

© ACG Press release –Exhibition Announcement–

Yo Akiyama *Far Calls and Textures*



Penepplain 221 (detail)
2022 | Stoneware | 72 x 214 x 124 cm
Photo: Kazuo Fukunaga

ARTCOURT Gallery is pleased to present a solo exhibition of new works by contemporary ceramic artist Yo Akiyama (1953-).

Ever since Akiyama began to invoke the image of fissures, that phenomenon beyond human understanding, to the surface of his ceramic works, he has earnestly questioned our relationship to the earth, that surface connected to the soles of our feet. Akiyama has developed his unique form of expression, breaking ground on themes such as the lithosphere, gravitation, seismology, and rhythm. He scrutinizes the mechanisms of nature and the structures of origin. By establishing his production agenda on themes such as interior and exterior, creation and decay, continuity and breakdown, and centrifugal and centripetal forces, Akiyama continues to explore his materials and ‘form’, the root of all things.

Akiyama first encountered the world of pottery in the early 1970s, when he was a student under Kazuo Yagi. Using black pottery, Akiyama continued to search for a mode for his expression. He eventually found a connection between “clay” and himself when working at a facility for the mentally disabled after graduating from university.

Through playing with clay, Akiyama observed how these people used their physical sensibilities to interact with the materials. Through insights into the materiality of clay and the hidden energy in stones in the natural world, his image of pottery expanded. He experimented with novel ways of interacting with clay beyond merely using it as a material for modeling.

One day, Akiyama wondered if it would be possible to peel the surface of the clay as if peeling a tangerine. He made a sphere of clay and roasted it with a burner to transform the exterior and interior. In this process, Akiyama witnessed the moment when a crack ran across the surface of the clay. He then removed the fragments of clay from the fire. The sphere's interior retained its original curved soft shape, but the exterior had hardened and cracked. He flattened these or organized them into units, and in 1980 began to exhibit them as the *Penepplain* series. Cracks divide the succession of curved surfaces, which resemble the gentle perpetual undulations of the earth. On this dynamic scale, Akiyama interacts with clay, further deepening the ceramic form.

This exhibition will center around a large work from the *Penepplain* series, created by applying iron powder after firing, and two large works from the *Metavoid* series that he has worked on since the 2000s. In the latter, Akiyama focuses on the spacial relationship of the structure of a vessel. In addition, we will display ten smaller works that contribute to the installation. Akiyama's eye, which captures the cracks on the surface of the clay, turns to the earth and the larger world beyond the horizon. The expression of the clay created by his hands is meticulous and brimming with an abundance of energy. We invite you to the forefront of Akiyama's quest to experience the ‘form’ that he pursues.

[Exhibition] *Duration and event may change depending on the spread of COVID-19.

Exhibition Title: Yo Akiyama *Far Calls and Textures*

Duration: May 10 (Tue.) - June 11 (Sat.), 2022 *Closed on Sundays and Mondays

Venue: ARTCOURT Gallery 1F, 1-8-5 Tenmabashi, Kita-ku, Osaka 530-0042

Hours: 11:00am - 6:00pm [Sat. -5:00pm]

◆ Event: Talk session 【Tomohiro Daicho (Chief Curator, The National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto) x Yo Akiyama】

May 21 [Sat] 11:00-12:30 *RSVP required (Email info@artcourtgallery.com) *Free admission (First 20 applicants)

Organized by ARTCOURT Gallery (Yagi Art Management, Inc.)

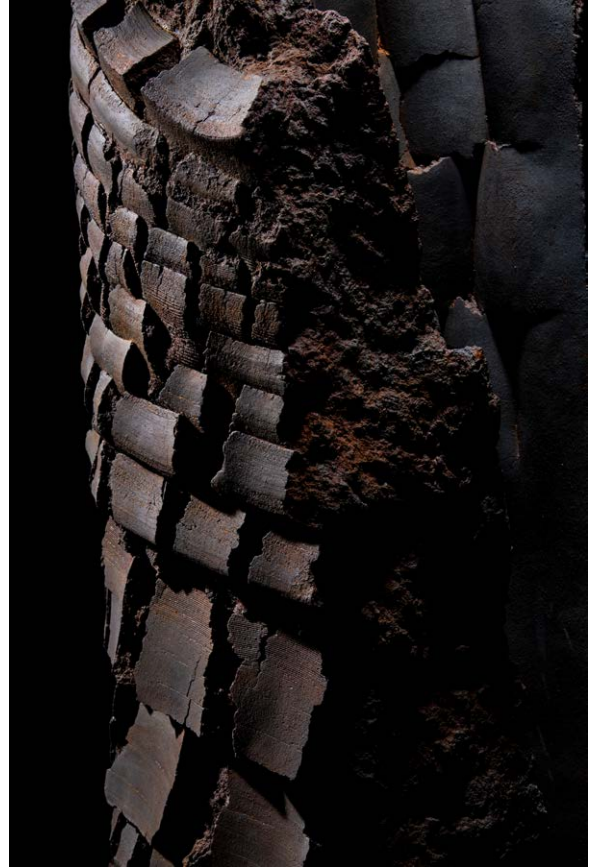
Sponsored by Mitsubishi Estate Co., Ltd., Mitsubishi Materials Coporation, Mitsubishi Jisho Property Management Co., Ltd.

*Please contact Michiko Kiyosawa and Ami Fukuda at ARTCOURT Gallery for any inquiries including photographic materials.

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[Top left]

Penepain 221 (detail)

2022 | Stoneware | 72 x 214 x 124 cm

[Top right]

Metavoid 37 (detail)

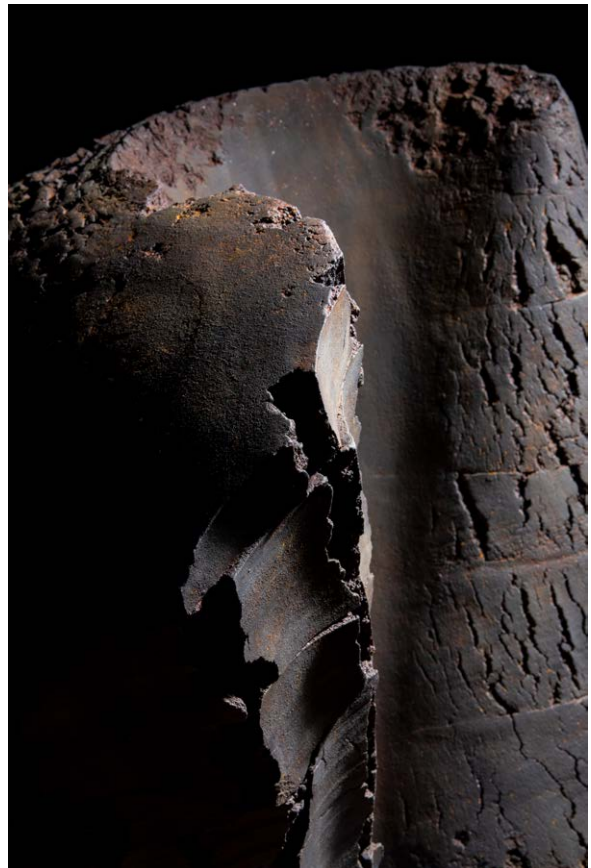
2022 | Stoneware | 123 x 66 x 50 cm

[Bottom]

Metavoid 36 (detail)

2022 | Stoneware | 61 x 90 x 80 cm

Photo: Kazuo Fukunaga



© Artist CV

Yo Akiyama 秋山陽

1953 Born in Shimonoseki, Yamaguchi, Japan
1978 Completed Postgraduate course in ceramics, Kyoto City University of Arts

【Selected Solo Exhibitions】

2021 Galerie Pierre Marie Giraud, Bruxelles, Belgium [also in '14, '10]
2019 QM Gallery Katara, Doha, Qatar
2018 Kyoto City University of Arts Art Gallery @KCUA, Kyoto
2016 Musée Tomo, Tokyo
2015 Joan B. Mirviss Gallery, New York, USA [also in '11, '07]
2013 ARTCOURT Gallery, Osaka [also in '09]
2008 Muramatsu Gallery, Tokyo [also in '98]
2005 KochuKyo, Tokyo
Frank Steyaert Gallery, Gent, Belgium
2004 INAX Tile Museum, Tokoname, Aichi
1999 Contemporary Art NIKI, Tokyo
1996 GALLERY KOYANAGI, Tokyo [also in '93, '89, '87]
Gallery Nakamura, Kyoto [also in '87]
1991 Shibuya Seibu Craft Gallery, Tokyo [also in '88]
1986 INAX Gallery 2, Tokyo
1985 Gallery Maronie, Kyoto [also in '83, '82]
1980 Gallery 16, Kyoto
1977 Gallery Iteza, Kyoto [also in '76]



Artist's studio, April, 2022
Photo: Kazuo Fukunaga

【Recent Selected Group Exhibitions】

2021 *TSUCHIJIRI*, Ibaraki Ceramic Art Museum, Ibaraki
2020 *1990 Clay Rush*, NAKACHO KONISHI, Tokyo
Seen / Unseen, Joan B. Mirviss Gallery, New York, USA
HANDS & EARTH: Perspectives on Japanese Contemporary Ceramics, Katonah Museum of Art, New York, USA
Heimen to Rittai (Painting & Sculpture), Takashimaya Art Gallery, Tokyo / Kyoto / Osaka / Nagoya
2009 *Yo Akiyama & Genta Ishizuka*, Erskine, Hall & Coe, London, England
2018 *2018 Taiwan Ceramics Biennale*, New Taipei City Yingge Ceramics Museum, New Taipei City, Taiwan
2016 *Spider Silk*, Toyota Municipal Museum of Art, Aichi
Rencontre, The Museum of Ceramic Art, Hyogo
Ceramics of Terada Collection, Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery, Tokyo
2015 *Faenza the International Ceramics Award Exhibition*, Sekiguchi Museum, Tokyo
Unfolding Worlds, The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, USA
2014 *Into the Fold: Contemporary Japanese Ceramics from the Horvitz Collection*, Harn Museum of Art, USA
Tradition on Fine Contemporary Japanese Ceramics from the Paul & Kathy Bissinger Collection, Asian Art Museum, USA
2012 *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/Museum of Modern Ceramic Art, Gifu('13)
/ The Museum of Ceramic Art, Hyogo ('13)
2011 *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 Uragami Museum, Yamaguchi

【Selected Awards】

2016 The First prize, Japan Ceramic Society
2014 Culture and Scholarship Award, Kyoto Shimbun Newspaper
2011 The 52nd Mainichi Art Award, Mainichi Shimbun Newspaper
2010 Grand Prix, The 17th Mokichi Okada Award
2008 The 21st Kyoto Fine Arts Cultural Award
2007 Contribution Award, The 25th Kyoto Prefecture Cultural Award
2001 Ube Industries, Ltd. Award, The 19th Exhibition of Contemporary Japanese Sculpture 2001
1992 Best Emerging Artist Prize in Kyoto
1989 Ravenna Chamber of Commerce Prize, 46th Faenza International Competition of Art Ceramics
1988 Excellence Prize, Yagi Kazuo Competition of Contemporary Ceramics ['86]

【Major Public Collections】

Aichi Prefectural Museum of Art./Aichi Prefectural Ceramic Museum./Ibaraki Ceramic Art Museum./The Museum of Oriental Ceramics, Osaka/Ube Open-Air Sculpture Museum./21th Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa/Museum of Modern Ceramics Art, Gifu /The National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto./Kyoto Municipal Museum of Art./Kyoto Chuo Shinkin Bank./Kyoto Prefecture./The Japan Foundation./The National Museum of art, Osaka./Kooriyama City literature Hall./Suntory Museum of Art./Shiga Museum of Art./Shigaraki Ceramic Cultural Park, Shiga./Simane Art Museum./Takamatsu City Museum of Art./Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery./The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo./Tokoname Board of Education./Hagi Uragami Museum./The Museum of Modern Art, Wakayama
Everson Museum of Art, USA./Faenza International Ceramic Museum, Italy./Museum of Fine Art, Houston, USA./Victoria & Albert Museum, England./Praha Decorative Museum, Czech Republic./Canadian Clay & Glass Gallery, Canada./International Ceramic Studio, Hungary./Keramion Frachen, Germany./Mint Museum, USA./Minneapolis Institute of Art, USA./Museum of Fine Arts Boston, USA./Smith College Museum of Art, USA./International Olympic Ceramic Sculpture Museum, Amaroussion, Greece./Honolulu Contemporary Art Museum, USA./Sèvres Museum, France./Portland Museum, USA