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Eiji Uematsu: *Shooting Stars Found in the Garden*

植松永次「庭でみつけた流れ星」



I lay out in the garden and gaze up at the night sky.
The color and brilliance, the size of each star varies minutely.
When I felt as though I was about to be engulfed by that starry sky,
A flash of a shooting star.

Playing in the mud as a child led to my work today,
But it is not so much “making” as it is finding the flash of a shooting star within clay and fire
That then takes shape.

Eiji Uematsu

【Exhibition】

Exhibition title : **Eiji Uematsu: *Shooting Stars Found in the Garden***
植松永次「庭でみつけた流れ星」

Duration : **November 14 (Sat) - December 19 (Sat), 2020**

*Closed Sun, Mon, holidays *Artist will be present on 11/14 (Sat), 12/19 (Sat)

Venue : ARTCOURT Gallery

OAP ARTCOURT 1F, 1-8-5 Tenmabashi, Kita-ku, Osaka, 530-0042

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

【Online Program】

<https://www.artcourtgallery.com>

During the exhibition period, we will make the following content available on our website:

▶ Movies

1. Artist talk [Tetsuro Degawa (Director, The Museum of Oriental Ceramics, Osaka) & Eiji Uematsu]

2. Installation view

▶ List of and details on exhibited artworks

*Duration and hours may change depending on the spread of COVID-19. * The gallery is implementing thorough health and safety measures to protect our visitors and staff. Please see our website for more details.
Organized by ARTCOURT Gallery (Yagi Art Management, Inc.) | Sponsored by Mitsubishi Estate Co., Ltd., Mitsubishi Materials Corporation, Mitsubishi Jisho Property Management Co., Ltd.

[Above] *Candy in the Sky* (detail) 2020, Ceramic, 572 x 542 cm (installations size), Photo: Takeru Koroda

* Please contact Michiko Kiyosawa or Mizuho Haida at ARTCOURT Gallery for any inquiries including photographic materials.

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Eiji Uematsu: *Shooting Stars Found in the Garden*

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ARTCOURT Gallery is pleased to present a solo exhibition of Eiji Uematsu (b. 1949), an artist based in Iga, Mie Prefecture who uses clay and fire as his materials for his work.

From sculptures that make one sense the presence of the clay itself, or ceramic objects that incorporate plants and water, to installations that deliberately utilize a space, Uematsu's work is upheld by a lucid attitude towards clay and fire, while exhibiting a diversity that does not fit into the traditional framework of ceramic art.

With playing in the mud in early childhood as the starting point, and after encountering clay again in his 20s when he was uncertain of what it means “to express” oneself, Uematsu's work began with “not expressing, not making” and “examining the qualities of clay” instead. Although he was sometimes discussed in relation to the Mono-ha group and Earthworks early in his career, Uematsu himself always tried to be rooted in things seen and felt with his own body. This attitude, which on the other hand challenged the established notions of how to handle the material of clay, its production process, the way it is presented, or what ceramic art ought to be, gave rise to his unique way of expression that envelops the unwavering appearance of clay in stillness and emotion, without becoming confined by the existing genres of ceramic art and sculpture. The wind, light, colors, and sounds of everyday life, and the breath of life that dwells within them. He leaves these to the clay then uses fire to hold onto the forms found in the dialogue between the clay and his own hands and eyes. The works in which the artist himself seems to have wholly integrated with the world surrounding him through clay and fire makes one feel even the flow of time and the depth of space that cannot be quantified by a human's physical senses, and when these things stand before us, we sense the wonder and nostalgia of coming in contact with something fundamental.

In the 1980s, Uematsu participated in exhibitions such as *'85 Hinuma Clay Landscape* (1985)*¹ and *Clay-Image and Form 1981-1985* (1986)*², and since garnering attention in both contemporary art and contemporary ceramics, he has continued to exhibit works at various museums and galleries. In 2016, the meticulously display of the artist's diverse expression across around 40 years at his solo exhibition *The Sky that the Rabbits Saw* at the Kyoto City University of Arts Gallery @KCUA again illustrated their meaningfulness and significance. As Uematsu's domestic and international acclaim continues to rise, with a solo show of his work was held in 2018 at *Frieze New York*, the world's top international art fair, and a solo exhibition at The Museum of Ceramic Art, Hyogo scheduled for December 2020 to February 2021, this will be his first captivating solo exhibition at our gallery.

1: *'85 Hinuma Clay Landscape*, 1985, Hinuma Miyanomaeso, Ibaraki. Numerous contemporary artists such as members of the Mono-ha group were exhibited.

2: *Clay-Image and Form 1981-1985*, 1986, Seibu Hall, Shiga/ Yurakucho Art Forum, Tokyo. Many leading artists of contemporary ceramics like Yo Akiyama and Ryoji Koie were exhibited.

【About the works to be exhibited】

An impressive early series of works *Karuta* (1983-86), consisting of minimal slabs with vividly gradating shades of color, shows the phases of wavering and balance between clay, fire, and the carefully contained will of the maker, and garnered attention for putting forward a new possibility for ceramic expression when it was first shown. This exhibition will feature ceramic panels from 1986, the final year of the same series. *Candy in the Sky*, a large-scale installation that scatters countless ceramic pieces across a 5m high gallery wall likened to a sky, tries to take the present overlapping of the self and nature, life and expression that has seen the passage of time, and directly project it onto the space while possessing a similar perspective and basing it on the same technique as *Karuta*. Centered around the above two pieces, this exhibition will be filled with around 10 more new works, such as *Flowing* that evokes the gestures of playing in the mud, and *City*, created by firing a mold full of clay powder.



Flowing
2020, Ceramic, 18.4 x 47 x 18.3 cm



Air
2020, Ceramic, 35 x 26.3 x 3 cm



City
2020, Ceramic, 34.2 x 21.2 x 21.7 cm

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【CV】

Eiji Uematsu 植松永次

- 1949 Born in Kobe, Hyogo Prefecture, Japan.
- 1972 Began creating reliefs to examine the qualities of clay soils.
Afterwards, began working with ceramics in Tokyo.
- 1975 Moved to Shigaraki, Shiga Prefecture and began working at a ceramics manufacturing factory while continuing to produce his own works.
- 1982 Moved his residence and workplace to Marubashira, Iga-City, Mie Prefecture, and broadened the range of his work by making a kiln that uses firewood with kerosene, and using techniques like *noyaki* (open-firing).
- 1996 Invited to Shigaraki Ceramic Cultural Park to produce work.
- Since the 1980s, he has been showing his works in many solo and group exhibitions.

Selected Early and Recent Solo Exhibitions

- 1986 Gallery Maronie, Kyoto
- 1987 Shibuya Seibu, Tokyo ['91]
- 2007 *Shape of Soil*, The Museum of Arts & Crafts, Itami, Hyogo
- 2009 *Soil/Fire - To the Root*, Koumi-machi Kougen Museum of Art, Nagano
- 2016 *The Sky that the Rabbits Saw*, Kyoto City University of Arts Art Gallery @KCUA, Kyoto
In the Water, the Depths of the Forest, Gallery 38, Tokyo ['20]
- 2018 SHISEIDO WINDOW GALLERY "Element Earth" 2018, SHISEIDO THE STORE, Tokyo
- 2019 *Sanpo no Naka de* (While on a Walk), gallery YuEi, Osaka
- 2020 The Museum of Ceramic Art, Hyogo (scheduled December - February 2021)

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 1981 *Art Now Iga '81*, Ueno Municipal Central Public Hall/Kino Gallery, Iga-Ueno, Mie
- 1984 *'84 Shigaraki Exhibition*, Traditional Crafts Center of Shigaraki, Shiga
- 1985 *'85 Hinuma Clay Landscape*, Hinuma Miyamaeso, Ibaraki
- 1986 *Clay-Image and Form 1981-1985*, Seibu Hall, Shiga/Yurakucho Art Forum, Tokyo
The 1st International Ceramics Contest '86, Mino, Gifu
Ceramic Annex Shigaraki '86, Traditional Crafts Center of Shigaraki, Shiga/Gallery, The Museum of Modern Art, Shiga ['87-'93]
- 1992 *The 1992 International Invitational Exhibition of Contemporary Ceramic Art*, National Museum of History, Taipei
- 1994 *Open Air Clay Work in Kyoto '94*, Umekoji Park, Kyoto
- 2010 *Biwako Biennale 2010*, Shiga
- 2015 *The 10th Paramita Ceramic Art Grand Prize Exhibition*, Paramita Museum, Mie
- 2016 *Craft Arts: Innovation of "Tradition and Avant-Garde," and the Present Day*, Crafts Gallery, The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo
- 2018 *Eiji Uematsu & Shiro Matsui*, ACG Villa Kyoto, Kyoto



At the artist's studio (2020)

[Reference Work]



Karuta
1986, Ceramic, 82 x 13 x 1.5 cm each
© Eiji Uematsu, Gallery 38 Photography: Koji Honda

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