



DAI ICHI ARTS, LTD

18 East 64th Street, Suite 1F, New York, NY, 10065 | www.daiichiarts.com

Memories of a House: Hayashi Yasuo solo exhibition

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dai Ichi Arts is deeply honored to present the solo exhibition of the post-war ceramic modernist, Hayashi Yasuo (b. 1928).

On view: January 22 – February 5, 2026 | Digital & in-print exhibition catalog available.



Group of works by Hayashi Yasuo in his “Scenes of Namie Town” series produced between 2020 and 2025.

New York, NY — We are deeply honored to present a solo exhibition of the modern ceramic master Hayashi Yasuo (b. 1928), one of the most pivotal figures of the first post-war generation that shaped contemporary Japanese ceramics. This exhibition marks the artist's final overseas solo presentation and

brings together an intimate selection of works spanning from 1969 to the present, tracing key moments across an extraordinary artistic practice that has extended over eight decades.

Born in Kyoto in 1928, Hayashi Yasuo came of age during a period of profound upheaval. Drafted as a kamikaze pilot during World War II, he survived only due to the sudden end of the war, an experience that would leave a deep psychological imprint on his life and work. In the immediate post-war years, within Kyoto's cultural circles, Hayashi associated with leading figures of the time, including Noguchi Isamu (1904–1988), and exhibited alongside Noguchi in Paris in 1947 while still very young.

That same year, Hayashi became a **founding member of *Shikō-kai*, Kyoto's first avant-garde sculptural ceramic movement. In 1948, the group held the earliest exhibition of ceramic objets, known as *obuje-yaki*, kiln-fired objects that consciously subverted Japan's long tradition of vessel-based ceramics.** Hayashi presented his first ceramic object, "Cloud," in this historic exhibition.

Works from Hayashi's early period are featured in this exhibition, alongside rare examples from the 1960s and 1970s. After encountering the work of Surrealist Max Ernst at the home of potter Uno Sango, Hayashi explored biomorphic forms characterized by sensuous contours and richly red surfaces. These works are both scarce and newly available to the market.

Also included are works from his ongoing "*Memories of a House*" series. During his wartime night training flights over Kyoto from which he was extremely lucky to survive, Hayashi observed the city as a dense expanse of *kyōmachiya* rooftops stretching across the darkness below. Seen from the air, familiar domestic forms became distorted by distance, speed, and weather, merging with an acute awareness of mortality. These psychologically charged impressions have remained a persistent theme throughout his career, through which Hayashi continues to reflect on the fragility of life.

Now at 97, Hayashi finds renewed expression in a new group of *objets* created in remembrance of the victims of, and those still affected by, the March 2011 Tōhoku tsunami, nearly fifteen years on. These series, titled "*Scenes of Namie Town*," reaffirm his enduring belief in art as a vessel for humanity, memory, and history.

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