TOSHIKO TAKAEZU

LOOK TO NATURE / ASU ART MUSEUM

EXPERT PIECE RESEARCH BY GLORIA CHRISANTY [MA], SEPTEMBER 2020

MEET TOSHIKO TAKAEZU

- Born on June 17, 1922 in Pepeekeo, Hawaii
- Moved to Honolulu in 1940 to join Hawaii Potters' Guild
- Traveled to Japan in 1955, where she studied Zen Buddhism, tea ceremonies, and traditional Japanese pottery
- Studied with Kaneshige Too and Shoji Hamada, both significant Japanese potters
- Studied at University of Hawaii and Cranbrook Academy in Michigan
- Died on March 9, 2011 in Honolulu

ABOUT HER WORK

- Hated working with press molds when with Hawaii Potters' Guild
- Known for her color glazed vessels; she simply uses simple gestures & intuition
- View life as oneness with nature and integrated many aspects of her life with and through nature
- Done on stoneware
- Uses mostly earth tones and occasionally blues, greens, and blacks for pops of color
- References tranquility in honor of her Asian heritage; uses subtle brush techniques to achieve this



Untitled, orange, 1980s



Momo, black, 1990s

UNTITLED, ORANGE, 1980S

- Closed forms important because the hollow parts; **air and space** inside is considered part of composition, despite it not being able to be seen
  - Relates to humans and how most important part of person is based on the **inside rather than the outside** and that the things inside
  - **Air + space** = Interconnectedness to nature and the elements of Earth
  - Some has a rattle or something inside to allow forms to make noise; integrating **Earth and sound** = significant theme in many of her works

- Glazed like an **impressionist** painter, more focused on the movement of the action and **technique**
  - Techniques include using her own hands, pouring directly onto forms, and brushwork; in this case, more **drip** and **brushwork**

MOMO, BLACK, 1990S

- Also a (mostly) **closed form**

- Alludes to **Japanese folktale** of an old couple that always longed for a child and finds a large peach with a small boy inside, in which they named **Momotaro meaning Son of a Peach**, or “Momo” for short
  - Slits refer to the cutting of the peach & to encourage viewers to want to **peer inside** mostly closed vessel
  - Rumored to have **placed poems and writings inside pieces**

- Glaze technique appears to be more of a **pour/drip method**