

## **Vase by Takegoshi Jun (1948- )**

*Glazed porcelain with overglaze enamel decor*

2005 (Japan)

2006.20

G226

(large – nearly 20” tall)



### Key Points:

Takegoshi, while deeply influenced by many types of Japanese aesthetic traditions, has a vibrant modernity to his 21<sup>st</sup> century designs. Japanese traditional influences in this vase include:

- Nigoshi painting (literally translated as Japanese painting). Thousands of year old tradition. Takegoshi is formally trained in Japanese painting style. Singular, spare images on white or neutral background, very detailed in depiction. Focus on nature. *Suggestion: use images of Two Cranes in G251 or other image as a reference point.*
- Kutani ware – specific type of porcelain ceramics tradition which started in Ishikawa Prefecture in the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century. At that time, significant amounts of a certain clay were discovered -- crucial in making porcelain. Kilns were built and the tradition continues today. Takegoshi's father was a revered master of Kutani ware and he was trained in the traditions of his father. The porcelain style is known for its bold use of saturated (strong) colors and bold designs. Traditional Kutani uses a five-color palette of blue, yellow, purple, red, and green. We see this palette in Takegoshi's work. *MIA owns pieces of Kutani ware, but none currently on display.*
- Wabi is a Japanese aesthetic associated with the tea ceremony, which prizes the imperfect. It derives from the Buddhist assertions of impermanence. Put in simplest terms: There is beauty in the imperfect.
- Porcelain revered for its strength and translucence. Fired at extremely high temperatures – usually over 2000 degrees Fahrenheit. Believed to have begun thousands of years ago in China. The Chinese have significantly influenced Japanese art traditions.
- Pottery / Ceramics = oldest art form tradition in Japan.

There is timelessness in these traditions that can be seen in this piece. Even though they go back hundreds or thousands of years, we can still see them as a contemporary aesthetic.

Takegoshi motifs = sparrows, ibis, king fishers (here), even dragons, each cunningly painted with individual personalities - almost whimsical.



Questions:

Do you think this vase looks contemporary or traditional? What do you see that makes you say that?

Imagine this in your home. Where might you put it? What would you arrange in it?

EXPANDED RESEARCH:

Artist Bio:

Born in Ishikawa in 1948 as the eldest son of Takegoshi Taizan III (1919-1984), a master of Kutani ware. Takegoshi Jun graduated from Kanazawa College of Art and began to independently produce ceramics in 1972. Like his father, he continues to use the saturated palette of colors associated with Kutani ware, but he had developed his own aesthetic vision by masterfully isolating carefully rendered birds and plants against a white background.

Takegoshi was the recipient of the prestigious Japan Ceramic Association Award in 2007 and his works grace important Japanese collections and museums as well as Western institutions such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art; Minneapolis Institute of Art; Newark Museum of Art; Philadelphia Museum of Art; Victoria & Albert Museum; and Yale University Art Gallery.

Fall 2010 announcement:

*[Joan B. Mirviss](#) (gallery owner) is pleased to present masterworks in enameled porcelain by Kutani master Takegoshi Jun (b. 1948) to open their autumn season with his exhibition entitled "Flights of Fancy." This will be the artist's second exhibition in the United States and with our gallery, and will feature 40 new works, including several larger scale forms, created specifically for this show.*



*Kingfisher*