



## U-Tsu-Wa

— Lucie Rie, Jennifer Lee, Ernst Gamperl

Beginning February 13, 2009, 21\_21 DESIGN SIGHT will present the three-person exhibition “U-Tsu-Wa” showcasing ceramic artists Lucie Rie and Jennifer Lee, and woodturning artist Ernst Gamperl.

*Utsuwa* (‘vessels’) were one of the tools that have supported people’s daily lives around the world since ancient times; they have passed along the warmth born of the craftsman’s hands to the user.

Lucie Rie greatly influenced the mode of contemporary ceramics with her bold techniques and forms of expression within a simple design. Jennifer Lee’s pots present a quiet abstract exploration of space - her works often evoke a deep sense of nature for the viewer. Ernst Gamperl uses woodturning to channel the life from fallen trees and driftwood into his creations.

As these three artists create their unique worlds, they are constantly breathing in the “now” — without inhibitions or falling into patterns of tradition or era. Their *utsuwa* rouse our imaginations with a glimpse of the shape of the ancient earth, or the expression and power that summons the universe.

This exhibition will present a total of about 100 works from these three artists in a hall designed by Tadao Ando, along with particularly relevant video materials and a collection of buttons, which Lucie Rie made for a certain period. Additionally, a catalogue will be concurrently published with visual direction by Kohei Sugiura, photographic materials by Hiroshi Iwasaki, and an essay by Akiko Moriyama.

We hope that this “U-Tsu-Wa” Exhibition, directed by Issey Miyake, who organized the first Lucie Rie Exhibition 20 years ago in Japan, will provide new discoveries for the audience.

Organizers: 21\_21 DESIGN SIGHT, THE MIYAKE ISSEY FOUNDATION

In Association with: Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, THE BRITISH COUNCIL,  
Shibuya City, Minato City (TBD)

In cooperation with: GOETHE-INSTITUT (TBD)

Directed by: Issey Miyake Exhibition design: Tadao Ando Visual direction: Kohei Sugiura

Date: 2009.2.13 (FRI) ~ 2009.5.10 (SUN)

Closed on Tuesdays (Except May 5th) Time: 11:00 - 20:00 (Entrance until 19:30)

Admission: General ¥1,000/ University Students ¥800/ High and Junior high school students ¥500/

Ages 12 and under may enter for free. \*¥200 discount for groups of over 15 people

Venue: 21\_21 DESIGN SIGHT [www.2121designsight.jp](http://www.2121designsight.jp)

Tokyo Midtown Garden, 9-7-6 Akasaka Minato-ku, Tokyo 107-0052 JAPAN TEL. 03-3475-2121

Access: 5min. walk from Roppongi station on the Toei Oedo Line / Tokyo Metro Hibiya Line and  
Nogizaka station on the Tokyo Metro Chiyoda Line

Exhibition Catalogue Visual direction: Kohei Sugiura, Photo:Hiroshi Iwasaki, Contribution: Akiko Moriyama, 128pages, bilingual Japanese/English Publisher : Kyuryudo Art Publishing Co., Ltd. (The catalogue will be issued in February)

Related Events Various events such as an opening talk with the exhibitors, a workshop for children to make buttons will be held. Information can be found on our website ([www.2121designsight.jp](http://www.2121designsight.jp)) as it becomes available.

\* A press preview is scheduled for the afternoon of February 10. Details will be available closer to the date.

For further inquiry, please contact Piera Berardi, ISSEY MIYAKE LONDON, PR

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Press ready photos : Please contact us to the address below to request photos.



01



02



03

**04: Lucie Rie Bowl (1968), Beaker (1956), Vase (1970), Bowl (1930's) [left to right]**

**05: Lucie Rie Bowl (1979) 06: Lucie Rie Buttons (1940's)**

Lucie Rie incorporated a metropolitan feel into tableware for daily use. She also developed glazes that drew out both richness and depth after just one firing in an electric kiln, an example of her style of creating a new type of pottery with a wholly novel perspective by challenging conventional traditions while not abandoning classical techniques. Also during and until just after the World War II, she has made ceramic buttons for a living. Making buttons allowed her to gain experience and knowledge of working with glaze.



04



05

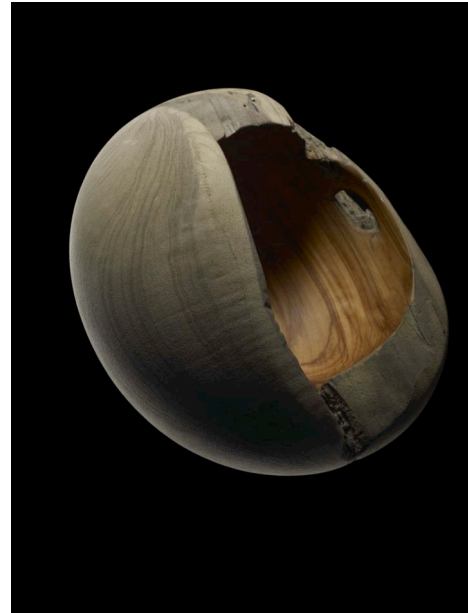
**07: Jennifer Lee** “Polished granite, bronze spots, coned rim” (1996), “Dark, amber flashing, emerging rim” (1993), “Pale, speckled emerging rim” (1997), “Rust sand grained, emerging rim” (1992) [left to right]

**08: Jennifer Lee** “Rust sand grained, emerging rim” (1992)

Her pots are hand built and she has developed a method of colouring them by mixing metallic oxides into the clay before making. She does not use glaze. Her works, which reveal an unveiled influence from the pottery of ancient civilizations, invoke in their surfaces the traces and fluctuations of changes in nature.



06



07

**09: Ernst Gamperl** “6/2006//280” (2006), “12/2004” (2006), “89/2006//160” (2006) [left to right]

**10: Ernst Gamperl** “27/2008//200” (2008)

With a motto “Learn from the wood”, Ernst Gamperl has continued his dialogue with trees as a material for around 20 years. He can see the intrinsic shapes within blocks of woods cut out from driftwood and fallen trees, and has continued to carve sculptures that follow their natural, dynamic forms through woodturning. Gamperl’s works are notable for their use of the knots found within the wood—so often removed in other wood pieces—as a mark of that tree’s history.

**Photos: Hiroshi Iwasaki (04~10)**

## Profiles of exhibitors



08: Lucie Rie  
From "Lucie Rie" by Tony Birks, 4th Edition,  
Stenlake Publishing 2009

### Lucie Rie

Born in 1902 in Vienna, where she studied at the Kunstwerbeschule under Michael Powolny from 1922 to 1926. In 1938 she moved to London, where she lived in Albion Mews. She opened a pottery and button-making workshop, and was joined in 1946 by Hans Coper.

She was awarded the knighted OBE an Officer of the Order of the British Empire in 1968 and the CBE Commander in 1981. She was created amade a Dame in 1991.

From 1949 she exhibits works from in many cities in Europe and America. Her first one-person exhibitions were held in Japan at the Sogetsu Gallery, Tokyo and Museum of Oriental Ceramics, Osaka, in 1989. In 1990, she ceases to stopped making pots pottery. and Lucie Rie died in 1995, aged 93.



09: Jennifer Lee  
Photo by Jake Tilson

### Jennifer Lee

Born in Aberdeenshire, Scotland, in 1956. From 1975 to 1979 she studied ceramics and tapestry at Edinburgh College of Art. She then spent eight months on a scholarship to the USA where she researched South-West Indian prehistoric ceramics and visited contemporary West Coast potters. From 1980 to 1983 she continued her work in ceramics at the Royal College of Art in London. Since then she has traveled extensively. Jennifer Lee has had retrospective exhibitions of her work at the Röhsska Musset in Göteborg, Sweden in 1993, and the Aberdeen Museum and Art Gallery, Scotland in 1994. Her work is represented in major public collections worldwide, including The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. Jennifer Lee lives and works in London and regularly exhibits worldwide.



10: Ernst Gamperl  
Photo by Pedro gato lopez

### Ernst Gamperl

Born in Munich, Germany in 1965. After graduating from high school he became a furniture maker apprentice and stumbled on woodturning by chance. Starting out an autodidact, he set up his own workshop in 1990. Ernst Gamperl has exhibited works in all over the world, including "the International Wood Turning Exhibition" (Victoria, Austria) in 1994, a traveling exhibition at Strenesse (Hamburg), Galerie Hilde Leiss in 1998, "Ernst Gamperl Volumes in Wood" at MDS-G in Tokyo in 2000, and so on. His objects are found in renowned museums all over the world, such as the Museum of Applied Art, Frankfurt and Fond national d'Art contemporain, Paris. He earned awards from the Danner Foundation in 1993 and 1999, and has winning prizes and awards as far afield as Germany, the USA and Australia.