

Kazuo Kadonaga

Wood

February 11 - April 1, 2023

Nonaka-Hill is delighted to present sculptures by Kazuo Kadonaga, his second solo exhibition with the gallery. Spanning five decades, he has been singularly known for conjuring the otherwise invisible properties of wood, silk, glass, and paper. His meticulous approach limits the traces of his hand as much as possible, deferring to the material's inner-structure and outer dignity to guide his process. His work embodies shibui, an astringent and refined aesthetic belied by raw complexity. As such, Kadonaga does not aim for beauty, nor does he take his materials for granted, for it has been his life's work to reveal their essential nature.

In this exhibition, Kadonaga and the gallery has focused on his small-scale cedar and cypress wood sculptures dating from the early 1980s. They reveal the multitude of ways a ubiquitous material can be renewed and estranged with minimal manipulation. To achieve this, Kadonaga crosscut tree trunks into segments, each one measuring one to two feet in length, and methodically removed their bark. He followed with a series of cutting procedures unique to each segment: Several of which took intersecting cuts forming a grid, while other works were sliced into thin sheets of various thickness, which were then glued or tied into their original shape. One segment took lengthwise cuts that resemble the pattern of cracked glass in its cross-section, while another took long cuts on its side at a shallow depth, allowing the man-made fissures to slowly bend apart over time. Kadonaga squared some of his trunks, but they did not lose their integrity on account of his skilled and ghostly hand: The rings on their cross-sections serve as formal and conceptual counterpoints, highlighting nature's propensity towards curves and spirals as measurements of time. Time's effects are essential components in this work, as his sculptures continue to change depending on their atmospheric conditions.

Born in 1946 in Ishikawa, Japan, Kadonaga was raised in a family that owned and operated a sawmill. He once said that he chose wood, his first material, because it was the closest one at hand. Originally trained as a painter, he decided to work with trees firsthand instead of rendering their image. The works on view are thus manifestations of Kadonaga's need to interact with wood, or any material, as directly as possible, without agendas or imposed cultural implications; this is why he does not consider himself to be a Japanese artist, but simply an artist that seeks truth in materials in the most modest and direct methods possible.

Kazuo Kadonaga

Biography

Born 1946, lives & works, Ishikawa, Japan.

Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2023 *Wood*, Nonaka-Hill, Los Angeles, USA
- 2018 *Wood / Paper / Bamboo / Glass*, Nonaka-Hill, Los Angeles, USA
- 2013 *Silk No.4*, Studio Kazu, Ishikawa, Japan
- 2011 *Glass*, Walker Contemporary, Boston, USA
- 2008 *Wood*, Stewart Gallery, Boise, USA
Glass, Samuel Freeman Sculpture Garden, Santa Monica, USA
- 2006 *Silk No.3*, Nizayama Forest Art Museum, Toyama, Japan
Wood Bamboo Paper Glass, El Camino College Art Gallery, Torrance, USA
- 2005 *Paper*, Solomon Fine Art, Seattle, USA
Wood Bamboo Paper Glass, Chaffey College, Wignall Museum / Gallery, Rancho Cucamonga, USA
Kazuo Kadonaga: Elemental Materials in Contemporary Art, Mingei International Museum, San Diego, USA
- 2003 *Kazuo Kadonaga*, Zeniya Gohei Memorial Museum, Kanazawa, Japan
Pure Form: Installation by Kazuo Kadonaga, Suyama Space, Seattle, USA
Kazuo Kadonaga: Glass Sculpture, Greg Kucera Gallery, Seattle, USA
- 2002 *Wood Bamboo Paper Glass*, Southern Oregon University, Schneider Museum of Art, Ashland, USA
Glass and Paper, Limn Gallery, San Francisco, USA
Glass, San Diego State University Art Gallery, USA
- 2001 *Wood Bamboo Paper Glass*, Salt Lake Art Center, USA
Wood Bamboo Paper Glass, Japanese American Cultural and Community Center, Los Angeles, USA
- 2000 *Glass*, Space Kaleid, Tokyo, Japan
- 1991-'99 Researching and working with glass
- 1990 *Wood Bamboo Paper*, Alexandria Museum of Art, Los Angeles, USA
- 1988-'99 *Wood Bamboo Paper Silk*, Blue Star Art Space, San Antonio, USA
- 1988 *Wood Bamboo Paper Silk*, Southwest Craft Center, San Antonio, USA
Wood Bamboo Paper Silk, Art Museum of South Texas, Corpus Christi, USA
- 1987-'88 *Silk*, Grand Rapids Art Museum, USA
- 1987 *Silk*, Space Gallery, Los Angeles, USA
- 1986 *Focus: Japan*, Grand Rapids Art Museum, USA
- 1985 *Conversation between Bamboo and Wood*, Garden Gallery, Kyoto, Japan
Wood Bamboo, Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery, USA
- 1984-'85 *Wood*, Contemporary Arts Center, Honolulu, USA
- 1984 *Sculpture in Paper*, Space Gallery, Los Angeles, USA

- Selected Solo Exhibitions
- 1983-'84 *Paper*, Galerie Nouvelles Images, Den Haag, The Netherlands
- 1982 *Paper*, Sakura Gallery, Nagoya, Japan
Wood, University of California Santa Barbara Art Museum, USA
Kazuo Kadonaga : A Tree / A Sculpture, Boehm Gallery, Palomar College, San Marcos, USA
- 1981 *Wood*, Space Gallery, Los Angeles, USA
Wood, Galerie Nouvelles Images, Den Haag, The Netherlands
Wood No.10, Muramatsu Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
- 1980 *Wood*, Galerie Aronowitsch, Stockholm, Sweden
- 1979 *Wood*, Galleri Wallner, Malmö, Sweden
Wood No.5 & No.9, Sakura Gallery, Nagoya, Japan
- 1977 *Wood No.8*, Gallery 16, Kyoto, Japan
Wood No.8, Muramatsu Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
- 1976 *Wood No.7*, Bamboo No.1, Muramatsu Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
- 1975 *Wood No.6*, Muramatsu Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
- 1974 *Wood No.5*, Gallery 16, Kyoto, Japan
Wood No.4, Muramatsu Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
- 1973 *Wood No.2 & No.3*, Muramatsu Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
- 1971 *Wood No.1*, Tsubaki Kindai Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
- Selected Group Exhibitions
- 2022 *To Bough and To Bend*, Frederick R. Weisman Museum of Art, Los Angeles
not titled (not "Untitled"), Nonaka-Hill, Los Angeles
- 2020 *Among the Trees*, Hayward Gallery, London, England
To Bough and To Bend, Bridge Projects, Los Angeles
- 2019 *Pairings: Sculpture in the Nasher & Rachofsky Collections*, Nasher Sculpture Center, Dallas, Texas
- 2018 *Collection 3 Adventures in "Seeing"*, 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, Japan
- 2015-'16 *Collection 2 History, Regrowth, and Future*, 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, Japan
- 2015 *I've Got Glass ! I've got Life !*, Toyama Glass Art Museum, Japan
- 2015 *20th Anniversary Exhibition. 2014-'15*, Nizayama Forest Art Museum, Toyama, Japan
- 2015 *Collection 50 Years/ 50 Works*, The Museum of Modern Art, Mexico city, Mexico
- 2013 *Magical Contemporary Glass Art*, Toyama Citizen's Plaza Art Gallery, Japan
- 2013 *Beyond Borders*, Walker Contemporary, Waitsfield, VT (Glass)
- 2011-'12 *Silent Echoes: Collection II*, 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, Japan (Silk)
- 2011 *Dialogue*, The Museum of Modern Art, Toyama, Japan
- 2009 *Mostly Sculpture (Damn It)*, Samuel Freeman, Santa Monica, USA
- 2008 *Inaugural Exhibition*, Walker Contemporary, Boston, USA
Space Gallery, W. Keith and Janet Kellogg Art Gallery, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, USA

- Selected Group Exhibitions
- 2007-'08 *Collection II*, 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, Japan (Glass)
- 2007 *Gift: Welcome to the World of Art*, The Museum of Modern Art, Toyama, Japan
- 2006-'08 *The 9th International Shoebox Sculpture Exhibition (traveling exhibition)*, University of Hawaii Art Gallery, Honolulu, USA (also 2003,1997,1991,1988, 1985)
- 2004 *Modern Masters Collection*, 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa (Glass), Japan, *Inner Scapes*, Hawaii State Art Museum, Honolulu, USA
- 2003 *Glass Works 2003*, Toyama Citizen's Plaza, Art Gallery, Japan
- 2002 *Six Sculptors - September Show*, Seisho & Taisan Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
Contemporary Glass Triennial 2002, Toyama Citizen's Plaza, Art Gallery, Japan
Transcending Translucence, Manhattan Beach Art Center, USA
- 2001 *The Collection of 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art*, Kanazawa, Citizen's Art Center, Japan (Glass)
- 2000 *Grace in Space*, College of the Canyons Art Gallery, Santa Clarita, USA
- 1999 *The 7th International Contemporary Art Exhibition "Poland & Japan,"* The Museum of Modern Art, Toyama, Japan
- 1994 *Homage to Yaeko Fujita*, Sakura Gallery, Nagoya, Japan
- 1993 *Beelden op de Berg 6*, Belmonte Arboretum of the Wageningen, Agricultural University, The Netherlands
- 1992 *The 16th Exhibition by Art Creators' Associates of Japan Sea Area*, Ishikawa Prefectural Museum of Art, Kanazawa, Japan (also 1990)
Arbor & Sculptura, Stedelijk Museum, Alkmaar, The Netherlands
- 1991 *The Nature of Sculpture*, Jacksonville Art Museum, FL
- 1990 *30 Jaar Nouvelles Images*, Galerie Nouvelles Images, Den Haag, The Netherlands
- 1989 *International Paper Art Exhibition in Japan '89 (traveling exhibition)*, The Museum of Kyoto, Japan
- 1989 *Collection on Shoestring; Works from the Collection of Jeri Coates*, Long Beach Museum of Art, USA
The Space: Material, Tension, and Vacancy in Japanese Contemporary Art, The Museum of Modern Art, Saitama, Urawa, Japan
- 1988-'89 *The 2nd International Biennale of Paper Art (traveling exhibition)*, Leopold- Hoesch Museum, Düren, Germany, Nordjyllands Kunst Museum, Aalborg, Denmark
- 1988 *Paper Now in Japan '88+ALPHA*, Hongo Gallery, Tokushima, Japan
Meditations. Saddleback, College Art Gallery, Mission Viejo, USA
- 1987-'90 *New Work Japan*, (traveling exhibition), Brattleboro Museum and Art Center, VT, Danforth Museum of Art, Framingham, MA, Scottsdale Center for the Arts, AZ, Mount Holyoke College Art Museum, South Hadley, MA, St. Paul School Art Center, Concord, NH, Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum, CA
- 1987-'88 *Natural Elements*, Transamerica Galleries, Los Angeles, USA
- 1987 *Cross Grain; A Survey in Wood*, Muckenthaler Cultural Center, Fullerton, A Survey of Objects, Space Gallery, Los Angeles, USA (also 1984)
Natural Sources, Angels Gate Cultural Center, San Pedro, USA
Curator's Choice, Long Beach Museum of Art, USA

- Selected Group Exhibitions
- 1986 *Japanese Art Today*, University of California San Diego, USA
Art Expressions in Paper, Security Pacific's Gallery at the Plaza, Los Angeles, USA
 - 1985-'86 *The 2nd International Shoebox Sculpture Exhibition* (traveling exhibition),
The University of Hawaii Art Gallery, Honolulu, USA [also as a jury]
 - 1985 *Summer Show '85*, Hunsaker and Schlensinger, Los Angeles, USA
Nouvelles Images 25 Jaar, Galerie Nouvelles Images, Den Haag, The Netherlands
The Transition of Contemporary Sculptures: The Form of Wood, Kanagawa Prefectural Gallery, Yokohama, Japan
 - 1983 *Seiji Kunishima and Kazuo Kadonaga*, Mills House Art Gallery, Los Angeles
The New Generation of Contemporary Art, Mie Prefectural Art Museum, Tsu, Japan
Kenjiro Azuma and Kazuo Kadonaga, Dordrechts Museum, Dordrecht, The Netherlands
Paper Now in Japan (traveling exhibition),
Kyoto International Craft Center ICC Hall, Axis Gallery, Tokyo, Shukosha Gallery, Fukuoka, Japan
 - 1982 *Sculpture '82*, Sonoma State University Art Gallery, Rohnert Park, USA
 - 1981-'82 *Works from the Collection of the Newport Harbor Art Museum*, The Newport Harbor Art Museum, Newport Beach, USA
 - 1981 *Enlargement from 100mm*, Gallery U, Nagoya, Japan
Hedendaagse Japanse Kunst, Galerie Nouvelles Images, Den Haag, The Netherlands
 - 1979 *Exhibition : Mini-Work*, Galleri Wallner, Malmö, Sweden
 - 1977 *Exchange Show of American and Japanese Contemporary Art*, Langton Street Gallery, San Francisco, Kanagawa Prefectural Gallery, Yokohama, Japan
 - 1976 *Japan, Art Now '76*, Hyogo Prefectural Museum of Art, Kobe
 - 1975 *The 10th Japan Art Festival* (traveling exhibition), Uenonomori Art Museum, Tokyo,
Wellington National Museum of Art, New Zealand, Victoria National Museum of Art, Australia
The 11th Contemporary Art Exhibition of Japan (traveling exhibition), Tokyo
Metropolitan Art Museum, Japan, Kyoto Municipal Art Museum, Japan
From Method to Method, Kanagawa Prefectural Gallery, Yokohama, Japan
 - 1974 *Stone 100 Days*. Ubbaboda Symposium, Ubbaboda Sweden
 - 1973 *The 9th Artists Today: Exhibition '73*, Yokohama Municipal Art Gallery, Japan
The 8th Japan Art Festival (traveling exhibition), Tokyo Central Museum, Japan,
Ljubljana Modern Art Museum, Slovenia, Mannheim Municipal Art Museum, Germany
 - 1972 *The 7th Japan Art Festival* (traveling exhibition), Tokyo Central Museum,
The National University of Mexico Art Museum, Mexico City
 - 1971 *The 10th Contemporary Art Exhibition of Japan*, Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum,
Tokyo, Japan

Public Collections

Museo de Arte Moderno, Mexico City, Mexico
Rijksmuseum Kröller Müller, Otterlo, The Netherlands
University of California Santa Barbara Art Museum, CA
International Paper Company, NY
The Honolulu Museum of Art, HI
Hawaii State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, Honolulu, HI
Art Museum of South Texas, Corpus Christi, TX
California State University, Los Angeles, CA
The Museum of Modern Art, Toyama, Japan
21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, Toyama City, Japan
The Museum of Glass, Tacoma, WA
The Albuquerque Museum, NM

Grants and Awards

2011 Kanazawa Artistic and Cultural Activities Award, Japan
2003 "Jurors' Choice," New Glass Review 24, The Corning Museum of Glass, NY
2002 The 1st Contemporary Glass Triennial Award, Toyama, Japan
1975 The Minister of Education and Culture Award, the 10th Japan Art Festival, Tokyo
1975 The 11th Contemporary Art Exhibition of Japan Award, Tokyo

Residencies and Teaching

2013 Sessional co-instructor, Pilchuck Glass School, Stanwood, WA
2010 Artist-in-Residence, Pilchuck Glass School, Stanwood, WA
2004 Artist-in-Residence, Museum of Glass, Tacoma, WA
Artist-in-Residence, Pilchuck Glass School, Stanwood, WA
1983 Artist-in-Residence, Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands