

# Simple/Complex

New Work by

HIDEAKI MIYAMURA

PUCKER GALLERY / BOSTON



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**M**y father was an architect who designed and built typical Japanese houses around Niigata, where I was born. As a child I was surrounded by piles of drawings and drafting, and I was always looking through my father's architectural magazines with great interest. Later, my older brother studied to become an architect and was specifically drawn to the mid-century modern style of Frank Lloyd Wright, whose sense of harmony with his environment has also been inspiring to me. When my brother was in graduate school, I would help him with his ideas and drawings, even though I was still in high school. I remember he would order architectural magazines from the United States, France, and other countries and I would get lost looking at the designs contained in those pages.

Among the pieces I have created over the past few years is a new body of work that I call the *Architectural Series*. I have always been drawn to the mindful approach, simplicity, and spiritual experience of contemporary architects like Philip Johnson, Arata Isozaki, and Tadao Ando. Over ten years ago, I created a series of porcelain towers called *Buildings* that, like Ando's concrete structures, seemed to defy logic with their sense of weightlessness. Just as an architect must design within the confines of what is structurally possible, the ceramic artist is constrained by the limits of their technical ability and the physical capacity of the materials. You have to be able to build it. In both architecture and ceramics, the challenge is both aesthetic and substantive.

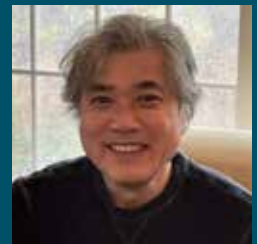
Ando once said that he thought "architecture becomes interesting when it has a double character, that is, when it is as simple as possible, but at the same time as complex as possible." When I began the *Architectural Series*, the top and bottom portions of the first piece sat in my studio for three years while I pondered and experimented with different ways of

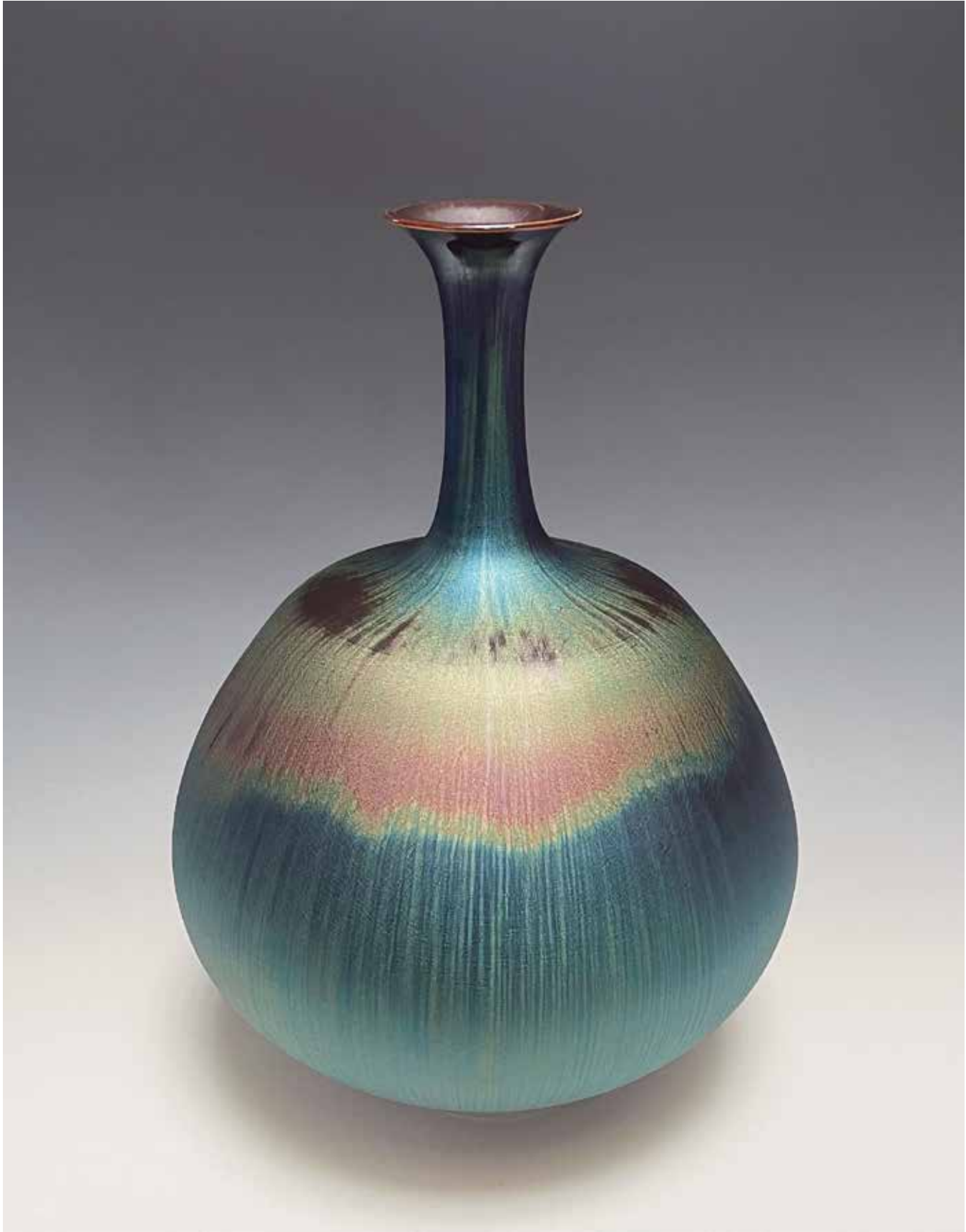
connecting them. I tried materials like glass and metal but neither felt right. I looked through magazines. I finally landed on the idea that the supportive, middle portion could be an assembly of windows made from glazed porcelain squares. *Jar with Gold Windows* (HM713; cover) feels akin to Ando's philosophies and design, playing on ideas of spatial circulation, light, and oneness with the natural world.

The interconnected forms are quite fun to make and laborious to achieve, but their seeming simplicity gives them a sense of quiet and ease. The glaze is elegantly organic, and through that I try to express a connection to the spirit and beauty of nature. It took many years until I was able to build an architectural piece that resonated with my artistic vision but was also structurally sound. Now, I am excited to make more pieces in this vein, and to include more of the traditional shapes and glazes for which I am known.

—HIDEAKI MIYAMURA

*Hideaki Miyamura was born in 1955 in Niigata, Japan, and traveled to the United States to study art history at Western Michigan University. In 1987, after college, he returned to Japan to pursue his interest in ceramics as an apprentice with master potter Shurei Miura in Yamanashi. Stemming from his interest in rare ancient Chinese tea bowl glazes, Miyamura seeks to create glazes that have a three-dimensional quality and convey purity and peacefulness. His vessels are pristine, disarmingly simple, contemplative objects whose finishes reflect the panoply of the natural world—geologic phenomena, star-filled nights, undulating ocean waves, and fiery sunsets. His work is included in numerous public collections, including the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Museum of Arts and Design in New York City, and the Victoria and Albert Museum in London.*





*Vase*  
Blue hare's fur glaze  
16 1/4 x 11 1/4 x 11 1/4"  
HM699

**Vase**

Iron glaze  
12 $\frac{1}{2}$  x 10 $\frac{1}{2}$  x 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ "  
HM712

**Jar**

Peacock glaze  
14 x 11 $\frac{3}{4}$  x 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ "  
HM696





**Vase**  
Green coral glaze  
8 x 6 1/4 x 6 1/4"  
HM704



**Bottle**  
Gold and brown glaze  
14 3/4 x 11 x 11"  
HM692



**Hexagon-shaped Vase**  
Gold waves glaze  
14½ x 7 x 7"  
HM700



**Vase**  
Snow Cap with blue hare's fur glaze  
7 x 6½ x 6½"  
HM709



**Hexagon-shaped Jar**  
Blue waves glaze  
9 x 6¾ x 6¾"  
HM703



*Vase*  
Green coral glaze  
10 x 8<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 8<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>"  
HM693



*Vase*  
Gold spots glaze  
13 x 10 x 10"  
HM694



*Square Vase*  
Gold waves glaze  
21 x 6 x 6"  
HM708



*Vase*  
Blue hare's fur glaze  
7 1/2 x 6 x 6"  
HM702



*Covered Jar*  
Lunar glaze and 24K gold  
5 x 9 x 9"  
HM672





**Octagon-shaped Jar**  
Blue waves glaze  
11 x 8 x 8"  
HM683



**Vase**  
Snow Cap with blue hare's  
fur glaze  
13 x 10 x 10"  
HM695



*Vase*  
Gold and brown glaze  
7 x 5 1/2 x 5 1/2"  
HM689



*Vase*  
Gold and starry night glaze  
12 x 6 x 6"  
HM705



*Pair of Vases*  
Green crystalline glaze  
17 x 7 x 7" each  
HM710



**Bottle**  
Blue waves glaze  
10 x 7 1/2 x 7 1/2"  
HM706



**Vase**  
Midnight Sky glaze  
11 1/4 x 7 1/2 x 7 1/2"  
HM701





**Bottle**  
Gold and brown glaze  
9 x 8 1/2 x 8 1/2"  
HM673



**Vase**  
Gold glaze  
12 3/4 x 7 3/4 x 7 3/4"  
HM707



***Gourd-shaped Vase***

Blue hare's fur glaze  
 12½ x 5¼ x 5¼"  
 HM697



***Vase***

Blue waves glaze  
 15 x 7½ x 7½"  
 HM671



**Jar**  
Gold waves glaze  
8½ x 7¾ x 7¾"  
HM670



**Vase**  
Fireworks in the Night  
Sky glaze  
12¼ x 10 x 10"  
HM698



**Bottle**  
Blue hare's fur glaze  
12 $\frac{1}{2}$  x 6 x 6"  
HM677



**Bottle**  
Blue waves glaze  
13 $\frac{1}{4}$  x 6 x 6"  
HM684





**Vase**  
Blue hare's fur glaze  
8 1/2 x 6 1/2 x 6 1/2"  
HM688



**Jar**  
Gold and brown glaze  
9 1/4 x 8 1/2 x 8 1/2"  
HM669



**Bottle**  
Purple hare's fur and starry night glaze  
15 x 7 1/2 x 7 1/2"  
HM678



**Vase**  
Red copper glaze  
9 3/4 x 5 1/2 x 5 1/2"  
HM675



*Vase*  
Iron glaze  
8 1/2 x 6 1/2 x 6 1/2"  
HM676



*Jar*  
Gold and brown glaze  
13 1/2 x 10 1/2 x 10 1/2"  
HM691



**Vase**

Blue hare's fur and brown glaze

15 x 8 1/2 x 8 1/2"

HM690





**Bottle**  
Peacock glaze  
9 x 5 1/2 x 5 1/2"  
HM686



**Vase**  
Snow Cap with blue  
hare's fur glaze  
10 x 7 x 7"  
HM685



*Vase*  
Gold glaze  
8 1/2 x 6 1/2 x 6 1/2"  
HM667



*Jar*  
Blue waves glaze  
13 1/2 x 10 x 10"  
HM682



*Vase*  
Gold glaze  
11 1/4 x 6 x 6"  
HM668



*Vase*  
Peacock glaze  
13 x 6 1/2 x 6 1/2"  
HM687

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GALLERY

### Pucker Gallery

240 Newbury Street, 3rd Floor  
Boston, MA 02116  
617.267.9473  
contactus@puckergallery.com

### Gallery Hours:

Monday through Saturday  
10:00 AM to 5:30 PM  
Sunday 1:00 to 5:00 PM

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

### Credits:

**Design:** Leslie Anne Feagley  
**Editors:** Jeanne Koles and Beth Plakidas  
**Photography:** Hideaki Miyamura and John Davenport

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### Dates:

3 February through 17 March 2024

### Public Opening Reception:

Saturday 3 February 2024  
3pm to 6pm  
The artist will be present.

### Online Events:

Please visit [www.puckergallery.com](http://www.puckergallery.com) for a list of virtual gatherings and events accompanying *Simple/Complex*.

*All works are porcelain.*



**Octagon-shaped Jar**  
Gold waves glaze  
17 1/2 x 9 1/2 x 9 1/2"  
HM711

**COVER: Jar with Gold Windows**  
Green hare's fur glaze  
17 1/4 x 7 3/4 x 7 3/4"  
HM713

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