



Tomonari



Tomonari Hashimoto

Untitled 2020

W76 x D48 x H42 cm

A breathtaking sculpture by Hashimoto Tomonari .

Hashimoto Tomonari was born the son of a sculptor and he has felt comfortable with the processes of creation since childhood. He is a ceramic artist based in Shigaraki, who has been exhibited widely across Japan, in both solo and group exhibitions, as well as in competitions.

In 2017 after his graduation at the Kanazawa University of Art and his PhD in Fine Art, Hashimoto was seeking a place to make large scale works. He was artist in residence at the 'Shigaraki Cultural Park'.

In 2019, Tomonari Hashimoto held his first overseas solo exhibition in Hong Kong. And he was selected as the on-site exhibitor at the 'Korean International Ceramic Biennale 2019' in Icheon World Ceramic Center.

Tomonari Hashimoto was selected as one of the youngest finalists at the 'LOEWE Craft Prize 2019' exhibited at the Sogetsu Kaikan in Tokyo. And early in 2020, his work is joining the permanent Collection of the Victoria & Albert Museum in London. Another piece has entered LACMA and a large sculpture has recently been installed in his home prefecture of Wakayama.

A perspective on the Japanese Concept of 'Ma'

The form is simple with a grey, a light blue, and a rust red waving across the surface like clouds. Tomonari does not title any of his work, preferring to leave interpretation up to the viewer. After hand forming and sculpting the shapes, they are bisque fired, then glazed and fired again at a relatively low temperature (Between 1000 and 1100 degrees, like Raku ware). Then he builds a brick oven around each piece and brings the temperature up to 500 degrees, and adds millet or rice husk, which carbonizes the surface, creating incredible colors and random patterns leaving the viewer with a feeling like rusted or heated metal. Many of his works are monumental. When I saw a work of Tomonari in 2019 for the first time, one image came in my mind: a zen garden with stupa, rocks and gravels. In Japanese culture there is the five elements : hearth, water, fire, wind, and void associated with simple shape: cube, sphere, pyramid, half moon, jewel-shape. They have votive objects like Gorinto with those abstract shape.

The Heart Sutra, one of the most famous texts in Buddhism, states that "form is emptiness, emptiness is form". This seeming paradox is a core philosophy of Japanese design and culture, where absence can be as important as presence. This principle can be summed up in the concept of "ma", which roughly translates to "negative space", but evokes a deeper sense of a "gap" or "pause" that gives new shape and meaning to the whole.. We all come from the void as human on earth, Tomonari Hashimoto might experience a deep introspection in whole process of his creation.

-Didier Delville



I mainly make sculptural art works out of ceramics. Most of my works are very big, and some are over two meters high. I use a method piling up strings of clay called hand-forming. Also, I impose it on myself to not to plane (cut) when forming. It is baked 3 times; when unglazed, then at 1000-1100°C after being glazed, and then at 500°C in carbonization fire (the unglazed process is lately omitted). The glaze melted during the 2 firing processes show several expressions in color and texture at the last carbonization fire process. The glaze include a lot of metallic oxide, and show several changes in color by the oxidation/reduction effect of fire. I use electric or gas ceramic art kiln during the firing process at 1000-1100°C. For the carbonization fire process, I pile up bricks around my art work and make a kiln outdoors, and fire with a gas burner. I stop the gas at 500°C, open the lid, and pour in chaffs. At this time, oxidation/reduction inside the kiln is mixed together, and the color or the glaze changes by the fire and smoke.

- Tomonari Hashimoto

1990	Born in Wakayama, Japan
2012	Graduated Kyoto University of Education, Department of Education, Art Education of Teacher Training Program
2014	Graduated Graduate School of Kanazawa College of Art, Master's Degree
2017	Graduated Graduate School of Kanazawa College of Art, Doctoral Degree, Received Doctoral Degree Awards Received
2013	Award of Excellence for 67th Wakayama Prefectural Art Exhibition at Museum of Modern Art, Wakayama
2014	Kyoto Mayor's Prize at Kyoto Municipal Museum of Art
2015	Second Prize for Modern Ceramic Art Competition at Kobe Biennale 2015
2016	Honorable Award for The Hagi Taishou (Grand Prix) of Contemporary Ceramics IV
2019	Received Sankei Shimbun Award for Kyoto Art for Tomorrow 2019
2019	LOEWE Craft Prize 2019 Finalist
Exhibition	
2014	10th International Ceramics Festival Mino @ Ceramics Park MINO
2014	The Hagi Taishou (Grand Prix) of Contemporary Ceramics III @ Hagi Uragami Museum, Yamaguchi
2015	Tomonari Hashimoto x Masafumi Harada Exhibition "Keshiki wo Tsunagu" at Toiyamachi Studio
2015	Tomonari Hashimoto Exhibition "Tsunagari" at Takagi Kouji Shouten
2016	Tomonari Hashimoto Gallery @ Gallery Maronie
2017	Competition of KOGEI in Kanazawa @ Kanazawa 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Citizens Gallery
2017	Kyoto Art for Tomorrow 2017 @ The Museum of Kyoto
2017	Tomonari Hashimoto Gallery @ Meguro Gallery, Museum of Ceramics
2017	Tomonari Hashimoto "Tou" @Gion Konishi, Kyoto
2017	The 11th International Ceramics Festival Mino Japan '15 @Ceramic Park MINO
2018	-Pottery- @Gion Konishi
2018	Kanazawa Wakamon Ten @Yakata Yusai
2019	Tomonari Hashimoto Gallery @ Meguro Gallery, Museum of Ceramics
2019	Korean International Ceramic Biennale Icheon World Ceramic Center South Korea
2019	TOKYO CRAFT ART BREWING in Shibuya Shibuya Tokyo
2019	Works" Tomonari Hashimoto Solo Exhibition Giant Year Gallery Hong Kong
2020-21 +++	Collect 2020 Somerset House London, @Delville Oriental Art, Brussels ...

