

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 12, 2019 – January 17, 2020 | Opening Reception: December 12, 5-8pm

Scenes of Lightness

Works by Yukiya Izumita



NEW YORK, NY – After his highly successful exhibition, *Surface Folds*, in 2017, Ippodo Gallery is pleased to once again present *Scenes of Lightness* works from Yukiya Izumita's *Sekisoh* and *Fold* series.

"I transform my chaotic inner thoughts to scenery using grains of soil, place them as if they were a piece of paper, and let it change in the hands of nature. It captures every moment and experience that has passed me by.

These are the scenes of lightness, that make my heart feel a little less heavy with a tiny wind blowing inside me."
- Yukiya Izumita

In this show, Izumita continues his exploration of complex forms, where

Sekisoh Layers, 2019, 17 1/2 x 30 x 6 2/3 in (44 x 74 x 17cm.)

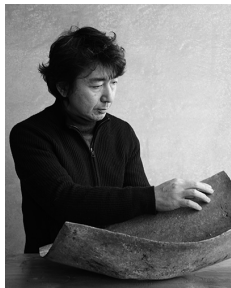
contradictions coexist. His pieces are born through the balance and tension between natural elements such as earth, air, fire, and water— pushing the boundaries of clay form. Tense, sharp, yet elegant and flowing, Izumita's forms transcend into the world of origami.

Rippled, folded, waved, and knotted, Yukiya Izumita's forms demonstrate a mastery of material. Residing in the Tohoku region facing the Pacific Ocean, Izumita's native landscape lies amidst deserted coastlines, cracked driftwood, strong winds, and rough seas. Izumita's artistic process parallels that of life. As he digs the clay from the earth, he considers the variety of rich colors and textures that an unrefined clay body has to offer and he juxtaposes the rough and dense earth with delicate, thin folds. Through the process he is conscious of the weight of the earth. As he carries the clay on his shoulders, he feels the impact of this weight on his entire body. The stress of the heavy clay inspires him to imagine a lightness as he desires to make the weight lighter, a conceptual mantra that he carries into his artistic practice.

Inspired by the possibilities of paper, Izumita creates the model of his works through folding paper freely. He lets the material speak for itself and through each twist and turn, he translates clay into beautifully balanced ceramic objects that seem to challenge the limits of gravity. Through practice, Izumita has learned the transient fragility of existence and developed a love for nature's gradual decay. As style, changes with time, Izumita makes work that convey a sense of timelessness.

"The world is a large ceramic art piece, I wonder If I can leave my mark here" – Yukiya Izumita

These pieces carry a quality of weightlessness and ethereal flow, however, they also conjure a feeling of monumentality, like that of ancient landmarks conveying the profound passing of time. Picking up Izumita's tea bowl, one can experience both a sense of lightness and weighted warmth. As layered waves push through solid form, Izumita's pieces breathe, like gentle wind blowing through a dense forest, his pieces remind us to appreciate the small moments of nature.



Yukiya Izumita trained in Kokuji-ware under Gakuho Shimodake in 1992, opening his own workshop in Noda Village, Iwate Prefecture, on the border with the northern ceramic production area of Aomori Prefecture in 1995. Izumita has had a lengthy career, with extensive acclaim in Japan. His international acclaim began when he participated in SOFA New York in 2005, then exhibited in New Mexico and at Ippodo in 2012 and 2017. In Japan, Izumita has been the recipient of numerous accolades, such as the Excellence Award at the 20th Biennial Japan Ceramic Art Exhibition in 2009, as well as the Grand Prix at the Asahi Ceramic Exhibitions of 2000 and 2002. His works are in the public collections of the Yale University Art Gallery, Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Iwate Museum of Art, and Tokonomae City Board of Education.

Ippodo Gallery has remained devoted to the appreciation of Japanese culture and tradition through exquisitely crafted, high quality artwork since 1996. The New York gallery space opened in 2008 and continues to bring meaningful Japanese art, experience, and hospitality towards a Western audience.

For more information and images, please contact:

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