoo (age 56).

We are especially grateful to Koi Isaka for continuing to facilitate this meaningful relationship.

We invite you to enjoy and to hold a pot.

– BERNIE AND SUE –

Boston, 2023



– PLATE –
Tenmoku and nuka glaze with ladle poured decoration
1.5 x 9.5 x 9.75"
H83 (GB54)

Is Shoji Hamada Japan's Greatest Potter?

— ANDREW L. MASKE —

Shoji Hamada is often named as one of the greatest Japanese potters. He was among the first group of craftspeople to be named Living National Treasures in 1955. By choosing Mashiko as the place to pursue his work, he almost singlehandedly made that village famous for pottery. Moreover, Hamada is generally considered the foremost ceramics maker associated with Mingei, Japan's world-famous folk craft movement.

But a strong argument can be made that Shoji Hamada was not, in fact, a typical Japanese at all, particularly in his background, training, and influences.

Consider the following:

- Hamada was born in Kawasaki City in 1894, between Japan's capital of Tokyo and its main foreign port of Yokohama, the most international area of Japan at the time.

- Unlike most of his contemporary citizens, he was educated at an elite high school in Tokyo.
- He learned ceramics not as an apprentice, but in an industrial arts school, where his teacher, Itaya Hazan, a man obsessed with creating refined, precisely executed ceramics inspired by China and the West, who wore a Western-style lab coat day-in and day-out.
- Although he later traveled to Japan's traditional capital of Kyoto to pursue further ceramics study, while there Hamada spent most of his time conducting endless glaze experiments of the type being done by European and American ceramists.
- He first became interested in folk art not in Japan, but as a result of trips to Okinawa (only formally incorporated into Japan in the 1870s) and Korea in 1919.
- Hamada's closest friends were also elites with strong foreign influences, including the philosopher Soetsu Yanagi and the Englishman Bernard Leach.
- The Mingei movement that Hamada helped to found with Yanagi was roughly based on the English Arts and Crafts Movement.
- Immediately prior to embarking on his career as a "folk potter," Hamada spent two years in England at Leach's pottery workshop in St. Ives.
- After he founded his own workshop in Mashiko, Hamada's work frequently reflected "foreign" influences, like his signature sugarcane motif (H41, H48, H53, LB1, H89, H90, H95, H96, etc.), red/green/yellow overglaze enamels (H97), and salt-glazing (H43, H100, H112, H114). He also occasionally made works based on English and Middle Eastern ceramics traditions.
- Hamada, unlike most Japanese then or today, spoke English quite well, and almost always wore a Western business suit, not a kimono, to formal events such as exhibition openings.
- Although his home and studio were in traditional buildings brought to the land he purchased in Mashiko, to relax after working hours Hamada preferred to sit, not on the floor, but in his own Eames Lounge Chair, developed by the American designers Charles and Ray Eames in 1956.

Clearly, Shoji Hamada's background and experience were far from typical for a Japanese person. Nevertheless, it can be argued that his highly developed aesthetic sensibility was rooted in his Japanese environment and upbringing. Hamada's non-Japanese influences did not replace his essentially Japanese mindset—rather, they served to sharpen his sensitivity and enable him to see things from a broader perspective. A typical Japanese craftsman trained in a traditional apprenticeship would never have made the leap to explore the essence of craft in the way that Hamada did. He understood and respected traditional modes of making, but chose his own way as a ceramics creator, one that included gallery exhibitions, high prices, and world travel, as well as hours turning a wooden potter's wheel. Today, his work graces major museums and ceramics collections around the world, and his name is perhaps the best known of all in the global ceramics community. The Mingei movement he helped to found has engendered world-wide appreciation of folk art of all kinds.

Because of his many outside influences, Shoji Hamada should not, perhaps, be considered the greatest Japanese potter. But there is no doubt that he should be considered among the greatest world potters.



– BOWL, c. 1957–1960 –
Ash glaze with trailed decoration
2.75 x 9.5 x 9.25"
H2

– SHOJI HAMADA –

Shoji Hamada was born in 1894 in Tokyo, Japan. He graduated from Tokyo Technical College in 1916 and enrolled at Kyoto Ceramics Research. Between 1920 and 1923, Hamada traveled extensively to learn about diverse ceramics and folk craft traditions and built a climbing kiln in England at St. Ives with Bernard Leach (1887–1979). In 1952, Hamada traveled with Soetsu Yanagi (1889–1961) and Bernard Leach throughout the United States to give ceramics demonstrations and workshops. After receiving the Tochigi Prefecture Culture Award and the Minister of Education Award for Art, Hamada was designated a Living National Treasure in 1955. Thereafter, he was appointed Director of the Japan Folk Crafts Museum and awarded the Okinawa Times Award and the Order of Culture from the Emperor. In 1961, *Shoji Hamada: Collected Works* was published by Asahi Shimbun. In 1973, Hamada received an honorary Doctor of Art degree from the Royal College of Art in London, England. Shoji Hamada died in 1978, a year after the completion of the Mashiko Sankokan Museum, which was built in his home.



- SQUARE VASE, 1960 -
Kaki glaze with trailed decoration
9 x 7 x 6.25"
H64



- SQUARE JAR -
Persimmon glaze with iron underglaze
8.75 x 6 x 6"
H102



- HEXAGONAL VASE, 1970 -
Black and kaki glaze
8 x 3.75 x 3.75"
H26



- RECTANGULAR BOTTLE, late 1960s -
Black and nuka glaze
9.25 x 4 x 4"
H39 (FM)



- FIVE YUNOMI, 1940 -
Tenmoku glaze
2.5 x 3.5 x 3.5" each
CC6



- OBACHI, c. 1950 -
Black glaze with trailed decoration
5.5 x 22.5 x 22.5"
H40 (PG)



- TEXTURED BOTTLE, c. 1930 -
Black glaze
10.5 x 5.5 x 5.5"
H36



- VASE -
Persimmon glaze with wax resist brushwork
10.25 x 5.5 x 5.5"
H98



- FIVE YUNOMI -
Varying glazes
3.5 x 3.75 x 3.75" each
H104



- SET OF FIVE PLATES, 1972 -
Tetsue brushwork
1.75 x 7.5 x 7.5" each
NU1303-3



- FACETED VASE, c. 1960 -
Salt glaze with wax resist brushwork
10.25 x 5.25 x 5.25"
H43



- SQUARE BOTTLE -
Clear glaze with tetsue brushwork and nuka detail
9.5 x 4 x 4"
H95



- PLATE, 1950 -
Kaki glaze with wax resist brushwork
2 x 9.75 x 9.75"
H27



- PLATE, 1970 -
Tenmoku and kaki glaze with trailed decoration
2 x 10.75 x 10.75"
H17



- SQUARE VASE -
Persimmon glaze
9 x 6.25 x 6"
H97



- WATER CONTAINER -
Black glaze with circular design
7.5 x 6.5 x 6.5"
H103



- OBACHI, c. 1960 -
Green glaze with trailed decoration
4.5 x 18 x 18"
H42



- FIVE YUNOMI, 1940 -
Tenmoku glaze
2.5 x 3.5 x 3.5" each
CC5



- VASE -
Nuka glaze with tetsue brushwork
9 x 6 x 3.25"
PJ1



- COVERED JAR, 1945 -
Tetsue brushwork
7.5 x 8 x 8"
LB1



- MIZUSASHI, 1940 -
Ash glaze
6.5 x 6.25 x 5"
LB2



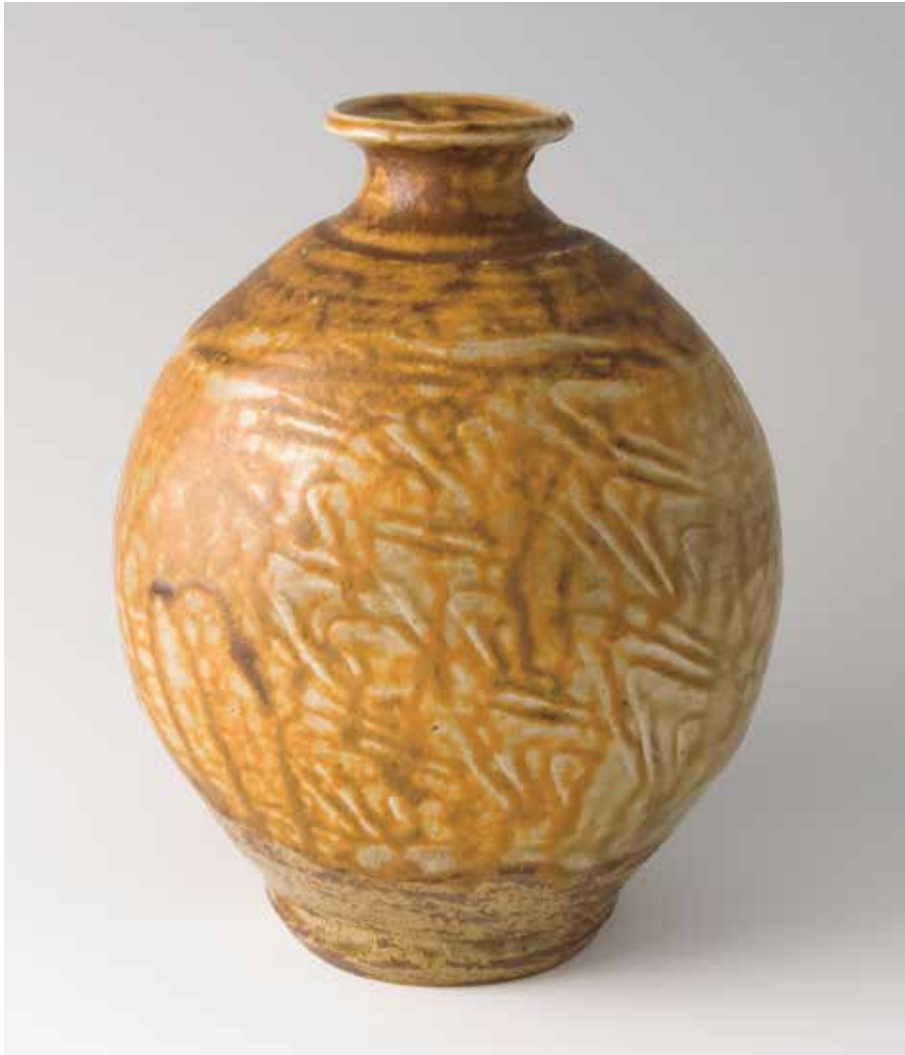
- SQUARED BOTTLE, 1965 -
Tetsue brushwork
9 x 6.25 x 3"
H31



- PLATE, 1970 -
Tenmoku and nuka glaze with trailed decoration
2.25 x 11.75 x 11.75"
H16



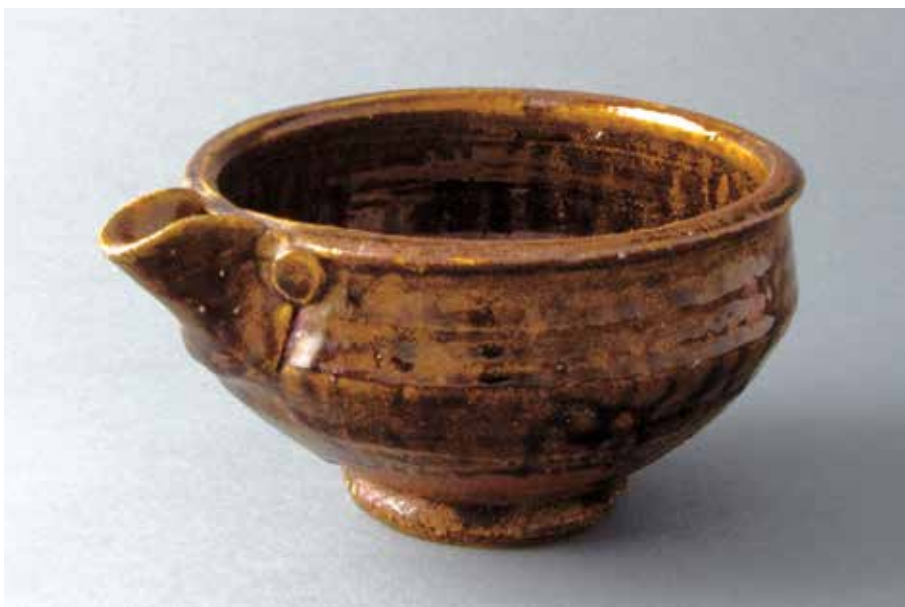
- PLATE, c. 1970 -
Black and kaki glaze with trailed decoration
2.25 x 11 x 11"
H46



- BOTTLE, c. 1950 -
Natural ash glaze
9.25 x 7 x 5.75"
H44



- YUNOMI (SET OF 3) -
1 with iron underglaze and wax resist
brushwork, 2 with iron brushwork
3.5 x 3.5 x 3.5" each
H116



- POURER, 1935 -
Amber glaze
4.25 x 7.25 x 8.25"
LB4



- SAKE CUPS AND DECANTERS (SET OF 7) -
Tenmoku, kaki, and nuka glaze with finger wipe decoration
Cups: 1.5 x 2.5 x 2.5" each, Decanters: 5.5 x 3.5 x 3.5" each
H108



- SQUARE DISH, 1960 -
Kaki glaze with trailed decoration
3.25 x 12.5 x 12.5"
H33



- SQUARE DISH, 1965 -
Kaki glaze with wax resist brushwork
2.5 x 10.5 x 10.5"
H65



- VASE -
Hakeme and tetsue brushwork
8.75 x 3.5 x 3.5"
H90



- BOWL, c. 1970 -
Tetsue brushwork
4.25 x 8.25 x 8.25"
H48



- RECTANGULAR DISH, c. 1950 -
Kaki glaze with wax resist brushwork
2.5 x 9 x 7"
H50



- JAR -
Iron brown glaze with wax resist brushwork
5.25 x 5.75 x 5.75"
H89



- MIZUSASHI, c. 1970 -
Kaki glaze with wax resist brushwork
5.75 x 7 x 6"
H45



- VASE, c. 1970 -
Hakeme and tetsue brushwork
8.25 x 3.75 x 3.75"
H53



- VASE -
Persimmon glaze
8 x 4 x 4"
H113



- POURER, c. 1960s -
Tetsue brushwork
4.25 x 7.25 x 8.75"
H5



- TEA BOWL -
Tetsue brushwork
3.25 x 5.75 x 5.75"
H105



- SQUARED BOTTLE, c. 1965 -
Kaki glaze with wax resist brushwork
8.25 x 5.75 x 3"
H41



- VASE -
Color spots in salt glaze
9 x 6.25 x 3.25"
H100



- TEA BOWL -
Salt glaze
3.75 x 5.75 x 5.75"
H112



- SQUARE PLATE -
Persimmon glaze with wax resist brushwork
3 x 13 x 13"
H96



- WATER CONTAINER -
Salt glaze brushwork
7.25 x 6.25 x 6.25"
H114



- LIDDED BOWL, c. 1930s -
Trailed decoration
6 x 7.75 x 7.75"
H11



- BOTTLE -
*Tenmoku, kaki, and nuka glaze with finger wipe
decoration*
8.5 x 4.75 x 4.75"
H73 (GB12)



- VASE -
Persimmon glaze with wax resist brushwork
8 x 7 x 4"
H101



- OVAL DISH, c. 1945 -
Kaki glaze with wax resist brushwork
3 x 11 x 9.75"
H49



- BOTTLE -
Underglaze iron, nuka glaze
9.5 x 7.5 x 6"
H106



- SQUARE BOTTLE -
Circular design in persimmon glaze
11 x 4.75 x 4.75"
H107



- BOWL, 1945 -
Kaki glaze with brushwork decoration
2.75 x 9.5 x 9.5"
H62



- VASE, c. 1965 -
Tenmoku and nuka glaze with finger wipes
9.25 x 5 x 5"
H109



– VASE –
Black and white glaze
9 x 6 x 6"
HS112

– SHINSAKU HAMADA –

Shinsaku Hamada was born in 1929 in Tokyo, Japan, as the second son of Shoji Hamada. A year later, the Hamada family moved to Mashiko in Tochigi Prefecture. He studied industrial art at Waseda University in Tokyo and thereafter traveled with his father to assist him during demonstrations and lectures. Hamada held his first solo exhibition at the Mitsukoshi Department Store in 1970, and has since had numerous landmark exhibitions there, including a 2009 show to celebrate his 80th birthday. In 1978, Hamada became a Kokugakai National Art Association member and was named Director of the Mashiko Sankokan Museum. In 1999, he received the 27th Shimotsuke Citizens Award. Hamada's work is included in the collections of the Prefectural Governor's residence and the Brooklyn Museum of Art. Hamada continues to exhibit internationally and work alongside his son in the original compound built by his father.



- FACETED VASE -
Salt glaze
5.5 x 6.25 x 6.25"
HS114



- BOX -
Akae decoration
3 x 3 x 3"
HS118



- BOX -
Kaki glaze
3 x 3 x 3"
HS117



- FLAT BOTTLE -
Brush decoration
8.5 x 6.5 x 4"
HS113



- BOX -
Akai decoration
3 x 3 x 3"
HS119



- BOX -
Cobalt and akai decoration
2 x 3.25 x 2.5"
HS120



- BOX -
Cobalt and akai decoration
3 x 3 x 3"
HS121



- FACETED VASE -
Black and white glaze
4 x 2.75 x 2.75"
HS123



- SAKE CUP -
Iron and akai decoration
1.75 x 3.5 x 3.5"
HS124



- YUNOMI -
Akai decoration
3.5 x 3.25 x 3.25"
HS125



- CHAWAN -
Black and white glaze
3.5 x 4.75 x 4.75"
HS116



- FACETED CHAWAN -
Black glaze
4.25 x 4.5 x 4.5"
HS115



- PLATE -
Kaki glaze with akae decoration
1.75 x 11 x 11"
HS122



- YUNOMI -
Kaki glaze
3.25 x 3.25 x 3.25"
HS126



- SAKE CUP -
White glaze
2 x 3.5 x 3.5"
HS127



- YUNOMI -
Iron decoration
3 x 3.25 x 3.25"
HS128



– VASE –
Kaki glaze with akae decoration
10.75 x 10.25 x 10.25"
HT429

– TOMOO HAMADA –

Tomoo Hamada was born in 1967 in Mashiko, Japan, as the second son of Shinsaku Hamada and a grandson of Shoji Hamada. In 1989 and 1991, Hamada received undergraduate and graduate degrees in sculpture from Tama Art University in Tokyo. Tomoo Hamada has exhibited, lectured, and given workshops internationally and was integral in helping the pottery community of Mashiko rebuild from the devastating Tohoku earthquake of 2011. He organized the Shoji Hamada climbing kiln project (2015 and 2018) with potters from Mashiko and Kasama and fired Hamada's eight-chamber climbing kiln after it was restored from earthquake damage. He was the chair for the Mashiko & St. Ives Centenary Project, celebrating the founding of Leach Pottery by Bernard Leach and Shoji Hamada in 1920 (signpost were erected in Mashiko in 2021 and St. Ives in 2022). His ceramic works are included in the permanent collections of numerous museums including the Mashiko Museum of Ceramic Art, the Tochigi Prefectural Museum of Fine Arts, the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, the Victoria & Albert Museum, London, the Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, and the Embassy of Japan in the UK. He currently lives in Mashiko, on the original compound his grandfather built, and works alongside his father. In 2012, he became Director of the Shoji Hamada Memorial Mashiko Sankokan Museum.



- FLUTED SPIRAL VASE -
Blue and white glaze
6.75 x 5.75 x 5.75"
HT432

- FLUTED SPIRAL VASE -
Blue and white glaze
10 x 6.5 x 6.5"
HT431



- TURTLE SHAPED BOX -
Salt glaze
3 x 5 x 3.5"
HT460



- TIE VASE -
Salt glaze
9.75 x 10.25 x 4.75"
HT433

- TIE VASE -
Blue glaze with akai decoration
9.75 x 10.5 x 4.75"
HT434



- SMALL WAVE-SHAPED DISH -
Kaki glaze with akae decoration
2 x 8.5 x 8.5"
HT454



- LARGE WAVE-SHAPED DISH -
Kaki glaze with akae decoration
1.75 x 9 x 9"
HT453



- VASE -
Kaki glaze with akae decoration
7.25 x 7 x 7"
HT435



- VASE -
Salt glaze
9 x 5.25 x 4.75"
HT436



- PITCHER -
Blue glaze with akae decoration
8 x 7.25 x 5.25"
HT438



- HALF-MOON SHAPED FLAT VASE -
Salt glaze
6.5 x 8.5 x 4"
HT437



- VASE -
Salt glaze
5.75 x 4 x 4"
HT441

- VASE -
Salt glaze
5.75 x 4.25 x 4.25"
HT440



- VASE -
Salt glaze
5.75 x 3.75 x 3.75"
HT439



- CHAWAN -
Salt glaze
4 x 4.75 x 4.75"
HT442



- FLUTED CHAWAN -
Salt glaze
3.5 x 6.25 x 6.25"
HT443



- CUP -
White glaze with akae decoration
3 x 2.75 x 2.75"
HT474



- SAKE CUP -
Salt glaze
1.75 x 3 x 3"
HT473

- SAKE CUP -
Salt glaze
2 x 2.75 x 2.75"
HT472



SAKE CUP
Black glaze with akae
decoration
2.5 x 2.5 x 2.5"
HT478

- SAKE CUP -
Kaki glaze with akae
decoration
2 x 2.5 x 2.5"
HT477

- SAKE CUP -
Black and white glaze with
akae decoration
2 x 2.75 x 2.75"
HT476

- SAKE CUP -
Blue glaze with akae
decoration
2 x 3 x 3"
HT475



- SMALL WAVE-SHAPED DISH -
Blue glaze with akae decoration
2 x 8.5 x 8.5"
HT450

- LARGE WAVE-SHAPED DISH -
Blue glaze with akae decoration
2 x 9.25 x 9.25"
HT449



- PLATE -
Kaki glaze with akae decoration
2 x 13.5 x 13.5"
HT445



- PLATE -
Black glaze with akae decoration
2.5 x 13.5 x 13.5"
HT446



- FLUTED CUP -
Salt glaze
3.25 x 2.75 x 2.75"
HT470

- FLUTED SAKE BOTTLE -
Salt glaze
5 x 3.75 x 3.75"
HT469



- CHAWAN -
Kaki glaze with akae decoration
3.5 x 5.25 x 5.25"
HT444



- SQUARE DISH -
Blue glaze with aakae decoration
2.75 x 12 x 12"
HT447



- SMALL WAVE-SHAPED DISH -
White glaze with aakae decoration
2 x 8.5 x 8.5"
HT452

- LARGE WAVE-SHAPED DISH -
White glaze with aakae decoration
1.75 x 9.25 x 9.25"
HT451



- YUNOMI -
White glaze with akae decoration
3.5 x 3.75 x 3.75"
HT465



- YUNOMI -
Blue glaze with akae decoration
3.25 x 3.75 x 3.75"
HT464



- CUP -
Salt glaze
3.5 x 3 x 3"
HT471



- SHEEP SHAPED BOX -
Salt glaze
3.75 x 6 x 3"
HT459



- SAKE BOTTLE -
*Black and white glaze with
akae decoration*
5.25 x 3.75 x 3.75"
HT467



- SAKE BOTTLE -
*Black glaze with
akae decoration*
4.5 x 3.75 x 3.75"
HT466



- FLUTED YUNOMI -
Salt glaze
3.25 x 3.75 x 3.75"
HT463

- FLUTED YUNOMI -
Salt glaze
3.25 x 3.5 x 3.5"
HT462



- FACETED YUNOMI -
Salt glaze
3.75 x 3.5 x 3.5"
HT461



- SMALL WAVE-SHAPED DISH -
Kaki glaze with akei decoration
2 x 8.5 x 8.5"
HT458



- SMALL WAVE-SHAPED DISH -
White glaze with akei decoration
2 x 8.5 x 8.5"
HT457



- FLUTED SPIRAL VASE -
Salt glaze
8.25 x 8 x 8"
HT430



- SAKE BOTTLE -
Kaki glaze with akei decoration
4.75 x 3.5 x 3.5"
HT468



- HEXAGONAL DISH -
Blue glaze with akae decoration
3.25 x 12.5 x 11"
HT448



- SMALL WAVE-SHAPED DISH -
Blue glaze with akae decoration
2 x 8.5 x 8.5"
HT456



- LARGE WAVE-SHAPED DISH -
Blue glaze with akae decoration
1.75 x 9.25 x 9.25"
HT455



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– GALLERY HOURS –
Monday through Saturday
10:00 AM to 5:30 PM

Sunday
1:00 to 5:00 PM

Pucker Gallery is a member
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Appraisers Association.

– CREDITS –
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The Hamada Family

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Cover:
SHOJI HAMADA
– FLASK –
Persimmon glaze
10 x 8.25 x 5.5"
H115

All works are stoneware.

EVERYDAY BEAUTY

Shoji Hamada | Shinsaku Hamada | Tomoo Hamada

DATES: 10 June through 9 July 2023

PUBLIC OPENING RECEPTION: Saturday 10 June 2023 | 3 to 6 PM
Tomoo Hamada will be present.

ONLINE EVENTS: Please visit www.puckergallery.com for a list of
virtual gatherings and events accompanying *Everyday Beauty*.



SHOJI HAMADA
– PLATE –
Persimmon glaze
3 x 12.5 x 12.5"
H110