

## KENJI URANISHI

*Japanese born ceramic artist Kenji Uranishi works predominantly with porcelain, after an early career of using stoneware clays. Kenji employs both slip casting and the slab technique to create installation and domestic objects with a distinctly modern edge, always paying homage to Japanese artistry of the past. Kenji's work builds upon Edo period ceramics with its milky and translucent surfaces to create organic, domestic and architectural forms. Much like this period of Japanese art history Kenji takes inspiration from his origins but accents his pieces with foreign ideas and aesthetics. As the artist explains "Japanese life, social interactions, housing and even food are influenced by a long and rich history...Australia's connection with Japan is very recent...this provides an environment for more objective study of my own country and culture, as well as an element of freedom from historical and cultural constraints. I'm also interested in how these experiences will encourage some self discovery and provide me with a new perspective on my relationship with Japanese culture."*

*Kenji Uranishi was born in Nara, Japan. After completing a Degree in Fine Art (ceramics) at the Nara College of Fine Arts in Japan, Kenji operated his own home studio, 'Kenkoubou', for six years before moving to Brisbane in 2004. Since moving to Australia, he has exhibited regularly, both here and in Japan and has been a prize winner three times at the National Asahi Ceramic Art Competition in Japan. His work is represented in the National Gallery of Australia, the Gold Coast City Art Gallery, Bundall, Qld and the Newcastle Regional Gallery, NSW.*

### BIOGRAPHY

- 1973 Born Nara, Japan
- 1992-6 Degree in Fine Art (Ceramics), Nara College of Fine Arts, Japan
- 1996-2004 Operated home studio 'Kenkoubou', Nara, Japan
- 2004 Moved to Brisbane
- 2005 Artist in Residence, Gateway Institute of TAFE, Brisbane  
Artist in Residence, Southbank Institute of TAFE, Brisbane
- 2006 Artist in Residence, Queensland Sculptors Society, Brisbane  
Artist in Residence, Fusions, Brisbane  
Artist in Residence, Australian National University, Canberra
- 2008 Artist in Residence, Queensland Gallery of Modern Art, Kids' Workshop Program, Brisbane
- 2011 Artist in Residence, Queensland Gallery of Modern Art, Member's Workshop, Brisbane
- 2014 Artists in Residence, Happy Lucky Site, Arita, Saga Prefecture, Japan
- 2015 Artist in Residence, Jam Factory, Adelaide  
Guest demonstrator, "Stepping up", National Ceramics triennial, Canberra

### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2018 "So far, yet so near", Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane
- 2016 "Momentary", Museum of Brisbane, Qld
- 2014 "Kenji Uranishi: UwaeKirieTensha", Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane
- 2013 "Kenji Uranishi: Sanctuary", Gold Coast City Art Gallery, Qld
- 2012 "Sanctuary", Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane
- 2009 "Encircle", Helen Stephens Gallery, Sydney
- 2008 "Kenji Uranishi", Spiral Market, Aoyama, Tokyo, Japan
- 2006 "Unit", Cooloola Regional Gallery, Gympie, Qld
- 2005 "Float", Fox Gallery, Brisbane

### SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 "Built: contemporary ceramics", Beaver Galleries, Canberra  
"Clay Dynasty", Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, Sydney
- 2020 "Tempo", Skepsi Gallery
- 2019 "Sodeisha: Connected to Australia", Newcastle Art Gallery
- 2018 "A point of difference", with Kelly Austin and Dai Li, Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2017 "New porcelain", with Keiko Matsui and Prue Venables, Beaver Galleries, Canberra  
"Look at me looking at you", University of Queensland National Self-Portrait Prize, Brisbane
- 2016 "Small works", Beaver Galleries, Canberra  
"Clay intersections", Australian Design Centre, Sydney  
"Beyond the Surface", Cairns Regional Gallery, Qld
- 2015 "CHOICE", Beaver Galleries, Canberra

- 2012 "Contemporary Clay", Olsen Irwin, Sydney  
"Interplay – Aesthetic charm, material challenge", Malvern Artists' Society Gallery, Victoria  
"Small works", Beaver Galleries, Canberra  
"Domestic re-newel: a table re-set", Craft ACT, Canberra  
"Crossed Paths", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2011 "Enlightenment", Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane
- 2010 "Teawares", Jam Factory, Adelaide
- 2009 "Spectral Bequest", Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane  
"Little Uns", Pomme Gallery, Mornington, Vic  
"Pourers Show", Object Gallery, Sydney  
"White Heat", Manly Art Gallery, NSW
- 2008 "Cup Show", FormargruppenButikochGalleri, Malmo, Sweden  
"Collect 2008", Victoria and Albert Museum, London, England
- 2007 "Ceramics and Glass 2007", Marks and Gardner Gallery, North Tamborine, Qld  
"Make Art Not War", gallery onetwentyeight, New York, USA  
"The Jug Show", Helen Stephens Gallery, Sydney
- 2006 "25th Gold Coast International Ceramic Art Award, Gold Coast City Art Gallery, Qld  
"Tea Bowls", Sabbia Gallery, Sydney  
"Forefront", Metro Arts, Brisbane
- 2005 "Tea Party", Craft Queensland, Brisbane  
"43rd National Asahi Ceramic Art Competition", Mareui, Aichi, Japan
- 2004 "Here and There", Fusions Gallery, Brisbane  
"42nd National Asahi Ceramic Art Competition", Mareui, Aichi, Japan  
"National Asahi Modern Craft Competition", Hankyu, Osaka, Japan  
"Shintouchou", Kyoto Municipal Art Gallery, Kyoto, Japan
- 2003 "Korea and Japan Cultural Exchange Exhibition", Art Space, Osaka Japan  
"41st National Asahi Ceramic Art Competition", Maruei, Japan
- 2002 "Shintouchou", Kyoto Municipal Art Gallery, Kyoto, Japan  
"40th National Asahi Ceramic Art Competition", Maruei, Aichi, Japan
- 2001 "Shintouchou", Kyoto Municipal Art Gallery, Kyoto, Japan  
"39th National Asahi Ceramic Art Competition", Maruei, Aichi, Japan
- 2000 "Shintouchou", Kyoto Municipal Art Gallery, Kyoto, Japan
- 1999 "National Ceramic Art Competition Shigakai", Shigaiki, Japan  
"37th National Asahi Ceramic Art Competition", Maruei, Aichi, Japan

**AWARDS / COMMISSIONS**

- 2014 AsiaLink Arts Residency to Arita, Japan
- 2009 Ipswich Courthouse, Watchhouse and Police Station, Qld
- 2005 Prize winner, top four, "43rd National Asahi Ceramic Art Exhibition"
- 2004 Special Selection exhibition, "42nd National Asahi Ceramic Art Exhibition"
- 2003 Prize winner, top ten, "41st National Asahi Ceramic Art Exhibition"
- 2002 Prize winner, top ten, "40th National Asahi Ceramic Art Exhibition"
- 2001 Special selection exhibition, "39th National Asahi Ceramic Art Exhibition"
- 1999 Special selection exhibition, "37th National Asahi Ceramic Art Exhibition"

**PUBLICATIONS**

- 2019 "Sodeisha : Connected to Australia", Newcastle Art Gallery, exhibition publication, Page 45
- 2016 *The Journal of Australian Ceramics*, July
- 2015 "Linkages and Cultural Diversity in International Ceramics", Kerry-Anne Cousins, *Canberra Times*, July 18
- 2012 "Cross-culture narrative", Kerry-Anne Cousins, *The Canberra Times*, 1 June 2012
- 2010 "Moving in and out", Louise Martin-Chew, *The Journal of Australian Ceramics*, November
- 2007 "25th Gold Coast International Ceramic Art Award", Gordon Foulds, *Ceramics Technical*, 1 January
- 2005 "Here and There There and Now: Contemporary ceramic work by Kenji Uranishi", Donna McColm, *The Journal of Australian Ceramics*, Issue 44, 3 November

## **beavergalleries**

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### **COLLECTIONS**

National Gallery of Australia, Canberra; Gold Coast City Art Gallery, Bundall, Qld; Bendigo Art Gallery, Vic; Newcastle Regional Gallery, NSW; Caboolture Regional Gallery, NSW; Department of Justice and Attorney General, Qld