

ARTCOURT Gallery

Yagi Art Management, Inc.

OAP ARTCOURT 1F 1-8-5 Tenmabashi Kita-ku Osaka 5300042 JAPAN

Yo Akiyama (solo exhibition)



Metavoid 21, 2013, Ceramics, 25×157×68 cm / *Incubation "Portrait"*, 1975-2013, Ceramics, 33.5×38×19 cm (photo: Kazuo Fukunaga)

Yo Akiyama established his signature style of sculptural ceramic creation while still in school. His creative mind lies beneath the awareness by facing the nature and energy of clay, expressed through large scale works. We are excited to introduce Akiyama's new works in this exhibition showcasing the **roots**, that is the artery of Akiyama's powerful creation as well as Akiyama's **now** as his next step in his career.

Akiyama's early works were mysterious objects created through black pottery. His student works done in black pottery show influences from primitivism that he was interested in, modern sculptors such as Brâncuși and Arp, and his professor Kazuo Yagi, but yet to discover his own expression or concept through clay. Those early pieces are gone; however, Akiyama recalls that he can see the presence of **Akiyama** that has lead to himself **now**. This discovery lead him to the new set of works, in which the artist re-creates his early black pottery works with his **current** skillsets and by revisiting his own 1970s. Akiyama titled this new challenge of regenerating or redeveloping his roots "Incubation" (or Houran no Katachi in Japanese) and introduces about 10 new pieces in this exhibition.

Akiyama developed several series of works that express the ever-changing shape of earth with unique creative challenges such as nature vs. human, birth vs. decay, internal vs. external by fusing the phenomenon of soil and thoughts on creation. The series titled "Metavoid," which began in 2003, puts focus on an enclosed space where objects intervene and how we perceive such space. Akiyama would make a large bowl on a potter's wheel, then reverse its inside and outside. This act brings a change in spatial relation of the bowl and the space it holds within (the void). The artist would then place this bowl in an even larger vessel – an exhibition space, the other void. Akiyama uses clay as a vehicle to explore physical shapes to his pursuit ranging from multi-layered texture in motion to human perception of space. We are introducing 5 new large scale pieces ranging from 100 cm to 180 cm from the series "Metavoid." We bring you Akiyama's **now**.

Akiyama began making a series of slabs with prints of spider webs as his side work around 1993 where the artist began to depart from his signature black pottery works. The series captured the natural beauty of spider webs Akiyama found almost every morning around his home from early summer to fall. About 50 creations from this series will gather in our gallery for public viewing for the first time. They can be seen as an organic map that connects the **roots** and **current** of Akiyama's creation.

This exhibition offers visitors the physical experience of Akiyama's thoughts on creation, or his easygoing point of view that pottery is "small remarks made of a piece from mother nature" and goes beyond the boundaries of ceramic art as a genre. This is the first solo exhibition in 4 years at ArtCourt Gallery since Akiyama won the 17th MOA Mokichi Okada Award in Craft and the 52nd Mainichi Art Award for the self titled "Yo Akiyama Exhibition" in 2009. Please stay tuned.

【Schedule】

Yo Akiyama

Tuesday, December 3, 2013 - Saturday, January 25, 2014

Gallery closed on Sundays, Mondays, National holidays and winter recess
(December 22 - January 6)

Hours: 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. (5:00 p.m. on Saturdays)

Event: 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., Saturday, December 17

2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Talk with Koichi Mori (Art critic / Secretary General of
Japan Ceramics Society) x Yo Akiyama

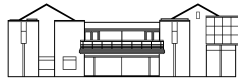
3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Reception



a series of slabs with prints of spider web prints, 2012-2013 (photo: Kazuo Fukunaga)

※ For visual materials, please contact Mitsue Yagi or Miwa Ohba at ARTCOURT Gallery. E-mail: info@artcourtgallery.com

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[Artist profile]**Yo Akiyama 秋山 陽**

1953 Born in Shimonoseki city, Yamaguchi Prefecture, JAPAN
 1976 Entered Kyoto City University of Arts
 1978 Completed postgraduate course in ceramics, Kyoto City University of Arts
 Professor Kyoto City University of Arts. Official member of International Ceramic Academy and Japan Ceramics Society.

| Solo exhibitions |

- 2011 Joan B. Mirviss Gallery, SOFA, New York, USA (also in 2007)
- 2010 Galerie Pierre Marie Giraud, Brussels, Belgium
- 2009 ARTCOURT Gallery, Osaka
- 2008 Muramatsu Gallery, Tokyo (also in 1998)
- 2005 Kochukyo, Tokyo
Frank Steyaert Gallery, Gent, Belgium
- 2004 INAX Tile Museum, Tokoname
- 1999 Contemporary Art NIKI, Tokyo
- 1996 GALLERY KOYANAGI, Tokyo (also in 1993, 1989, 1987)
Gallery Nakamura, Kyoto (also in 1987)
- 1991 Craft Gallery Shibuya Seibu, Tokyo (also in 1988)
- 1986 INAX Gallery 2, Tokyo
- 1985 Gallery Maronie, Kyoto (also in 1983, 1982)
- 1980 Gallery 16, Kyoto
- 1977 Gallery Iteza, Kyoto (also in 1976)

| Group exhibitions | *since 2009

- 2013 *Yo Akiyama+Junko Kitamura*, Kakiden Gallery, Tokyo
22nd Japan Ceramic Exhibition, Tokyo/Osaka/Ibaraki/Fukuoka/Aichi
54th Japan Ceramic Society Award Exhibition, Wako Hall, Tokyo
- 2012 *Design Miami*, USA
Takeshi Umehara and 10 Artists, Takashimaya, Kyoto/Tokyo/Osaka/Nagoya/Yokohama
Design Basel, Switzerland (also in 2011, 2009)
Son et Lumière "Material, Transition, Time", 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, Ishikawa
The Magic of Ceramics "Artistic Inspiration", The Shigaraki Ceramic Cultural Park, Shiga/The Museum of Ceramic Art, Hyogo (-2013)
- 2011 *Trial "CHAJI"*, Kosanji temple, Kyoto
Japanese Ceramics from Ancient Times to the Present From the Aichi Prefectural Ceramics Museum Collection, Hekinan City Tatsuyoshi Fujii Museum of Contemporary Art, Aichi
Small Universe, Ichinokura Sakazuki Art Museum, Gifu
Ceramica Viva I Ceramisti Giapponesi Premiati a Faenza, Istituto Italiano di Cultura, Tokyo
Japanese Modern Ceramics, Ebetsu City Ceramic Art Center, Hokkaido/Seto City Museum of Art, Aichi
Object Ceramics, Hagi Urugami Museum, Yamaguchi
Takeshi Umehara and 10 Artists, Chushin Art Museum, Kyoto (also in 2009)
- 2010 *Matières noires*, WCC • BF, Mons, Belgium
Trial "CHAJI" / Big Tea Party in Kitanomaru, Crafts Gallery, The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo
Artists of the Kyoto Art and Culture Award, Chushin Art Museum, Kyoto
Contemporary Ceramics for the tea Ceremony, Musée Tomo, Tokyo (also in 2008, 2006)
Shining Technique and Beauty, The Kagawa Museum, Kagawa/Aichi Prefectural Museum of Art, Nagoya, Aichi
17th MOA Mokichi Okada Award in Craft, MOA Museum of Art, Shizuoka
Welcome to Chokoku no Mori, The Museum of Modern Art, Wakayama
- 2009 *The dark side of earth*, Galerie Pierre Marie Giraud, Belgium
Yukai na Katachi, Museum of Modern Ceramic Art, Gifu
World Contemporary Ceramic—Adventure of the Fire, Icheon World Ceramics Center, Korea
21st Memorial Exhibition for Kyoto Fine Arts Culture Award, The Museum of Kyoto



Incubation "Perspective", 1978-2013, Ceramics, 14.5×53×20 cm
 (photo: Kazuo Fukunaga)

| Awards | *since 2009

- 2011 52nd Mainichi Art Award by Mainichi Shimbun Newspaper
- 2010 Excellence Prize, Contemporary Ceramics for the Tea Ceremony, Musée Tomo, Tokyo
Grand Prize, 17th Mokichi Okada Award, MOA Museum of Art, Shizuoka

| Collections |

- Aichi Prefectural Ceramic Museum, Seto, Aichi
- Aichi Prefecture Museum of Arts, Nagoya, Aichi
- Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada
- The Contemporary Museum, Honolulu, USA
- Everson Museum of Fine Art, Syracuse, USA
- Faenza International Ceramic Museum, Faenza, Italy
- Hagi Urugami Museum, Yamaguchi
- Ibaraki Ceramic Art Museum, Ibaraki
- International Ceramic Studio, Kecskemét, Hungary
- International Olympic Ceramic Sculpture Museum, Amaroussion, Greece
- Japan Foundation
- Keramion Frachen, Germany
- Kôriyama City Literature Hall, Kôriyama, Fukushima
- Kyoto Chuo Shinkin Bank, Kyoto
- Kyoto Municipal Museum of Art, Kyoto
- Kyoto Prefecture
- Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minneapolis, USA
- Mint Museum of Craft and Design, Charlotte, USA
- Musée national de Ceramique, Sèvres, France
- Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas, USA
- Museum of Modern Art, Shiga
- Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, USA
- Museum of Modern Art, Wakayama
- Museum of Modern Ceramic Art, Gifu
- The Museum of Oriental Ceramics, Osaka
- National Museum of Art, Osaka
- The National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto
- National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo
- Prague Decorative Art Museum, Czech Republic
- Portland Art Museum, USA
- Shigaraki Ceramic Cultural Park, Shiga Prefecture
- Shimane Art Museum, Shimane
- Smith College Museum of Art, Northampton, USA
- Suntory Museum of Art, Tokyo
- Takamatsu city museum of Art, Kagawa
- Tokoname Board of Education, Tokoname, Aichi
- Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery, Tokyo
- Ube Open-Air Sculpture Museum, Ube, Yamaguchi
- Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK
- 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, Ishikawa

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