



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 hearth, 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 Urakami 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 Maronic
- 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 ...

