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**Felissimo Design House**

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## **Connecting through Clay Karatsu Pottery**

New York, NY 2005 – Mixing shapes, colors and techniques, the ***Connecting through Clay, Karatsu Pottery*** exhibition highlights a variety of pottery vessels by four Karatsu-trained potters: **Takashi Nakazato**, a thirteenth generation Karatsu potter, his son **Taki Nakazato** and his daughter **Hanako Nakazato**, and **Malcolm Wright**, an American potter who studied in Karatsu. While these four artists share a common background of training, they have each developed their own artistic expression outside of the realm of traditional Karatsu pottery.

A native of Karatsu, Japan, **Takashi Nakazato** is the fifth son of Tarouemon Nakazato, who was honored as a Living National Treasure for revitalizing Karatsu pottery traditions. Takashi has developed his own technique for firing unglazed ware, known as "Karatsu Nanban," which differs from the traditional high-fired glazed stoneware of the area. The temperature of Takashi's wood-burning kiln is raised and lowered many times to create unpredictable cross currents of effects and layers of patina. His finished pottery comes to life while in use, whether for serving food or arranging flowers, and beautifully enhances its contents. He enjoys exploring different parts of the world, and has been a guest at Anderson Ranch in Colorado, where he experimented with soda firing and different materials.

In Karatsu, **Malcolm Wright** studied at Tarouemon's studio where he worked closely with Takashi in the late 1960s, and established his own studio, The Turnpike Road Pottery, in Marlboro, Vermont upon his return from Japan in 1970. Malcolm's traditional Karatsu-style kiln is designed to fire glazed pottery with more predictable results, although the ash affects the glaze colors. In recent years, he has been experimenting with techniques for using his kiln for unglazed ware as well. He has also developed his own ideas, from wheel-thrown, evolved Karatsu forms, to using an extruder to make abstract vessels and sculptures.

**Taki Nakazato** and **Hanako Nakazato** were both trained in Karatsu, under their father's direction. Taki has been a successful potter over the years, carrying on the vision of his father's aesthetics, such as unglazed red clay forms, while also being inspired by his own interpretation of functional Karatsu pottery. He has managed the home kiln, Ryutagama, for a number of years. Hanako, a graduate of Smith College, apprenticed in Karatsu with her father, then moved to Vermont to join Wright's studio. She creates a new sense of function by combining modern aesthetics with traditional values. She enjoys the discovery of new creative possibilities by using different materials and techniques.

Bowls, platters, cups and pitchers are among the forms included in ***Connecting through Clay, Karatsu Pottery***. This exhibition will be on display at Felissimo Design House from July 11 – 30, 2005. For further information, please contact Carly Carratura at 212-956-4438, ext 145 or [carratura@felissimo.com](mailto:carratura@felissimo.com).

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