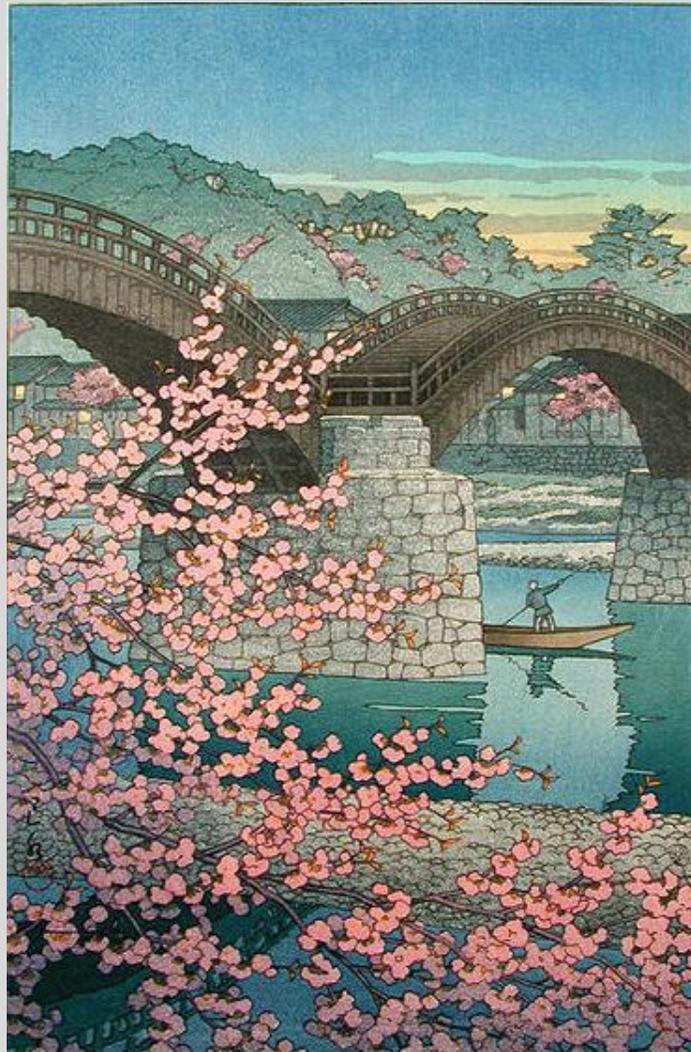




MICHAEL SCARBOROUGH DESIGN  
JAPANESE-INSPIRED ART

## CATALOG OF AVAILABLE PIECES



*Kawase Hasui – Sakura at Kintai kyo*  
Kintai kyo is the bridge in my hometown of Iwakuni, Japan.

**About MSD** – It still surprises people to know that I work completely alone. All aspects in the completion of a piece, from conception to crating, are done by me.

**Materials** - While I am inspired by many different media, I am not intentionally trying to duplicate the look of pottery or metal. I simply consider wood to be a canvas and the most versatile foundation upon which to build my particular decorative finishes.

**Decorative Lacquer Ware Techniques** – There are numerous techniques used to decorate Japanese lacquer ware. My passion is studying, experimenting with, and recreating these techniques, as well as creating decorative techniques of my own.

- **Wakasa Nuri** – *Wakasa nuri* is a 17<sup>th</sup> C. finishing technique that originated in the Obama/Wakasa Bay area of Japan and reflected local artists' impressions of the mottled sea bed. Various natural elements are employed in the process of creating the finish.

- **Negoro Nuri** – This is a technique born from wear. As long ago as the 13<sup>th</sup> C., monks at Negoro Dera Temple began over-coating black lacquered utensils with vermillion lacquer. Over time and with repeated use, the vermillion layers were worn away revealing the black layer underneath.

**About this Catalog** – As does life, this catalog changes frequently. So, as they say in the retail world, “Please check back often.” All pieces are numbered when begun and signed when finished. The five digit number following the title of each piece indicates the year the piece was begun and its chronological place within that year. Note: not all pieces are finished in the same year they are begun.

**Ordering information** – If you would like to order a piece from this catalog, please contact me directly ([Contact — Michael Scarborough Design](#)) to request a shipping price. (Also, if you would like additional photographs of the piece, do not hesitate to ask.) We use Square, a fully secure system, to process credit card payments.



## SHIRANAMI COLLECTION

### WORKS INSPIRED BY OLD JAPAN

**Why Shiranami?** – *Shiranami* (White Wave) was the name of the sail boat my dad had built in Japan and on which many wonderful overnight trips were taken by our family around the *Seto Naikai* (The Inland Sea) in the late 1950s. It is traditional for artists in Japan to choose an *art name*; *Shiranami* was an obvious choice for me. I write it in the upper half of an enclosed circle as a nod to one of my favorite Japanese painters, *Ogata Korin*, and the *Rinpa* school of painters who were inspired by his work, as both are increasingly influencing the portions of my oeuvre which are historical in nature.





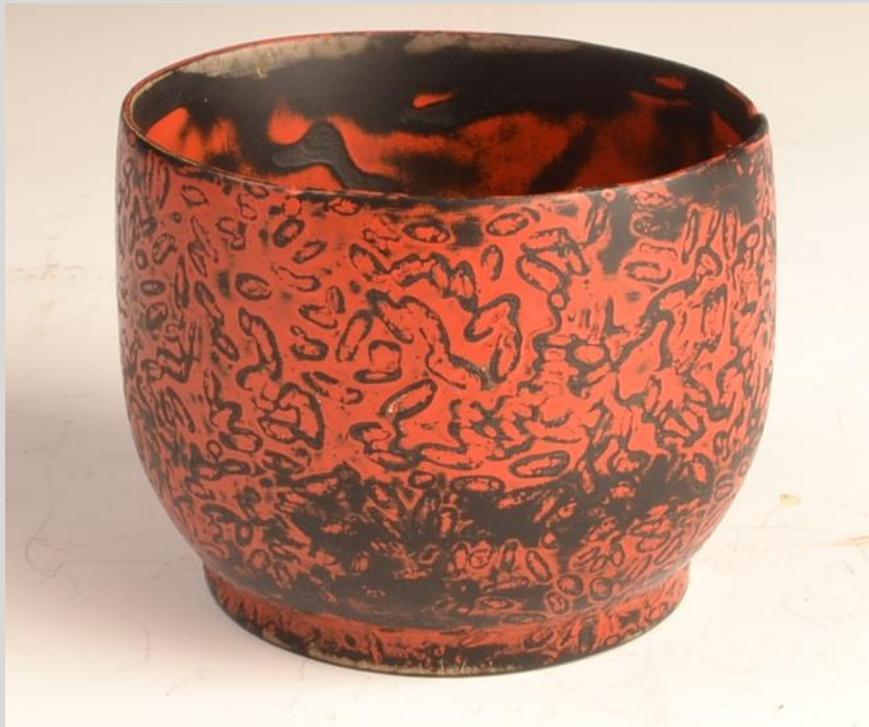
Title: 16-001  
Created: January 2016  
Materials: Maple, lacquer  
Dimensions: 2.5" h X 4.75" w  
Price: \$325  
Note: This piece was the first in which I created a surface using cotton balls spun in the still-wet lacquer. The effect is intended to put one in mind of withered peony blossoms strewn in the garden.





Title: 16-004  
Created: March 2016  
Materials: Maple, lacquer,  
Dimensions: 2.5" h X 2.75" w  
Price: \$150  
Note: Please note the size of this piece. While not quite as small as 16-005, it is quite diminutive and sits comfortably in the palm of one's hand.





Title: 16-005  
Created: March 2016  
Materials: Maple, lacquer,  
Dimensions: 2" h X 2.5" w  
Price: \$150  
Note: Please note the size of this piece. It is about as diminutive a piece as I have ever made and, quite literally, sits comfortably in the palm of a delicate hand.





Title: *Negoro Nuri* Style Bowl (12-020)  
Created: December 2012  
Materials: Catalpa, lacquer  
Dimensions: 3" h X 6.5" w  
Retail Price: \$325  
Note: This bowl is finished in the style of *Negoro nuri* lacquer ware in which years of use have worn away areas of the vermilion color to reveal the black underneath. Please note, as any highly- polished object is difficult to photograph, be aware that the white looking areas are merely the reflections of the lights used in the photographic process.





Title: *Wakasa Nuri* Style Bowl (13-017)  
Created: April 2013  
Materials: Linden, lacquer  
Dimensions: 3" h X 5.5" w  
Retail Price: \$275  
Note: This piece is finished in the *Wakasa nuri* lacquer ware style, a technique which uses rice grains as part of the decorative process.





Title: *Negoro Nuri Style Bowl (13-002)*  
Created: January 2013  
Materials: Cherry, lacquer  
Dimensions: 2.5" h X 8.25" w  
Retail Price: \$325  
Note: Numerous layers of increasingly transparent glaze were used to slowly build the surface of this piece to give it its visual depth. Please note, as any highly-polished object is difficult to photograph, be aware that the white looking areas are merely the reflections of the lights used in the photographic process.





Title: "Little Peasant" (14-031)  
Created: October 2014  
Materials: Honduran mahogany, lacquer  
Dimensions: 4.75" h X 3" w  
Retail Price: \$275  
Note: A tea bowl finished in the *Wakasa nuri* lacquer style and imbued with a sense of exaggerated and venerated age.





Title: Muromachi Style Footed Basin (14-012)  
Created: October 2014  
Materials: Fir, mahogany, lacquer  
Dimensions: 5.5" h X 11" w  
Retail Price: \$850  
Note: A basin that might have been used in Buddhist or Shinto ceremonies.





Title: *Negoro Nuri* Style Chawan (14-027)  
Created: October 2014  
Materials: Maple, lacquer  
Dimensions: 4.5" h X 2.5" w  
Retail Price: \$175  
Note: A small tea bowl finished in the *Negoro nuri* lacquer style.





Title: *Wakasa Nuri* Style Bowl (13-023)  
Created: April 2013  
Materials: Linden, lacquer  
Dimensions: 3.75" h X 11" w  
Retail Price: \$425  
Note: The interior of this piece is finished in the *Wakasa nuri* lacquer ware style, a technique which uses rice grains as part of the decorative process.



# THE CYPRESS SERIES

Pieces created using old-growth swamp cypress  
and incorporating the ancient  
Japanese finishing technique of *Jin di sugi*





Title: Cypress Series #3 (15-004)  
Created: January 2015  
Materials: Swamp cypress, 23k gold leaf, oil paint glaze, Tung oil, wax  
Dimensions: 4." h X 5.25" w  
Retail Price: \$425  
Note: Old- growth swamp cypress which has been treated with the ancient Japanese *Jin di sugi* technique of blow torching and wire brushing.



# CANDLESTICKS





Title: "Afterglow" Candlesticks (13-022)  
Created: September 2013  
Materials: Maple, lacquer, copper leaf, iron nails,  
soil (dry Georgia red clay)  
Dimensions: 22.5" h X 5" w  
Retail Price: \$950  
Note: Inspired by the time of evening when the sun has set but there is still a subtle, russet glow in the West, this set was featured in the Dec. 2013 edition of *Maine Home and Design* magazine, and were also the subject of a feature article in the February 2014 issue of *Woodturning Magazine* (UK).



Title: Ceremonial Candlestick Trio (15-006)  
Created: July 2014  
Materials: Mahogany, 23k gold leaf, lacquer  
Dimensions: 19" h X 7" w, 17" h X 6.5" w X 14" h X 5.5" w  
Retail Price: \$1,250  
Note: This type of candlestick arrangement might have originally been found on an altar at a Buddhist temple or Shinto shrine.



Title: Ceremonial Candlesticks (13-015)

Created: June 2013

Materials: Poplar, iron nails, lacquer

Dimensions: 14" h X 5.75" w

Retail Price: \$750

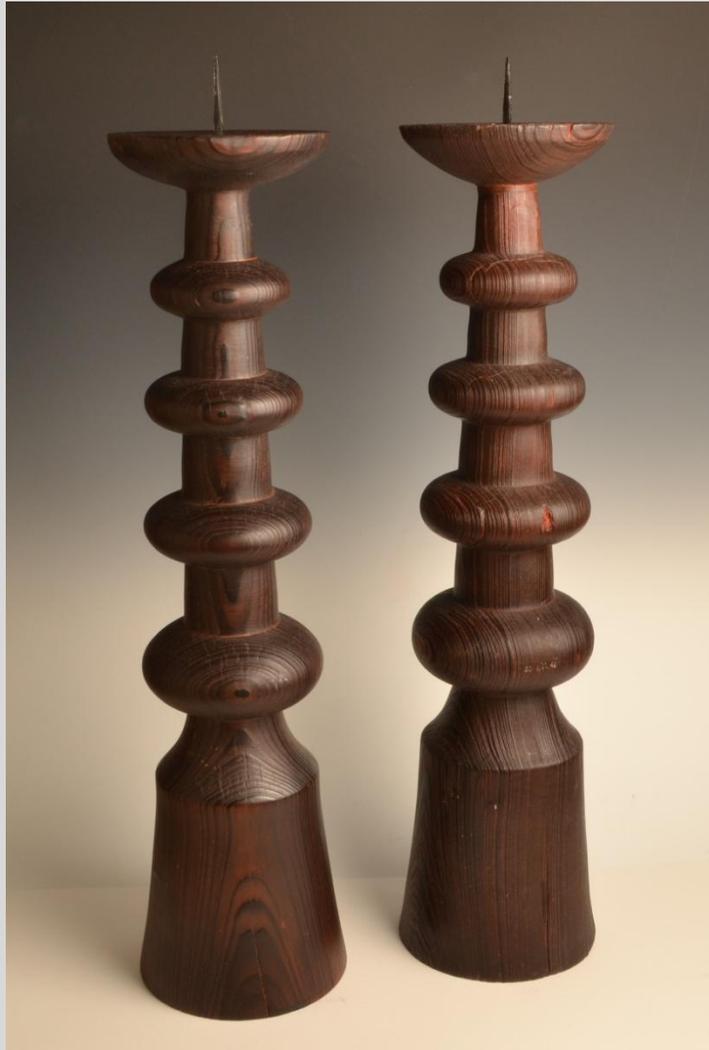
Note: This set could be used on an altar or as an accent piece in the home.



Title: Meiji Ceremonial Candlesticks (34")  
Created: Editioned  
Materials: Maple, lacquer  
Dimensions: 34" h X 8" w  
Retail Price: \$2,150  
Note: These candlesticks were inspired by a Meiji period brass lamp that my parents bought in Japan and which has always fascinated me. I was delighted when TV design guru, Vern Yip, purchased a pair similar to these for his home.



Title: Meiji Ceremonial Candlesticks (37") (14-007)  
Created: June 2014  
Materials: Maple, lacquer  
Dimensions: 37" h X 8"w  
Retail Price: \$2,500  
Note: These candlesticks were inspired by a Meiji period brass lamp that my parents bought in Japan and which has always fascinated me.



Title: Cypress Candlesticks (15-008)  
Created: January 2015  
Materials: Cypress, oil paint glaze, oil, wax  
Dimensions: 22" h X 5"w  
Retail Price: \$675  
Note: The Japanese technique of *Jin di sugi*, contrasted with red glaze, has been used to emphasize the grain pattern in this set of candlesticks.



# TEA SETS





Title: "Akebono" ("Tea at Dawn") (13-019)  
Created: March 2013  
Materials: Maple, lacquer, 23k gold leaf, mica powder  
Dimensions: 12" h X 9.5" w  
Retail Price: \$2,950  
Note: Specifically, it's that sort of dawn when the sun is still well below the horizon, though beginning to turn Eastern clouds red, yet the Western sky is still dark enough for stars to be seen.

**This tea set is not functional.**





Title: "Copper Tea" (13-028)

Created: June 2013

Materials: Cherry, maple, pine, copper leaf, lacquer

Dimensions: Tea pot - 6" h X 10" w X 6"d

Retail Price: \$2,650

Note: This piece is finished in the *Wakasa nuri* lacquer ware style, using rice grains and copper leaf as part of the process. It is meant to put the viewer in mind of a coppery sunset.

**This tea set is not functional.**

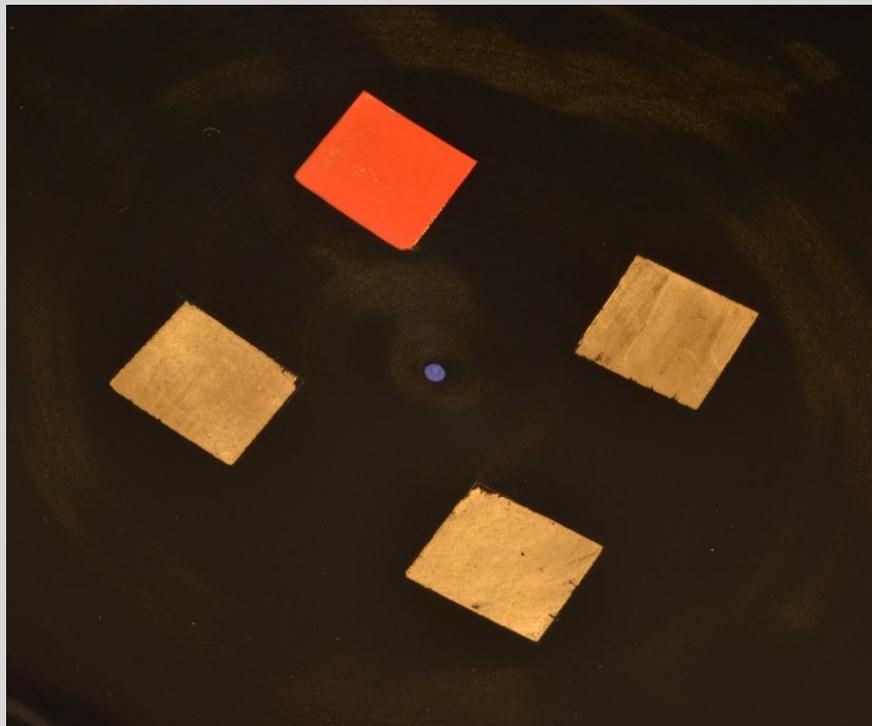
ONE OF A KIND  
OBJETS D'ART  
&

PIECES OTHERWISE DEFYING  
CATEGORIZATION





Title: "Red Square" 16-009  
Created: March 2016  
Materials: Poplar, Lacquer, Gold leaf, Mica Powder  
Dimensions: 4" h X 11.5" w  
Price: \$750  
Note: This piece evolved while it was in-process. I suddenly had the urge to make it non-opaque, then to add four gold squares, then to make one of them red, and then an urge to add a blue dot in the center. As a child of the Cold War, the name Red Square had more *bang* than the name Blue Dot. (And I think Piet Mondrian would like the arrangement.)





Title: Kotsuzumi - Collaboration with Harvey Fein (13-031)

Created: September 2013

Materials: Drum – Cherry, lacquer, 23k gold leaf,  
parchment, Japanese Sumi-e ink  
Stand – Poplar, lacquer, 23k gold leaf

Dimensions: Drum – 6.5” h X 8.5” w  
Stand – 5.5” h X 10” w

Retail price: \$1,750

Note: Harvey Fein, the world-renowned wood artist, handed me this piece of wood and said, “I can tell by the gleam in your eye that you know exactly what you want to do with this....go have fun.” I did and finished it as a *Kotsuzumi*, a small drum used in performances of Japanese Noh drama.

This piece was part of the exhibition, ***Turning Twenty*** at the *Center for Furniture Craftsmanship* in Rockport, Maine, 2013.



Title: Gentleman's Jewelry Box with Antique Hardware (11-029)

Created: December 2011

Materials: Cypress, white oak, lacquer, Edo-period iron hardware, silk cord, Urushi lacquer paper

Dimensions: 8" h X 15" w X 9" d

Retail Price: \$775

Note: This box was created using a reclaimed piece of wood upon which mushrooms had been grown, a process which left it looking quite aged, and which I exaggerated. The interior is lined with red dragonfly paper, a symbol of childhood in Japan. This combination of textures supports the theory that no matter how aged a man may appear, he is eternally youthful inside.





Title: "Confluence"  
Created: July 2014  
Materials: Kingwood, lacquer, Tung oil, wax  
Dimensions: 5" h X 12" w  
Retail Price: \$2,200  
Note: This piece is the result of my collaboration with wood artist, John Beaver. As John's work is inspired by the waves of California, and my work is, in part, inspired by sailing on my father's boat, *Shiranami* (White Wave) as a boy in Japan, *Confluence* seemed a fitting name.

