



On View | The Artistry of Plants and Pots

CULTURE, DESIGN

BY BROOKE HODGE

MAY 1, 2014 2:00 PM May 1, 2014 2:00 pm



A grafted plant on view at the Venice, Calif. design shop *Chariots on Fire* was created by Kohei Oda, who combined the base, or rootstalk, of one plant with the top, or scion, of another. The pot by Adam Silverman features one of his signature crackled glazes. *Credit Yoko Takahashi*

Mutant cacti in pots with unconventional, often imperfect, glazes. Sounds strange? Strangely beautiful is more like it. “A Tale of Plant & Pot” — an exhibition on view at the Venice, Calif., design shop *Chariots on Fire* — pairs the plant artistry of Kohei Oda with the ceramics of *Adam Silverman*. The 36-year-old Oda owns *Qusamura*, an award-winning plant shop in Hiroshima, Japan, and he’s like a rock star in the horticulture world. His specialty is the grafted cactus, the art and science of connecting two pieces of living plant tissue together to grow as one composite plant. He is drawn to, as he says, “plants with personality,” and Hodge, Brooke. “On View: The Artistry of Plants and Pots.” *T Magazine*, May 1, 2014.

FRIEDMAN BENDA 515 W 26TH STREET NEW YORK NY 10001

FRIEDMANBENDA.COM TELEPHONE 212 239 8700 FAX 212 239 8760

using grafting techniques to salvage damaged plants and to create new, and often unexpected, forms.

Oriana Reich and Ritsuko Yagi, the owners of Chariots on Fire, heard about Oda and his work during their frequent travels to Japan and had the idea of commissioning Silverman, a renowned L.A.-based potter who has a cult following, especially in Japan, to design pots for Oda's "frankencacti." "It was like an elaborate blind date," says Silverman, who is also the studio director of Heath Ceramics. "We saw pictures of each other's work and I sent him a few pots and he sent me a few plants. After months of working back and forth like this, we finally met and put the plants and pots together. It's like we went dancing on our first date and it turned out that he's an amazing dancer and we had great chemistry on the dance floor."

The results of the collaboration are inspired and the plants do, indeed, have lots of personality. (At the opening, Dosa's Christina Kim christened her favorite cactus "Don King," because of its fluffy white head.) Reich and Yagi already have plans for a second iteration of the show in Japan where they will commission new pieces from Oda and Silverman. "Expect larger and even more wild cacti by Oda," says Yagi, "since we won't have shipping restrictions to contend with."

"A Tale of Plant & Pot: Oda x Silverman" is on view at Chariots on Fire, 1342 1/2 Abbot Kinney Blvd., Venice, Calif., through May 7.

Hodge, Brooke. "On View: The Artistry of Plants and Pots." *T Magazine*, May 1, 2014.

FRIEDMAN BENDA 515 W 26TH STREET NEW YORK NY 10001

FRIEDMANBENDA.COM TELEPHONE 212 239 8700 FAX 212 239 8760