

OAP Sculpture Path 2025-27

Sculpted Rhymes: Landscape and Fired Forms

Masayuki Inoue, Yuki Nakaigawa

OAP彫刻の小径2025-27: 韻をふむ・修景とヤキモノ | 井上雅之、中井川由季



[Left]
Masayuki Inoue
H-221
Ceramic
197 x 267 x 168 cm
2022
Collection of
Ibaraki Ceramic Art Museum

[Right]
Yuki Nakaigawa
Measuring the Dripping Speed
Ceramic, steel
317 x 50 x 53 cm
2020

*Reference works

We are pleased to present an outdoor sculpture exhibition with works by **Masayuki Inoue** (b. 1957) and **Yuki Nakaigawa** (b. 1960), held along the OAP Sculpture Path in Osaka's Kita Ward. A deep engagement with clay underlies the production of both artists' large-scale works, several of which are presented in this open-air setting.

Supple forms that seem to transform on their own accord. The clay's surface absorbs ambient temperature throughout the day: initially cool and then gradually warming. The works of both artists reveal the deep delight inherent in the "act of shaping" and brim with the earthy, intrinsic allure of the medium of clay. The pulse of the layered forms unfolds like rhymes, sustained by the quiet confidence of skilled craftsmanship. This open-air exhibition features eight new works, including rounded forms that seem to pile themselves atop plinths, alongside others that resonate subtly with the budding offshoots of the trees lining the OAP Sculpture Path.

-Artist's statements

Both Inoue and Nakaigawa have spent many years working with clay, producing large-scale sculptural works. Inoue maintains a measured distance from his own work, attuned to the subtle cues of the medium, which he internalizes and translates back into form. Nakaigawa draws motifs from humble natural objects, which she abstracts and magnifies into expansive forms.

For this open-air installation, one of the main challenges was how to thoughtfully engage the presence of the prominent plinths, both in relation to the works themselves and the surrounding landscape. Our intention is that each work will settle naturally into place, making use of the plinth's stature without appearing structurally detached, neither overshadowed by the surrounding trees nor lost amid the pergolas.

Masayuki Inoue / Yuki Nakaigawa

About the OAP Sculpture Path

The OAP Sculpture Path is located along the waterfront promenade facing the Okawa River that flows through the center of Osaka and is known as the setting for the Tenjin Festival. Every year and a half, the open-air exhibition showcases 8 new sculptures around a theme, and present sculptures of exciting artists working both in Japan and abroad with approachability as our motto.

Exhibition

Exhibition Title: **OAP Sculpture Path 2024-25**

Sculpted Rhymes: Landscape and Fired Forms

Duration: **November 2025 - April 2027**

Venue: OAP Sculpture Path, Osaka (OAP Public Green Space, Promenade along Okawa River)

Artists: Masayuki Inoue, Yuki Nakaigawa

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 Mitsue Yagi or Mizuho Haida at ARTCOURT Gallery for any inquiries including photographic materials.

OAP ARTCOURT 1F, 1-8-5 Tenmabashi, Kita-ku, Osaka 530-0042 | info@artcourtgallery.com | T: (+81) 6-6354-5444 | F: (+81) 6-6354-5449 | www.artcourtgallery.com

Masayuki Inoue

井上雅之

As the clay churned between his hands with the rotations of the potter's wheel, Masayuki Inoue was captivated by the material presence that arose before him, leading him to shift his focus from painting and to pursue ceramics in earnest in the mid-1980s. He draws meaning from the multifaceted dialogue in the creative process between the hand of the maker and the forces of nature: the forms that arise in response to the action of his intent, and the clay's shifting disposition as it hardens through fire. He allows the material to respond, carefully observing its behavior, and then reworking it into new forms. These forms Inoue produces range from shaped structures that are broken down into fragments and then reassembled to unfold like three-dimensional drawings in space, to bold, large-scale compositions built from flat panels fastened together with bolts.

1957 Born in Kobe, Japan

1985 MA Tama Art University, Tokyo

Emeritus Professor, Department of Ceramic, Glass, and Metal Works, Tama Art University, Tokyo

I Selected Solo Exhibitions (2015 -) |

2025 *Inoue Masayuki: Surrounded by Forms*, Galerie Tokyo Humanite, Tokyo ['24, '23, '22, '18, '12, '10, '05, '97]2022 *Inoue Masayuki: Molding a Form Like Drawing*, Ibaraki Ceramic Art Museum, Ibaraki2020 *Masayuki Inoue: Whereabouts of the Shape*, Joyo Geibun Center, Ibaraki2015 *Eminent Artist Invitation Project 2014, Masayuki Inoue: 9 Prototype Form - Exhibition*, The Museum of Ceramic Art, Hyogo
Masayuki Inoue: Prototype Form - Flower Shape, Hagi Uragami Museum, Yamaguchi

I Selected Group Exhibitions (2000 -) |

2024 *Future opened up by Clay : Revolutionary Expression of Pottery*, the Museum of Modern Art, Wakayama2018 *The 13th Ceramic Art Grand Prize Exhibition*, Paramita Museum, Mie2017 *Japan Ceramic Art Exhibition 2017 XXIV*, Daimaru Tokyo, Tokyo [Invited Artist] *Grand Prize2016 *Craft Arts: Innovation of 'Tradition and Avant-Garde,' and the Present Day*, Crafts Gallery, The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo
2016 Hangzhou International Contemporary Ceramic Art Biennale, China Academy of Art Xiangshan Campus, Craft Museum of CAA, Hangzhou, China2015 *Amabiki 2015: Rinrin Road*, Sakuragawa, Ibaraki ['15, '13, '11, '08, '06, '03, '01]2007 *The Heisei 17-18th, Exhibition of Outstanding Works of Art Acquired by the Agency for Cultural Affairs*, The Japan Art Academy, Tokyo2005 *Ars Nova: Between The Contemporary Avant-garde Art and The Crafts*, Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, Tokyo2003 *The Art of Earth: Clay Works of the New Century*, The National Museum of Art, Osaka2001 *Leaders of Contemporary Japanese Ceramics: Exploring Techniques and Forms for the New Century*, Ibaraki Ceramic Art Museum, Ibaraki2000 *Amsterdam Galleries Celebrate the Japanese Connection: Japanese Ceramics*, Galerie De Witte Voet, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

I Public Collections |

Aichi Prefectural Ceramic Museum / Ibaraki Ceramic Art Museum / Museum of Modern Ceramic Art, Gifu / National Crafts Museum, Ishikawa /

The National Museum of Art, Osaka / The Shigaraki Ceramic Cultural Park, The Museum of Contemporary Ceramic Art / The Shigaraki Ceramic Cultural Park, The Institute of Ceramic Studies / The Museum of Ceramic Art, Hyogo / Agency for Cultural Affairs / The Miyagi Museum of Art / Hagi Uragami Museum, Yamaguchi / The Museum of Modern Art, Wakayama

Museum of Modern Art, The House of Japan, San Isidro, Argentina / Everson Museum of Art, Syracuse, USA / National Museum of History, Taipei, Taiwan / China Academy of Art, Hangzhou, China / Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minneapolis, USA / Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK / Princessehof National Museum of Ceramics, Leeuwarden, the Netherlands



HU-151
Ceramic | 165 x 172 x 78 cm | 2015



Mq-2384
Ceramic | 8.5 x 8.2 x 8 cm | 2023



K-935 Ceramic | 110 x 65 x 85 cm | 1993
Collection of Victoria and Albert Museum, London

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Yuki Nakaigawa

中井川由季

Since the late 1980s, Nakaigawa has engaged with clay as her medium of expression, centering around her production of large-scale, voluminous works shaped by hand and fired in the kiln. As Nakaigawa herself puts it, her “inspiration to create derives from encounters with the grotesquely beautiful shapes of the creatures which stir in groves of sawtooth oaks;” she draws from nature to produce genial forms that embody the supple tactility distinctive to ceramics. Her works, composed of subtly varied shapes arranged in series or stacked together, call to mind the life’s nascent forms, such as the seeds of plants and the eggs of insects, and are imbued with a palpable yet elusive presence.

1960 Born in Ibaraki, Japan
1986 MA Tama Art University, Tokyo

I Selected Solo Exhibitions (2003 -) |

- 2025 *Nakaigawa Yuki: Chika ni nemuru (Sleeping Underground)*, Galerie Tokyo Humanité bis, Tokyo [’22]
- 2023 *Nakaigawa Yuki*, Galerie Tokyo Humanité, Tokyo [’22, ’18]
- 2021 *Yuki Nakaigawa*, Ginza Tsutaya Books, Tokyo
- 2013 *Yuki Nakaigawa* Gallery Ban, Osaka
- 2012 *Ten no kajitsu Vol.1 (Fruits of Heaven)*, Gallery SIMON, Tokyo
- 2009 *Uketomeru tameni shizumikomu (Sink into passivity)*, Muramatsu Gallery, Tokyo
- 2003 *Nakaigawa Yuki no Chashitsu: Mahiru no tsuki (Japanese Tearoom with the works of Yuki Nakaigawa: Midday Moon)*, Hagi Uragami Museum, Yamaguchi

I Selected Group Exhibitions (2001 -) |

- 2023 *Tomioka & TT exhibition +*, Tomioka Silk Mill West Cocoon Warehouse, Gunma
Interplay 14 artists’ expression and perspective, Tsukuba Museum, Ibaraki
RADICAL CLAY, The Art Institute of Chicago, USA
- 2021 *A small universe 7*, Ichinokura Sakazuki Art Museum, Gifu [’17, ’02]
- 2015 *AMABIKI 2015*, Sakuragawa city, Ibaraki [’13, ’11, ’08, ’06, ’03, ’01, ’99, ’97]
- 2014 *Black & White*, Joan B. Mirviss Ltd Japanese Art, NY, USA
- 2013 *Contemporary KOGEI Styles in Japan*, Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens, Miami, USA
- 2011 *ARTIST FILE 2011*, National Art Center, Tokyo
- 2009 *Treasures for the Future*, Takashimaya Department Store Art Galleries, [Tokyo, Shinjuku, Osaka, Kyoto]
- 2007 *Contemporary Japanese Women Ceramic Artists*, The Shigaraki Ceramic Cultural Park, Shiga [Tokyo, Shizuoka, France, USA]
- 2005 *World Ceramic Biennale 2005 Korea. Ceramics: The Vehicle of Culture*, Icheon, Korea
- 2001 *Leader of Contemporary Japanese Ceramics*, Ibaraki Ceramic Art Museum, Ibaraki

I Public Collections |

The Museum of Modern Art, House of Japan, Argentina / The Shigaraki Ceramic Cultural Park, The Institute of Ceramic Studies / Ibaraki Ceramic Art Museum / Hagi Uragami Museum, Yamaguchi / Asian Art Museum, USA / Minneapolis Institute of Art, USA / Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art, USA / The Art Institute of Chicago, USA / Cincinnati Art Museum, USA / The Gardiner Museum, Canada / World Ceramic Exposition Foundation, Korea



Variable Connection, amongst the grove
Ceramic | 37 x 1450 x 680 cm | 2013



Gathering Tightly
Ceramic | 81 x 74 x 78 cm | 2021



Bonding and Intertwining2
Ceramic | 27.5 x 30 x 28 cm | 2021

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