



Akio Takamori. *Jittoku* (detail). 2006. stoneware with underglaze. courtesy of the artist.

# Akio Takamori The Laughing Monks

ON VIEW THROUGH OCTOBER 22, 2006  
NORTH GALLERIES



Akio Takamori. *Jittoku and Kanzan I* (detail). 2006. stoneware with underglaze. courtesy of the artist.

**Henry Art Gallery**

15th Avenue NE + NE 41st Street | [www.henryart.org](http://www.henryart.org)



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## The Laughing Monks

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As part of the ongoing project to explore the Henry Art Gallery's collections creatively, Seattle artist Akio Takamori has created an installation using several works from the collections. His installation features new sculptures based on the characters of Kanzan and Jittoku (the Laughing Monks), a favorite subject in Chinese and Japanese painting since the 13th century. Takamori had always been attracted to these characters, a poet-recluse and a temple dishwasher. They are traditionally depicted with ragged clothing and tangled hair, grimacing or laughing wildly.

One gallery focuses on ceramic sake bottles, accompanied by a seated pair of monks, "using" the vessels. In the other gallery, two standing monks are paired with works on paper – pictures of children including works by Nan Goldin, James McNeill Whistler, Edward Weston, and Helen Levitt.

Image: Akio Takamori. *Kanzan*. 2006. Ink drawing on paper. Courtesy of the artist.

Akio Takamori: *The Laughing Monks* is organized by Chief Curator Elizabeth Brown. This exhibition is generously supported by ArtsFund, Poncho, and the Mayor's Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs, City of Seattle.