



Keita Matsunaga

Accumulation Flow

January 20 - March 9, 2024

720 N Highland Avenue Los Angeles CA 90038

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Nonaka-Hill is pleased to present, *Accumulation Flow*, Keita Matsunaga's second solo exhibition in Los Angeles. The exhibition opens January 20th and will be on view through March 9, 2024. An opening reception will be held for the artist on Saturday, January 20, from 5-8 pm.

Keita Matsunaga has long been fascinated by renewal, remixing, and reuse which traces to his training in architecture. His ceramics, like human-made structures, are made from his analyzation of its region's raw materials. Both must be rooted in and sit atop a ground that is physically and symbolically understood. This gives Matsunaga a heightened sensitivity to his materials, his methods of layering predict the extent to which the ceramic's distortion and cracking will guide his plans. The work depends on accumulations, dense strata that reaches into the past and decides the future on which his objects emerge and rest.

Matsunaga realizes his new series of ceramics both by hand and from a unique casting process; the casts are hollowed out by Matsunaga's hand and kiln fired, altering and vitrifying them into their final forms. All his objects, regardless of their incarnations, are the direct results of sedimentation: its raw materials are excavated through layers of sediment in his local region and its geological behaviors are organically reconstructed in the studio. By pouring layers of liquified clay into his molds, he allows pebbles and sand to settle as water runs through capillaries in the drying matrix, leading to cracks, fissures, and striations. The latter of which is analogous to tree rings, pond ripples, or the wrinkling of human skin, compounding a century, a moment, or lifetime into one object.

Coated in urushi, a natural tree lacquer, Matsunaga's earthen-colored works (many of which are titled *Monuke*, translating to "empty shell") make overt references to the textures and traces of natural processes. Other works layered with multi-colored lacquers offer an alternate surface, like that of seashells and tea bowls, some of whose rims approximate the upsurge of boiling water in a tea *kettle* (they are titled *MyakuMyaku*, which translates to "pulse-pulse"). And there are works entitled Miki, (loosely translated as "trunk,") one of which resembles a slice of a weathered tree with a void in the middle; other traditional swollen vessels are conflated with "tree-ness" by virtue of their title. But it is ironically the *Puddle* works that most resemble slices of trees, thus conflating its rings of time with ripples in water. Matsunaga also punctuates his exhibition with objects with no obvious referent but implying the organic or explicitly human- made or both—a book, cocoon, or fruit slice. Suffusing his works with the effects of natural phenomena, Matsunaga's working methods can be perceived as meditative, instinctive, emotional, yet radically conceptual in practice.

Born in Tajimi, Japan (an area well known for ceramics), in 1986, Keita Matsunaga currently lives and works in both Tajimi and Kani in Gifu prefecture. The son of ceramists, his artistic training includes studying architecture at Meijo University, (2010), completing the Tajimi City Ceramics Design Laboratory (2013), and graduation from the Kanazawa Utsatsuyama Crafts Workshop (2016). Matsunaga has shown extensively across Japan in both a gallery setting and museums and has won several awards including the Takaoka Contemporary Craft Competition (2013). His work was most recently included in *Contemporary Pottery: inside ⇌ outside*, at the Aichi Prefectural Ceramic Museum, Seto, Japan (2022) and Rakusui-tei Art Museum, Toyama, Japan (2022).

Keita Matsunaga

Biography

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The son of ceramists, his artistic training includes studying architecture at Meijo University, (2010), completing the Tajimi City Ceramics Design Laboratory (2013), and graduation from the Kanazawa Utsatsuyama Crafts Workshop (2016). Matsunaga has shown extensively across Japan in both a gallery setting and in biennales, and has won several awards including the Takaoka Contemporary Craft Competition (2013).

Matsunaga's ceramic sculptures are a contemporary take on organic forms, inspired by shapes and textures found in nature. Even at a young age, his comprehension of glaze is apparent, seen in the fearless color schemes found on each work. Changing method with each body of work, his evolving artistic practice is indicative of his education – an impressive dedication to keep learning. Matsunaga's work has its roots in Japanese ceramic tradition but finished with unexpected detail and technique, resulting in a look that is decisively his own.

- 1986 Born in Tajimi, Gifu
- 2010 Graduated from Meijo University, Architecture Course
- 2013 Graduated from Tajimi City Pottery Design And Technical Center
- 2016 Graduated from Kanazawa Utatsuyama Kogei Kobo
- 2019 Artist-in-residence at the Shigaraki Ceramic Cultural Park
Artist-in-Residence at California State University, Long Beach

Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2024 *Keita Matsunaga: Accumulation Flow*, Nonaka-Hill, Los Angeles
- 2022 KEITA MATSUNAGA ,Sibuya Kurodatoen,Tokyo,Japan
- 2021 *Primitive* ,Nihonbashi Mitsukoshi,Tokyo,Japan
Temporary garden,issho,Ishikawa,Japan
KEITA MATSUNAGA ,Sibuya Kurodatoen,Tokyo,Japan
Monitor ,Toukyo,Tokyo,Japan
- 2020 *Desert Anthill / Zebra*,Utsuwa Note, Saitama, Japan
KEITA MATSUNAGA ,Sibuya Kurodatoen,Tokyo,Japan
- 2019 KEITA MATSUNAGA, Nonaka-Hill, Los Angeles
- 2018 *Monuke*, Utsuwa Note, Saitama, Japan
sukuu, Koubou Ikuko, Okayama, Japan
fireworks, Gallery Suki, Aichi, Japan
KEITA MATSUNAGA, Nihonbashi Mitsukoshi, Tokyo, Japan

Keita Matsunaga

- Selected Solo Exhibitions
- 2017 *Horizon*, atelier & gallery CREAVA, Ishikawa, Japan
KEITA MATSUNAGA, Meguro tougeikan, Mie, Japan
 - 2016 *Mars Gravity Gallery*, Utsuwa Note, Saitama, Japan
KEITA MATSUNAGA, ishoken gallery, Gifu, Japan
KEITA MATSUNAGA, Gallery Tousei, Osaka, Japan
void of space, pragmata, Tokyo, Japan
KEITA MATSUNAGA, Gallery kamokamo, Hokkaido, Japan
 - 2015 *Abode of Beginning*, Space Ohara, Gifu, Japan
- Selected Group Exhibitions
- 2023 *100 Hooks*, Blunk Space, Point Reyes Station, California, USA
 - 2022 Rakusui-tei museum, Toyama, Toyama, Japan
not titled (not "Untitled"), Nonaka-Hill, Los Angeles
Contemporary Pottery "inside↔outside", Aichi Prefectural Ceramic Museum, Seto
 - 2021 *SIZED*, Los Angeles, USA
ceramic art xarchitecture, Space Ohara, Gifu, Japan
Sea Change, ratio3, San Francisco, USA
Secondary natur, atelier & gallery creava/, Ishikawa, Japan
 - 2020 *Yoko Tanaka/Keita Katsunaga*, Atelie Hiro, Osaka, Japan
Eiji Uematsu/Tomonari Hashimoto/Keita Katsunaga, t.gallery, Tokyo, Japan
 - 2019 *±8 — A Group Exhibition of Contemporary Ceramics*, SHOP Taka Ishii Gallery, Hong Kong, China
Paramita Ceramic Art Exhibition, Paramita Museum, Mie, Japan
 - 2017 *Art Fair Tokyo*, Tokyo, Japan
 - 2016 *Art Fair Tokyo*, Tokyo, Japan
BISAI JUNREI, Sun Motoyama Ginza, Tokyo, Japan
Thickness of 100 tons, Shiinoki Cultural Complex, Ishikawa Prefecture, Kanazawa, Japan
 - 2015 *Kiwami*, Sin Sin Fine Art, Hong Kong, China
Le Mino-yaki, cinq siècles de fascination, Espace L'Une, Paris, France
Art Fair Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan
23rd Japan Ceramic Art Exhibition, Tokyo, Japan
 - 2014 *agnès loves japon / Isetan Shinjuku*, agnès b Aoyama, Tokyo, Japan
KOBE ART MARCHE, Hyogo, Japan
SelectionsVI, gallery suki, Aichi, Japan
Thickness of 100 tons, Shiinoki Cultural Complex, Ishikawa Prefecture, Kanazawa, Japan
Ceramics of current - form is made from the clay-Part XIII, gallery VOICE, Gifu, Japan
NEW CERAMISTS FROM MINO, gleen natural store tokyo, Tokyo, Japan

Keita Matsunaga

Awards

- 2017 Selected for the 11th International Ceramic Exhibition Mino, Gifu, Japan.
- 2016 Honorable Mention, the 24th Tableware Festival, Tokyo, Japan.
Encouragement Award, the 72nd Kanazawa Kogei Exhibition, Kanazawa, Japan.
- 2015 Selected for the 6th Kikuchi Biennial, Tokyo, Japan.
Selected for the 23rd Japan Ceramic Exhibition.
- 2014 Selected for the 10th International Ceramic Festival Mino, Gifu, Japan.
Judge Award, the 22nd Tableware Festival, Tokyo, Japan.
Encouragement Award, International Itami Craft Exhibition, Hyogo, Japan.
Encouragement Award, by the Mayor of Kanazawa, the 70th Kanazawa Kogei Exhibition, Kanazawa, Japan.
- 2013 Grand Prize, Takaoka Contemporary Craft Competition, Toyama, Japan
EMERGING DIRECTORS'ARTFAIR ULTRA006, Spiral, Tokyo, Japan
International Ceramics Festival Mino, Gifu, Japan

Museum and Public collection

The Museum of Ceramic Art, Hyogo, Japan
Chloé SAS, France
MIC Museo Internazionale della Ceramica in Faenza, Faenza, Italy
Toshin Mino Ceramic Art Museum, Gifu, Japa