

MAI 36 GALERIE

KENTARO KAWABATA

Born 1976 in Saitama, Japan.
Lives and works in Gifu, Japan.

His objects are a result of extensive experimentation and knowledge within and around the medium of ceramics. Uncanny biomorphic forms are born through a delicate balance of intricate hand modeling and volatile alchemical processes. From submerging silvers in sulphuric water to firing embedded glass in porcelain, Kawabata has spawned a deeply distinctive visual and material vocabulary grounded in archaic and quotidian antecedents. The artworks flourish a vibrant organic vitality, evoking nature's own regenerative processes and endless recompositions of matter. Kawabata's artworks not only represent a celebration of the medium but also serve as a testament to the endless possibilities that unfold when an artist navigates the intersection of skill, innovation, and a profound connection to the intrinsic dynamism of the natural world.

AWARDS

- 2007 Grand Prize, Paramita Museum Ceramic Exhibition, Japan
- 2004 Kamoda Shoji Award, Mashiko Ceramic Exhibition, Japan
- 2002 Judges Award, Mashiko Ceramic Exhibition, Japan
- 2001 Grand Prize, Oribe-no-kokoro, Japan

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2026 By Heart, Mai 36 Galerie, Zurich, Switzerland
- 2023 Butterfly Joint, Mendes Wood DM, Sao Paulo, Brazil
- 2022 Yours Truly, High Art, Paris, France
- 2021 凸凹 Bumpy, Nonaka-Hill, Los Angeles
Sokyo Gallery, Kyoto
- 2020 "isyoken gallery vol.10: Kentaro Kawabata", Gifu
- 2019 Nihonbashi Takashimaya, Tokyo
Gallery Utsuwakan, Kyoto
- 2018 Nonaka-Hill, Los Angeles
Inside out, Silver Shell, Tokyo, Japan
- 2017 Hello from the Hollows2, Sokyo, Kyoto, Japan
Gallery Kurimoto, Nigata, Japan
Gallery Utsuwakan, Kyoto (2015, 2010, 2008)

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- Touka, Miyazaki, Japan (2015, 2013)
- 2016 SAVOIR VIVRE, Tokyo (2015, 2012, 2009, 2007, 2005, 2004, 2003)
Ouka Shorin, Nagano, Japan
Art Biotop, Tochigi, Japan
- 2015 Organ, 8/ ART GALLERY/ Tomio Koyama Gallery, Tokyo
Organ, Nihonbashi Takashimaya Gallery X, Tokyo
- 2014 SILVER SHELL, Tokyo
Gallery Suki, Gifu, Japan (2005)
Bougatei, Nagano, Japan (2012, 2010, 2008, 2006)
MIZEN Fine Art, Paris
Gallery Moegi, Tochigi, Japan (2010)
- 2013 Matsuzakaya, Nagoya, Japan
Sinsaibai Daimaru Tousei, Osaka (2010, 2008)
Kuroda Touen, Tokyo (2011, 2009, 2006, 2004)
Kawatake Touki, Saga, Japan
- 2012 Ouka Syorin, Nagano, Japan (2008)
Keiko Gallery, Boston (2009)
Gallery SOU, Hokkaido, Japan Nihonbashi Takashimaya, Tokyo
Gion Konishi, kyoto (2009)
- 2011 Akamanma, Gunma, Japan (2007)
K-HOUSE, Tokyo
Rakusuitei, Toyama, Japan
Gallery Ikuko, Okayama, Japan
- 2010 Tourin Syunyou, Gifu, Japan (2006, 2002)
Ginza Mitsukoshi, Tokyo
Gallery Hashimoto, Tokyo
Meguro Tougeikan, Mie, Japan (2006)
- 2008 Karakoram, Fukuoka, Japan
- 2007 Gallery Kouketsu, Gifu, Japan (2005, 2003)
White Gallery, Kagoshima, Japan (2005, 2003)
Tsuchi-no-hana, Tokyo
- 2003 Galleria Ceramica, Tokyo

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SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 The Japan Ceramic Society Prize 2024 – Kawabata Kentaro, Nakazato Takashi, and Hayashi Yasuo, Kochukyo, Tokyo
Chimeras, Sawako Goda / Kentaro Kawabata, Nonaka-Hill, Kyoto Musee-Tomo, Spektrum Spektrum, GINZA MAISON HERMÈS, Tokyo
- 2024 Thresholds, The Woldford House, Los Angeles, CA Kyoto
Chimeras, Sawako Goda / Kentaro Kawabata, Nonaka-Hill, Kyoto Musee-Tomo, an arena, Barbati Gallery, Venice Italy
- 2022 Romantic Progress, Museum of Moden Ceramic Art Gifu, Tajimi
Le Biscuit à Soupe, High Art, Arles, France
Push + Pull, Mai 36, Zurich, Switzerland
- 2021 Lucy Bull, Kentaro Kawabata, High Art (Paris), Art Basel Miami Beach, Miami
Sized, Los Angeles
See Change, Ratio 3, San Francisco
- 2017 Gyeonggi International Ceramic Biennale (GICB), Icheon, Korea
- 2016 PUNK, Rakusuitei Museum of Art, Toyama, Japan
Even if contemporary art ended, Sokyō Gallery, Kyoto
CONTEMPORARY JAPANESE CRAFTS The Kikuchi Kanjitsu Prize II,
Musee-Tomo, Tokyo
- 2015 8/ ART GALLERY/ Tomio Koyama Gallery, Tokyo
- 2014 Phenomenon of Contemporary Ceramics, Ibaraki Ceramic Art Museum, Japan
TAKASHIMAYA MUSEUM of ILLUSION, Takashimaya, Tokyo; Kyoto;
Nagoya; Osaka
Berlin-Koigswinter and Tenri Kultur Werkstatt, Cologne
Dialogue with Materials: Contemporary Japanese Arts and Crafts, Ahmed Adnen
Saygun Sanat Merkezi, Izmir, Turkey
- 2013 La ceramique japonaise, Paris
Traditional and Contemporary, Historical Museum, Pavlikeni, Bulgaria
Two Billion Light-Years of Solitude, Art Gummi Kanazawa, Ishikawa, Japan
- 2012 Ceramics Now Exhibition, 3rd edition, Galatea Gallery, Bucharest, Romania
- 2010 Sculptures Objects Functional Art + Design Fair, Chicago (2007)
Secret Relationship between Ceramics and Colors, Museum of Modern Ceramic
Art, Gifu, Japan
- 2009 The Power of Decoration a Viewpoint on Contemporary Kôgei, Crafts Gallery
National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo
The Gyeonggi World Ceramic Biennale, Korea

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- 2008 Contemporary Ceramic in Tokai Area for the young artists, Aichi Prefectural Ceramic Museum, Japan
Izushi Porcelain Competition (2004, 2002)
- 2005 Hanayagi-no-katachi, Nihonbashi Takashimaya, Tokyo
Mino International Ceramic Competition, Gifu, Japan (2002)
- 2004 Asahi Ceramic Art Exhibition (2003, 2002)
MINO CERAMICS NOW, Museum of Modern Ceramic Art, Gifu, Japan
- 2003 Carouge International Ceramic Exhibition, Switzerland