

SEITARO YAMAZAKI

1982- / TOKYO

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Seitaro Yamazaki is a contemporary artist and designer living and working in Tokyo.

Earning BA in Sociology from Rikkyo University in 2006 and a successful career as designer in the fields of graphic design, product design, spatial design, he earned MFA in Architecture from Kyoto University of Arts in 2016.

Since then, he has been creating contemporary art works in the fields of sculpture, installation, video, painting, and media art (e.g. typeface set as art). His works were exhibited in London, NY, Venice, Washington DC, Nagasaki, Tokyo, Berlin, Roseville, London, Amsterdam, etc. He also commissioned artworks by companies such as Mitsubishi Estate in 2022, West Japan Railway Company in 2024, and he oversaw the design of the award ceremony for the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games as director in 2019-21. He is also the director of the Marginal Art Fair Fukushima Hirono, which was held in the area affected by the nuclear disaster in Fukushima.

He has been trying to find and show the beauty of ambiguity, transience, and the things that were never depicted, spoken, or formed in his works. Recently he focused on sonographs as sources of his art.

He also studied ink wash painting under Tsuchiya Shukou, along the lines of 18th Century Japanese painter Maruyama Okyo, and Ikebana of Obara school under Toru Watarai.

EDUCATION

2006- BA in Sociology, Rikkyo University.

2016- MFA in Art, Kyoto University of the Arts.

SOLO EXHIBITION

2025- (title TBD) / Shanghai K11 Art Center, Shanghai (Upcoming)

2024- Contour of Yohaku / Hosek Contemporary, Berlin

Art that Crosses Borders, Design that Traverses. / Aoyama Spiral Garden, Tokyo

2023- Time Spilled Over / Blue Line Arts, Roseville CA.

The Womb of the City / Parkhabio Shibuya, Tokyo

2021- "MUSIC FOR THE MARGINS" #01 STEVE REICH "COUNTERPOINT" / KIWA, Tokyo

2019- Unit for Y-axis / J-COLLABO, NewYork

TAYUTAI / Naha Airport, Naha

2018- In Praise of Shadows / MONO JAPAN 2018, Amsterdam

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2025- NordArt 2025 / Vorwerksallee, Büdelsdorf, Germany (Upcoming)

Urban Break 2025 / Coex Center, Seoul, South Korea (Upcoming)

Art is / Czong Institute for Contemporary Art, Gimpo, South Korea (Upcoming)

Marginal Art Fair Fukushima Hirono / Futatsunuma General Park, Hirono

2024- Rotten Donuts at 100+ Fair Shenzhen / Longgang District, Shenzhen

Czym wypełnić puste pomniki? / Kolorowa Culture Center, Warsaw

FORM + SPACE / The Museum of Art DeLand, DeLand, FL

Jukebox of Dissonance / G-Gallery, New York, NY

Art Shodo MDP Selection Vol. 1 / MDP Gallery Nakameguro, Tokyo

2023- Small Works / Five Points Arts, Torrington, CT

BODYSACES: Canvas International Aat Fair 2023 / THE LINE Contemporary Art Space, London

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2023- Secret Spaces: Borders Art Fair / Palazzo Albrizzi-Capello, Venice
28th Arts North International / Hopkins Center for the Arts, Hopkins, MN
Sequence: Art + Technology / Touchstone Gallery, Washington, DC
- 2022- Memory and Identity / Cista Arts, London
At a Crossroads: All Art+ / Van Der Plas Gallery, New York
2:3 Virtual Exhibition / WetDovetail, Middlesbrough
- 2021- ARTPRIZE / Muse GR, Grand Rapids, USA
YICCA 2021 Final exhibition / Hernandez art gallery, Milan
- 2020- RESONANCE / Camden Image Gallery, London
- 2019- The koto Sea, Tales of the Pearl Sea / Nagasaki Holland Village, Nagasaki
- 2018- UNSAMBLE CAST / J-COLLABO, NewYork

COLLECTIONS

- 2024- Specimens of the spilled over, 8 million traces / LEAP CO., LTD.
- 2023- Fossils from the future "Nike AIR JORDAN" / REFRAME ,inc.
Fossils from the future "Starbucks Coffee" / Ambient Works ,inc.
- 2019- Once in the beauty / Tatcha LLC (Unilever plc)

COMMISSIONED WORKS

- 2024- We all Wesmo! / West Japan Railway Company
Specimens of the spilled over (Osaka, Kyoto, Sannomiya, Wakayama, Hakata, Tsuruga, Hiroshima, Okayama, Yonago, Kanazawa) / West Japan Railway Company
- 2023- The Womb of the City / Mitsubishi Estate CO., LTD.
- 2019- TAYUTAI / Naha Airport Building CO.,LTD. , General Incorporated Association Ryukyu Bingata Preservation and Expansion Consortium
Nameless Portrait / General Incorporated Association Art Culture Matrix

CURATORIAL WORKS

- 2025- Director / Marginal Art Fair Fukushima Hirono / Futatsunuma General Park, Hirono

AWARDS

- 2021- Professional / CREATE (Art) Finalist / London International Creative Competition
YICCA 2021 WINNING ARTIST (2nd place) / YICCA, Italy
YICCA SELECTED 18 ARTISTS / YICCA, Italy
PREMIO COMBAT PRIZE 2021 RECOMMENDED ARTIST
- 2020- The winner of 14th Arte Laguna Prize for an artistic residency/ Espronceda,Barcelona, Spain
- 2018- Annual Group Exhibition And Showcase 2018 Winner / J-COLLABO, NewYork

PUBLICATIONS

- Seitaro Yamazaki, "IN PRAISE OF SHADOWS", Keyaki Publishing, 2017
- Seitaro Yamazaki, "Yohaku Shiko (Think with marginal spaces): How I use marginal spaces in thinking to surpass "logical" as an artist and a designer", Nikkei BP, 2024
- Seitaro Yamazaki, "Art that Crosses Borders, Design that Traverses.", Keyaki Publishing, 2024

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2025- SAND Literature and Art, Issue 28, SAND, (upcoming)
- 2024- Aedra Fine Arts, "Seitaro Yamazaki" , Aedra Fine Arts
TIMES VII "Shelter", 87 Gallery, November 2024
- 2022- "Spotlight:Japanese Conceptual Artist Seitaro Yamazaki Transforms the Objects of Our Time Into Eerie Fossils" , Art-net, August 2022
Adonay Bermúdez, "Artists to Watch '22" , Artconnect, May 2022
- 2020- The Art Insider

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2020- +81 VOL.86 CREATOR WORKING STYLE ISSUE
DESIGN NOTE
- 2019- Art Business Journal
Aesthetica the art & culture magazine
billboard

ARTIST STATEMENT

I explore the beauty of ambiguity, transience, and the things that were never depicted, spoken, or formed.

Born and raised in Japan and worked as a designer and artist, I have been strongly influenced by Swiss Style typography, American minimalism, Ambient Music, and Monochrome photographs of 70s and 80s. And as a Japanese, I am also deeply interested in and affected by Japan's traditional views on nature and aesthetics, and studying ink wash painting, ikebana (Japanese traditional flower arrangement), and Kodo (Japanese incense ceremony) for years. All of them are characterized by extremely restrained, simplified and minimalistic composition that makes use of blank spaces.

I love simpleness, ambiguity, and blank spaces.

Since the Middle Ages, the sense of ambiguity, transience, and the quality of being like an illusion or uncertain has been called "幽玄: yugen" and has been highly valued as a form of beauty in Japan.

I have been incorporated this sense of Japanese aesthetics into my minimalist art. In painting, sculpture, installation, and photography, I am trying to capture the fleeting beauty that exists at the boundaries between the world that industrial civilization has torn apart, or beauty of the things that lurk and hide on the border between people's conscious and unconscious minds.