

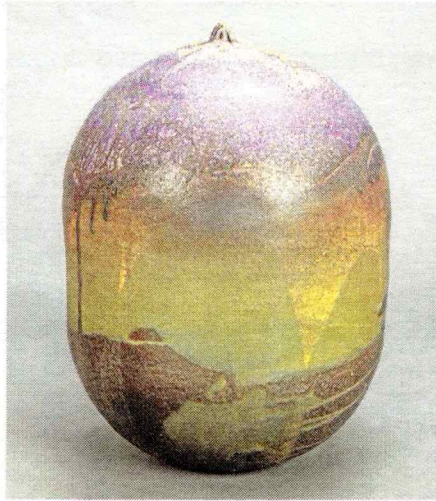
ART

Toshiko Takaezu art on display at RAM Windows on Fifth Gallery

RACINE — “It’s Like Poetry: Building a Toshiko Takaezu Archive at RAM” will be on display through July 26 in the Windows on Fifth Gallery at the Racine Art Museum, 441 Main St.

The exhibition features a variety of works from RAM’s collection by renowned artist Toshiko Takaezu (1922-2011).

RAM’s archive now numbers over 30 works, including Takaezu’s most expansive grouping, the installation comprised of 14 “human-sized” forms, the Star Series. Significantly, the museum’s holdings span the range of Takaezu’s working career — with a double-spouted pot from the 1950s being the earliest and the Star Series (1999-2000) being the latest. There are also drawings and prints — works with forms that echo the shapes of Takaezu’s three-dimensional pieces while also reflecting her sensitivity to shape and



“Purple Closed Form” by Toshiko Takaezu.
Jon Bolton

color. This exhibition features small bowls, toasting goblets, platters, two-foot high closed pieces and large

spheres created over several decades of the artist’s career.

Takaezu created work — paintings, prints, fiber and cast bronze in addition to her well-known ceramic pieces of varying sizes — that embodied a poetic balance between art and life. RAM has been acquiring a range of pieces by Takaezu — from individual forms to multi-part installations — and establishing an archive that documents this significant artist who pushed the boundaries of clay in the late 20th century.

Takaezu was inspired by nature and the environment, noting the early influence of her home state, Hawaii. She combined this with an interest in color and surface — her signature Makaha blue (a rich blue) being one of many tones she used. She was an artist in tune with concepts of balance and harmony — interior/exterior, planning/unpredictability, calm/tense, large/small.

Wustum exhibit highlights ‘Wisconsin Photography’

RACINE — “Get the Picture: The Arthur P. Haas Wisconsin Photography Collection” showcasing 40 works from the ongoing juried photography competition, “Wisconsin Photography,” will continue through Saturday, Nov. 16, at the Wustum Museum, a campus of the Racine Art Museum at 2519 Northwestern Ave.

This represents just a sample of more than 100 pieces that RAM has been able to acquire since the exhibition’s inception in 1979. The show will be open alongside the “RAM Artist Fellowship Exhibition 2019.”

Over the last four decades, “Wisconsin Photography” juried exhibitions at Wustum Museum have showcased the state’s photographers working with a wide range of subjects and in a variety of styles. These shows have provided a pool of high-quality work from which the museum has been able to grow its holdings of regional

photography.

Arthur P. Haas (1930-1982) was a Racine native and an award-winning photographer who spent a lifetime visually chronicling Racine in his role as staff photographer for The Journal Times, the city’s daily newspaper. In addition to his own work, Haas served as a mentor and informal teacher to many younger, area photographers. Upon his death in 1982, a Memorial Purchase Fund, orchestrated by his sister Dorothy Haas with gifts from family and friends, was established. These monies allow RAM to further support regional photographers by acquiring works from “Wisconsin Photography” each year for the museum’s permanent collection.

Wustum Museum is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. There is no admission fee. For more information, go to www.ramart.org.



“Eye Contact” by Bruce Ambuel
Bruce Ambuel
Arthur P. Haas Memorial Purchase Award from “Wisconsin Photography 2012.”