

THE NOYES MUSEUM OF ART OF STOCKTON UNIVERSITY PRESENTS:

TOSHIKO TAKAEZU

AN EXHIBITION FROM THE NOYES COLLECTION

You are not an artist simply because you paint or sculpt or make pots that cannot be used. An artist is a poet in his or her own medium. And when an artist produces a good piece, that work has mystery, an unsaid quality; it is alive.

— Toshiko Takaezu

About Toshiko Takaezu:

Born in Pepeekeo, Hawaii to the parents of Japanese immigrants, Toshiko Takaezu (1922-2011) studied art first at the University of Hawaii and later at the Cranbrook Academy of Art in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. Strongly influenced by the Finnish ceramist Maija Grotell (1899–1973) and the study of Zen Buddhism, Toshiko was at the vanguard of the movement to explore ceramic's possibilities as an independent aesthetic medium. Her signature 'closed forms' and torpedo-like cylinders embrace the notion of ceramic pieces as artworks meant to be seen rather than used. No longer able to contain, the vessels lose their utilitarian meaning and communicate as pure art. The surface decoration of Toshiko's work is equally striking. Matte and shiny glazes, often layered and marked, are brushed, dripped and poured with the same expressiveness of abstract painters. From 1967 to 1992, Toshiko taught at the Program of Visual Arts in Princeton University until she retired to become a studio artist, living and working in the Quakertown section of Franklin Township, New Jersey.



Toshiko Takaezu *Closed Form* Glazed stoneware 2006.003.003





Toshiko Takaezu

**Moon
Glazed stoneware
2006.003.011



Toshiko Takaezu *Closed Form* Glazed stoneware 2006.003.009



Toshiko Takaezu

Closed Form

Salt fired and glazed stoneware
2006.003.016



Toshiko Takaezu

Vase

Anagama fired stoneware
2006.003.006





Toshiko Takaezu

Closed Form

Salt fired and glazed stoneware
2006.003.017





About the Artist:

The impact of Toshiko Takaezu on the field of ceramics and contemporary art is well documented, yet her role as mentor, equally important to her, is too often overlooked. From the mid-1970s until the last year of her life, Takaezu chose one apprentice each year to live and work at her home and studio in Quakertown, New Jersey.



Image Courtesy of Toshiko Takaezu Foundation

Website: https://www.toshikotakaezufoundation.org/

Video: https://ceramic.school/toshiko-takaezu/



www.noyesmuseum.org











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