

Back to the Center

New Work by Yoshinori Hagiwara



Pucker Gallery
Boston



PLATE
SCATTERED ASH
3.5 x 15 x 15"
YH969

All works are stoneware.

“ Deep within us all there is an amazing inner sanctuary of the soul, a holy place, a Divine Center, a speaking Voice, to which we may continuously return. ”

— THOMAS R. KELLY —

The Preacher, probably a well-aged King Solomon, possibly the wealthiest and wisest man to ever live, wrote in Ecclesiastes 1:9 that there is nothing new under the sun. Everything repeats itself in a cyclic rhythm; the sun rises in the east and sets in the west, winter becomes spring, spring becomes summer, summer becomes fall, and fall becomes winter. We might think things are new, but really, they are derivative of what came before. The cyclical nature of our reality seems to revolve around a hidden inner world, one we cannot see, that we nonetheless access through quiet moments of reflection and silence. Pottery, as made on the potter's wheel or coiled by hand, functions totally around this Divine Center.

All pottery, in a sense, exemplifies this near mystic quality of the practice, but the work of Yoshinori Hagiwara further glorifies this idea. Instead of attempting a force of unnecessary change or boisterousness, he expresses a sacred central sanctuary of the soul through his sincere

dedication to the traditional craft and his masterful development and application of glazes. This hidden sanctuary is laid bare in the final product. Pottery sends a beacon of quiet invitation to the viewer to delve into the unknown and probe the imagination. Pottery uniquely allows the viewer access to an additional sense: physical touch. It serves as an intimate daily reminder—as you cook, serve, eat, or drink with it—that today is not just another day and you are not just another person, but something more. If you allow it, it is a mirror into the inward splendor of the unseen inside us all.

How does the potter take the viewer to such a remarkable place? We must start at the beginning. Before the potter places the clay on the potter's wheel, it is shaped in expectation of the spinning force of the equipment. This force is aptly called centripetal force and derives from the Latin words for “center” and “to seek.” Using centripetal force, the clay is then further balanced through a process called “centering.” To put it simply,

a vase, a plate, a mug, a bowl, or a jar cannot be made without first finding center. If center is not adequately found, the clay will flop over due to total lack of balance or, if it does hold its shape, eventually develop an “S” crack. Named for its shape, this common crack occurs at the very bottom of the pot, right in the center, and given its severity, renders the pot defective or useless to one degree or another.

In pottery, balance is key, and centering is the omnipresent skill. Even our own planet has a centripetal force which is intimately connected to gravity.

Like the tide, ceramics has a rhythmic ebbing and flowing. Just as the earth spins and the moon pushes the water upon the shore and pulls it back again, so the hand of the potter pushes and pulls the clay and finds center. This structured flowing is exemplified not only in Hagiwara’s forms but also in his glazes and their applications. Many of his glazes are applied in a natural, yet planned design, balancing a sense of organic motion with his human intention. Their colors—rich browns, blues, white, yellows, and blacks—support a connection to what is natural and humble, not in a sense of what is lowly or weak, but what is powerful yet modest. This gives the pots a vibrancy and life that is both mysterious and approachably alluring. The glazes are often adorned with patterns of crisscrosses, spiraling starbursts, or cascading waterfalls. All are

applied by a loose yet accurate hand, indicative of a master’s touch. These additional lines across the pot outline their characteristic shapes, like rivers over the face of the earth, further adding to the pot’s dimension and landscape. If you get close enough or are lucky enough to see them when the sun hits them at just the right angle, you will experience the embedded crystals in the glaze that glow with a radiance like stars in the night sky. Created from the minute crystal growth in the glaze surface due to chemical reaction in the heat of the kiln, these crystals give great depth to the surface and act like atmospheric perspective in a landscape painting.

Yoshinori Hagiwara’s masterful dedication and exemplification to what is already beautiful in traditional pottery allow us to be invited into the Divine Center. It is a mysterious location that is implied through the process and the practice of ceramics. Hagiwara’s intention creates a work of art that serves a practical purpose, offers a platform for peaceful reflection, and provides a doorway to our inner sanctuary. Just as he finds center, the final product he makes is a pure and sympathetic invitation to halt, reflect, and engage not only with the world around us but with the hidden world within. In the midst of life, it draws us back to center.

— CAROLINE STALLER —



CUP
BLACK GLAZE
5 x 3.25 x 3.25"
YH1038



SINGLE FLOWER VASE
KAKI GLAZE
5 x 4 x 4"
YH992



CUP
COPPER GLAZE
5 x 3.5 x 3.5"
YH1044



SQUARE PLATE
BLUE NUKA GLAZE
1 x 9 x 9.25"
YH1081



SINGLE FLOWER VASE
KAKI GLAZE
4 x 3.5 x 3.5"
YH993



SINGLE FLOWER VASE
BLACK GLAZE
4 x 3.5 x 3.5"
YH995



BOWL WITH A LID
BLACK GLAZE
3.5 x 3.25 x 3.25"
YH1010



BOWL WITH A LID
BLACK GLAZE
3.5 x 3.25 x 3.25"
YH1009



BOWL WITH A LID
COPPER GLAZE
3.75 x 3.25 x 3.25"
YH1002



SQUARE PLATE
WHITE NUKA GLAZE
1 x 9.25 x 9.25"
YH1078



BOWL WITH A LID
BLUE NUKA GLAZE
5.5 x 6.5 x 6.5"
YH986



BOWL WITH A LID
BLUE NUKA GLAZE
4.5 x 4.5 x 4.5"
YH988



BOWL WITH A LID
WHITE NUKA GLAZE
3.5 x 3.5 x 3.5"
YH1005



BOWL WITH A LID
KAKI GLAZE
3 x 3.5 x 3.5"
YH1006



BOWL WITH A LID
COPPER GLAZE
3.25 x 3.5 x 3.5"
YH1001



SAKE CUP
WHITE NUKA GLAZE
1.5 x 3.25 x 3.25"
YH1050



SAKE CUP
BLACK GLAZE
1.25 x 3.25 x 3.25"
YH1052



SET OF SIX OVAL PLATES
 BLACK GLAZE
 1.25 x 6.25 x 5.5" EACH
 YH1000



PLATE
 KAKI GLAZE
 3 x 13.75 x 13.75"
 YH971



SET OF SIX SMALL SQUARE BOWLS

KAKI GLAZE

1.25 x 5.5 x 3.25" EACH

YH1011



VASE

COPPER GLAZE

9.5 x 6 x 5"

YH979



VASE

COPPER GLAZE

9.75 x 5.5 x 4.5"

YH980



SQUARE PLATE
BLUE NUKA GLAZE
1 x 9 x 9"
YH1079



SINGLE FLOWER VASE
COPPER GLAZE
4.5 x 4 x 4"
YH996



SINGLE FLOWER VASE
COPPER GLAZE
4.5 x 3.5 x 3.5"
YH998



SAKE CUP
BLUE NUKA GLAZE
1.75 x 3 x 3"
YH1053



SAKE CUP
KAKI GLAZE
1.75 x 3 x 3"
YH1051



MUG
COPPER GLAZE
4 x 4.5 x 3.5"
YH1022



MUG
WHITE NUKA GLAZE
4 x 4.5 x 3.5"
YH1021



BOWL WITH A LID
WHITE NUKA GLAZE
4.5 x 4.75 x 4.75"
YH989



BOWL WITH A LID
KAKI GLAZE
4.5 x 6.25 x 6.25"
YH985



VASE
BLACK GLAZE
8.75 x 4.5 x 4.5"
YH982



TEA BOWL
BLUE NUKA GLAZE
3.5 x 3.25 x 3.25"
YH1033



TEA BOWL
BLUE NUKA GLAZE
3.5 x 3.5 x 3.5"
YH1035



SET OF SIX MAMEZARA (VERY SMALL PLATES)
BLUE NUKA GLAZE
.5 x 2.5 x 2.5" EACH
YH1075



TEA BOWL
BLUE NUKA GLAZE
3.25 x 3.25 x 3"
YH1034



SET OF SIX SMALL PLATES
KAKI GLAZE
.5 x 4 x 4" EACH
YH1065



CUP
COPPER GLAZE
5.25 x 3.5 x 3.5"
YH1047



SAKE CUP
COPPER GLAZE
2.5 x 2.5 x 2.5"
YH1061



CUP
COPPER GLAZE
5 x 3.5 x 3.5"
YH1045



MUG
COPPER GLAZE
3.5 x 4.5 x 3.5"
YH1025



MUG
KAKI GLAZE
4 x 4.5 x 3.5"
YH1027



SQUARE PLATE
WHITE NUKA GLAZE
1 x 9 x 9"
YH1076



SAKE CUP
COPPER GLAZE
2.5 x 2.5 x 2.5"
YH1062



SAKE CUP
COPPER GLAZE
2.75 x 2.25 x 2.25"
YH1063



SAKE CUP
COPPER GLAZE
2 x 3 x 3"
YH1064



VASE
COPPER GLAZE
8.5 x 8.75 x 8.75"
YH978



PLATE
BLACK GLAZE
3 x 13.75 x 13.75"
YH970



MUG
COPPER GLAZE
3.5 x 4.5 x 3.5"
YH1023



MUG
COPPER GLAZE
3.5 x 4.5 x 3.25"
YH1024



MUG
BLACK GLAZE
3.5 x 4.25 x 3.25"
YH1015



MUG
BLACK GLAZE
3.5 x 5 x 4"
YH1014



SQUARE PLATE
KAKI GLAZE
1 x 9 x 9"
YH1083



VASE
COPPER GLAZE
9.25 x 4.5 x 4.5"
YH981



VASE
COPPER GLAZE
7 x 4.75 x 4.75"
YH983



MUG
BLUE NUKA GLAZE
3.5 x 5 x 3.5"
YH1018



MUG
BLACK GLAZE
3.75 x 4.5 x 3.25"
YH1017



SQUARE PLATE
KAKI GLAZE
1 x 9 x 9"
YH1082



CUP
BLACK GLAZE
5 x 3.25 x 3.25"
YH1039



CUP
BLACK GLAZE
5 x 3.5 x 3.5"
YH1040



CUP
BLACK GLAZE
5 x 3.25 x 3.25"
YH1041



SINGLE FLOWER VASE
COPPER GLAZE
4.25 x 3.5 x 3.5"
YH999



SINGLE FLOWER VASE
COPPER GLAZE
4.25 x 4.25 x 4.25"
YH997



SET OF SIX SMALL PLATES
BLUE NUKA GLAZE
.5 x 4 x 4" EACH
YH1066



MUG
WHITE NUKA GLAZE
3.75 x 4.5 x 3.25"
YH1020



SQUARE PLATE
BLUE NUKA GLAZE
1 x 9 x 9.25"
YH1080



SET OF SIX SMALL SQUARE BOWLS
BLUE NUKA GLAZE
1.25 x 5.25 x 3" EACH
YH1012



SET OF SIX SMALL PLATES
KAKI GLAZE
.5 x 3.75 x 3.75" EACH
YH1068



SINGLE FLOWER VASE
KAKI GLAZE
4.25 x 3.5 x 3.5"
YH994



SINGLE FLOWER VASE
KAKI GLAZE
4.75 x 4 x 4"
YH991



SINGLE FLOWER VASE
KAKI GLAZE
5 x 3.75 x 3.75"
YH990



CUP
COPPER GLAZE
5.25 x 3.5 x 3.5"
YH1048



SAKE CUP
BLACK GLAZE
3 x 2.5 x 2.5"
YH1056



CUP
COPPER GLAZE
5 x 3.5 x 3.5"
YH1049



TEA BOWL
BLUE NUKA GLAZE
3.5 x 3.25 x 3.25"
YH1037



SET OF SIX MAMEZARA (VERY SMALL PLATES)
WHITE NUKA GLAZE
.5 x 2.75 x 2.75" EACH
YH1074



TEA BOWL
BLUE NUKA GLAZE
3 x 3.25 x 3.25"
YH1036



TEA BOWL
KAKI GLAZE
3.5 x 3.25 x 3.25"
YH1029



VASE
BLACK GLAZE
10 x 5.5 x 5.5"
YH976



SAKE CUP
BLUE NUKA GLAZE
2.5 x 2.5 x 2.5"
YH1060



SAKE CUP
COPPER GLAZE
2 x 2.5 x 2.5"
YH1059



SAKE CUP
KAKI GLAZE
2.25 x 3 x 3"
YH1058



VASE
COPPER GLAZE
11 x 7 x 7"
YH974



SQUARE PLATE
WHITE NUKA GLAZE
1 x 9 x 9"
YH1077



TEA BOWL
WHITE NUKA GLAZE
3.25 x 3.5 x 3.5"
YH1031



SET OF SIX MAMEZARA (VERY SMALL PLATES)
BLUE NUKA GLAZE
.5 x 2.5 x 2.5" EACH
YH1071



BOWL WITH A LID
COPPER GLAZE
4.5 x 6.25 x 6.25"
YH984



SET OF SIX MAMEZARA (VERY SMALL PLATES)
KAKI GLAZE
.5 x 2.5 x 2.5" EACH
YH1073



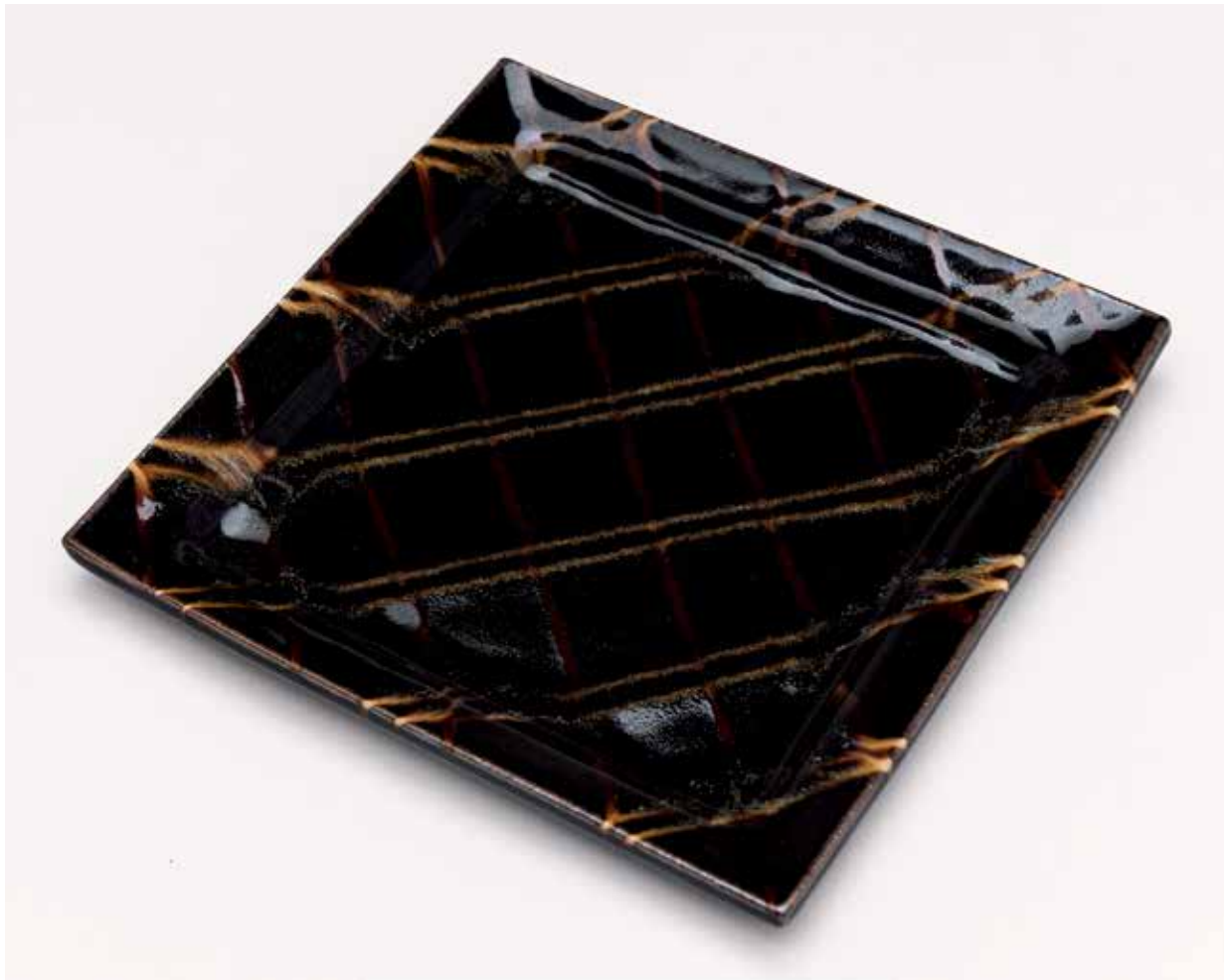
BOWL WITH A LID
KAKI GLAZE
3.75 x 4.25 x 4.25"
YH987



BOWL WITH A LID
WHITE NUKA GLAZE
3.25 x 3.5 x 3.5"
YH1004



VASE
KAKI GLAZE
9 x 6 x 6"
YH977



SQUARE PLATE
BLACK GLAZE
1 x 9 x 9"
YH1084



CUP
BLACK GLAZE
5 x 3.25 x 3.25"
YH1042



CUP
BLACK GLAZE
5 x 3.5 x 3.5"
YH1043



CUP
COPPER GLAZE
5 x 3.5 x 3.5"
YH1046



SET OF SIX MAMEZARA (VERY SMALL PLATES)

KAKI GLAZE
.5 x 2.5 x 2.5" EACH
YH1069



SET OF SIX MAMEZARA (VERY SMALL PLATES)

WHITE NUKA GLAZE
.5 x 2.5 x 2.5" EACH
YH1070



MUG
BLACK GLAZE
3.25 x 4.5 x 3.75"
YH1016



MUG
BLUE NUKA GLAZE
4 x 4.5 x 3.5"
YH1019



VASE
COPPER GLAZE
10 x 7 x 7"
YH975



SAKE CUP
WHITE NUKA GLAZE
2.5 x 2.5 x 2.5"
YH1054



SAKE CUP
BLACK GLAZE
2.75 x 2.5 x 2.5"
YH1055



SET OF SIX SMALL PLATES
WHITE NUKA GLAZE
.5 x 4 x 4" EACH
YH1067



SET OF SIX SMALL SQUARE BOWLS
BLUE NUKA GLAZE
1.25 x 4.25 x 4.25" EACH
YH1013

Born in 1974, as the fifth generation of the Hagiwara family ceramic workshop, Yoshinori Hagiwara 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 won numerous prizes at Japan's 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 white glazes 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.



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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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Back to the Center

New Work by Yoshinori Hagiwara

DATES:

1 March through 4 May 2025

PUBLIC OPENING RECEPTION:

Saturday, 15 March 2025

3 PM to 6 PM

ONLINE EVENTS:

Please visit www.puckergallery.com for a list of virtual
gatherings and events accompanying *Back to the Center*.



BOWL WITH A LID
BLUE NUKA GLAZE
3.5 x 3.5 x 3.5"
YH1007



BOWL WITH A LID
BLACK GLAZE
3.25 x 3.5 x 3.5"
YH1008



BOWL WITH A LID
COPPER GLAZE
3.5 x 3.5 x 3.5"
YH1003

Cover left:
VASE
COPPER GLAZE
11 x 9.75 x 9.75"
YH972

Cover right:
VASE
COPPER GLAZE
12.5 x 8.5 x 8.5"
YH973

Please visit www.puckergallery.com to view current and past exhibition catalogues
and subscribe to the *Pot of the Week* email list.