

Press release of 30 May 2016

«Japanese glass art and calligraphy in dialogue» Works by Fujiko Enami and Denise Baumgartner

Japanese glass artist Fujiko Enami and the Swiss calligraphist Denise Baumgartner combine inspirations from Japan and Europe to create expressive and distinctive works. In Japan Enami produces delicate glass art of diverse colour and motif using the murrine technique most associated with Venice; Baumgartner's calligraphy has been shaped by her long residency in Japan and fuse traditional Japanese calligraphy with western design. Both artists carry on traditions in their own way and create works that are timeless as well as modern.

The renowned glass artist Fujiko Enami (*1968) has shown her work regularly in Japan for almost 20 years and is now showing for the first time in a Swiss gallery. Today Enami works primarily in the ancient and demanding murrine technique. This involves a number of thin monochrome glass rods being bundled and melted together to form thicker rods with multi-coloured motifs at their centre. Enami creates fine plants, flowers, animals or geometric patterns in this way. They first become visible when the rod is cut into thin slices (murrine). The slices are then arranged in a mosaic fashion, melted and blown or kiln-moulded into vessels. Enami's repertoire includes cups, goblets and vases, as well as accessories for the Japanese tea ceremony. Every piece reflects Enami's technical and artistic mastery, her patience and experience and her ability to join countless individual components together in ever new ways to form unique pieces of the highest elegance and aesthetic quality. By combining elements of Japanese and western culture she creates works that interpret classical forms in a uniquely new way.

Elements of East and West are also combined in the works of Denise Baumgartner (*1963). Inspired by her Japanese grandmother, she has been engaged with Japanese calligraphy for almost 25 years. After learning her first brush strokes in Switzerland, she devoted 20 years in Japan entirely to the study of calligraphy, which she has also taught here since her return. In contrast to glass art, Baumgartner's paintings are creations of the moment, whose beauty stems from knowledge, skill and experience and is realised through countless attempts to achieve the maximum possible vibrancy and expressiveness. Furthermore, immediately upon viewing one senses that, through the type, arrangement and expression of the characters, East Asian calligraphy captures not only words but also the personality of the writer. The pictorial nature of Baumgartner's works makes them accessible even to those who cannot read them. With their colourful frames or mounts, their harmony and simple elegance, and through the combination of Japanese tradition and western design, they enter into a fascinating dialogue with Enami's delicate and highly detailed art.

You and your friends are warmly invited to the exhibition preview on Thursday 9 June 2016, from 17.00 to 20.00. The artists will be present.

Concert with the Shakulimba duo: Saturday 18 June 2016 at 17.00. Siblings Isabel (Japanese Flute Shakuhachi) and Patrik Lerchmüller (Kalimba) present a musical fusion of the traditional and the contemporary. Doors open at 16.30, approximate duration 40 min. Registration through the gallery by 14 June. Places limited. Entry: CHF 30 seated, CHF 20 standing.

Exhibition tour with Denise Baumgartner: Saturday 9 July 2016 at 15.00.

Closing drinks with Denise Baumgartner: Saturday 23 July 2016 from 12.00 to 14.00.

The exhibition runs from 10 June to 23 July 2016.

Opening hours: Wednesday to Friday 13.00 to 18.00, Saturday 11.00 to 14.00, or by appointment.

Further information available from:

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Fujiko Enami

Education

- 1994 Toyama City Institute of Glass Art, Toyama (JP)
1992 Bachelor of Fine Arts, Faculty of Art and Design, Tama Art University, Tokyo (JP)

Career and Teaching Experience

- 2013 Tama Art University, Tokyo (JP)
Utatsuyama Kōgei Kōbō Glass Studio, Kanazawa (JP)
2012 Shin Zōkeisōzōkan, Shizuoka (JP)
Silica Glass Studio, Ibaragi (JP)
2011 Toyama Glass Studio, Toyama (JP)
2009 Musashino Art University, Tokyo (JP)
2008 Anadolu University, Eskisehir (TR)
2007 Toyama City Institute of Glass Art (JP)
1998 Established *Glass Art Ushio Studio* with Ushio Konishi
1995-1997 Assistant to Jim Holmes/Chatham Glass Co., Chatham, Massachusetts (USA)

Selected Exhibitions

- 2016 «Murrine Chronicle», Wako Hole, Tokyo (JP)
2015 «Delizie di Vetro», Museo d'Arte Orientale, Venice (IT)
The Kikuchi Kanjitsu Prize «Contemporary Japanese Crafts», Tomo Museum, Tokyo (JP)
2014 Bern art Chakai, Bern (CH)
2013 «Nostalgia», Gallery Ukōu, Kamakura (JP)
2012 «Neiro» Utsuwaya Akane, Kyoto (JP)
2011 «The Yearning for Venetian Glass», Suntory Museum of Art, Tokyo (JP)
2007 «Allure of Japanese Glass», Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (USA)
2001-2010 Glass Gallery Karanis, Tokyo (JP)
Since 1998 Several exhibitions every year

Bibliography

The Kikuchi Kanjitsu Prize «Contemporary Japanese Crafts», exhibition catalogue by Tomo Museum, Tokyo (JP), 2015; «The Yearning for Venetian Glass; Beauty that Traversed Oceans and Time», exhibition catalogue by Suntory Museum of Art, Tokyo (JP), 2011.

Public Collections

Suntory Museum of Art, Tokyo (JP); Toyama Glass Museum, Toyama (JP).

Selected Works

1. Fujiko Enami, *Tea ceremony set Floral Garden, Tea Bowl, Tea Caddy and Tea Spoon*, 2015, glass, murrine technique.
2. Fujiko Enami, *Clear skies following rain*, 2015, glass, murrine technique, height 7 cm.
3. Fujiko Enami, *Pray*, 2014, glass, murrine technique, height 30 cm.
4. Fujiko Enami, *Indigo Arabesque Goblet*, 2015, glass, murrine technique.

Denise Baumgartner

Career

2013	Ten-jō-i («Top Heaven») top master rank from the Shinshokan calligraphers' association
2011	Ten-i («Heaven») master rank from the Shinshokan calligraphers' association, founded by Imai Ryōsetsu
2004–2006	Study of scroll making with Terezo Nakamura, Shizuoka (JP)
Since 1997	Study of calligraphy with Kanei Mitsufuji, Kyoto (JP)
1993–1996	Study of calligraphy with Tomoko Klopfenstein, Zurich University (CH)

Exhibitions

2014	Galerie Claudia Geiser, Zurich (CH)
2013	Swiss Embassy, Tokyo (JP) Yomiuri Shodōten (calligraphy exhibition of the Yomiuri newspaper), Tokyo (JP)
2011	NCC (Center for Creative Communications) Shizuoka EXHIBITIONS, Shizuoka (JP)
2009	Yomiuri Shodōten (calligraphy exhibition of the Yomiuri newspaper), Tokyo (JP)
2008–2015	Sesshin-Shinshokan (exhibition by the Shinshokan calligraphers' association), Nara (JP)
2004	Culture Centre, Shimizu-Shizuoka, Shizuoka (JP) Bookstore TODA, Shizuoka (JP)
2003–2015	Eishinkai (exhibition by the Eishinkai calligraphers' association, Nanao (JP)

Award

2009	Sesshin-Shinshokan Sponsor Award
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Selected Works

1. Denise Baumgartner, *Woman*, 2015, ink on paper, 24 x 33.5 cm.
2. Denise Baumgartner, *The grass is green, the flower is red*, 2011, ink on paper, 126 x 33 cm, hanging scroll 190 x 45 cm.
3. Denise Baumgartner, *Fire*, 2015, ink on paper, 33.5 x 24 cm.
4. Denise Baumgartner, *As it gradually came to me* (Poem by Ernst Jandl), 2014, ink on paper, 70 x 35 cm.