

## Keiko Fukazawa

Originally from Tokyo, Fukazawa received her B.F.A. in painting from Musashino Art University, Tokyo, and her M.F.A. in ceramics from Otis/Parsons School of Art, Los Angeles in 1986. She has held teaching positions at Otis college of Art and Design, California State Polytechnic University at Pomona, and the University of Southern California, where she currently teaches ceramics. Under the grants from California Arts Council, Fukazawa has taught ceramics in the California State Prison system for more than eight years, and perhaps her dedication to this work has shaped her personal work more than any other one force. Fukazawa describes the act of literally breaking her vessels as her way of escaping traditional limitations of form and process. It is also a metaphor for those inmates who are given some of the broken shards to draw, assign to break the mold of their old reality, to find positive and new creative ways of representing themselves. While using this exercise with her student wards, she has become an ultimate assimilator of imagery. Fukazawa's almost flagrantly juxtaposed cultural pastiche is born from a sense of spontaneity and graphic irreverence. A collage of student graffiti, commercial pop images (Japanese, American, and otherwise), and historical reproductions are 'cut and pasted' onto a 'scrapbook' surface. The bright palette of her plates and pots augments their bold graphic terms, and heightens our view of their cultural kaleidoscope. See Mark Del Vecchio, *Postmodern Ceramics* (Thames & Hudson, New York, 2001). Fukazawa's work has been exhibited nationally and internationally in such countries as Colombia, Canada, Taiwan, and Italy. Gallery exhibitions include six one-person shows at Garth dark Gallery, Los Angeles and New York, and numerous group shows at Dorothy Weiss Gallery, San Francisco and Nancy Margolis Gallery, New York and Portland. Museum exhibitions of Fukazawa's work include Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles; American Craft Museum, New York; and the Arlington Museum of Art, Arlington, TX. Her work is in permanent collections of National Museum of History, Taipei, Taiwan; Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA; and Racine Art Museum, Racine, WI. Fukazawa received grants from the California Arts Council in Sacramento, the City of Pasadena Arts Commission, the City of Los Angeles Cultural Affairs and Merit Award, 1992 International Invitational Ceramics Competition in Taipei, Taiwan. Fukazawa also received a commission by the California Arts Council for designing and creating 1993 Governor's Awards. Her works and articles are in the following publications; *Sex Pot: Eroticism in Ceramics* by Paul Mathieu, *Contemporary Ceramics* by Susan Peterson. *Color and Fire - Defining Moments in Studio Ceramics 1950 - 2000*. Rizzoli, 1. P. I., *The Artful Teapot* by Garth dark. *Postmodern Ceramics* by Mark Del Vecchio and numerous magazines and papers including: *Ceramic Monthly*. *Ceramic Arts and Perception*, *American Ceramics*, and *Los Angeles Times*.