

From East to West #56 by Hiroshi Yamano



Hiroshi Yamano, an internationally trained glass artist, was born in 1956 in Fukuoka, Japan.¹ He received training at the Tokyo Glass Art Institute, Tokyo, Japan, and at the California College of Arts and Crafts, San Francisco. Yamano obtained his MFA degree from the Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY, in 1989. He has received many accolades for his work, most notably the Rakow Commission in 1991, which is presented by the Corning Museum of Glass in New York.

Yamano devised a new style of glass art by combining leaf silver with molten glass and then adding etchings to the metal leafing. Fish tend to be a favorite motif, and Yamano sees this as part of a self-portrait, with the fish representing himself and surrounding mountains and water representing the United States and Japan, respectively.

At a distance, *From East to West* looks like a large Red Wing pottery vat on legs, but when viewed on more intimate terms, *From East to West* reveals hidden treasures. The surface of the piece clearly discloses itself as glass, not pottery, and the caramel hues and tones become richer and more delicate. True to Yamano's style, a school of fish is swimming from left to right on the front of the vessel. The entire piece is a large fish standing on end, caught midair, as if it just jumped out of the water or was suspended on the end of a fishing line.

From East to West is located on the 6th floor of the Gonda Building, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN.

1. Adapted from <http://www.galleriasilecchia.com/Yamano/bio.html>. Accessed March 7, 2011.

In recognition of the important part that art has had in the Mayo Clinic environment since the original Mayo Building was finished in 1914, *Mayo Clinic Proceedings* will feature some of the numerous works of art displayed throughout the buildings on the Mayo Clinic campuses.

Written by Margaret R. Wentz, BA.

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