

## KENJI URANISHI

Japanese-born, Australian-based artist Kenji Uranishi is inspired by fleeting moments in time, place and connection. After an early career of using stoneware clays, Kenji now works predominantly with porcelain, hand-building and slip-casting translucent white architecturally inspired forms, exploring those transient occurrences where the natural and built environments collide - "The fleeting moment when the sun's rays illuminate a pocket of the city, when the afternoon light falls gently on the bay, refracting and reflecting, or when speckled light and shadows intertwine in the forest". A meticulous attention to detail is evident in each step of Kenji's creative process from his carefully hand-carved moulds, to entirely hand-built pieces and his own delicate coloured glazes and home-made slips. The cylindrical shapes and forms in this exhibition begin with creating a hand-carved mould of a single circular sector of the form, a process he learnt from a master mould maker during a residency in Japan. Using this mould, Kenji is able to hand craft and form slip-cast pieces that he then joins together to create complex geometric shapes that explore repetition and pattern as an abstracted whole. His upbringing in Japan continues to inspire his practice. Drawing upon a rich history of Japanese ceramics, as well as contemporary architecture, Kenji creates works with a distinctly modern edge, always paying homage to Japanese artistry of the past. The result is a perfect and harmonious balance of form, light and shadow.

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, Gold Coast City Art Gallery; Newcastle Regional Gallery (NSW), Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences (Sydney), QUT Art Collection, (Qld) and Bendigo Art Gallery (Vic).

### BIOGRAPHY

- 1973 Born Nara, Japan
- 1992-96 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
- 2016 Tutor, McGregor Spring School, University of Southern Queensland, Toowoomba, Qld
- 2019 Keynote speaker, Australian Ceramic Triennale, Hobart
- 2022 Artist in Residence, Jam Factory, Adelaide

### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 "Landing", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 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  
Helen Stephens Gallery, Sydney
- 2005 "Float", Fox Gallery, Brisbane

### SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2022 "Voices", Skepsi Gallery, Melbourne  
"Pure form: Japanese sculptural ceramics", Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide  
"SIXTY: The Journal of Australian Ceramics 60th Anniversary 1962-2022", Australian Design Centre, Sydney

- 2021 "Built: contemporary ceramics", Beaver Galleries, Canberra  
"Clay Dynasty", Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, Sydney
- 2020 "Tempo", Skepsi Gallery, Melbourne
- 2019 "Sodeisha: Connected to Australia", Newcastle Art Gallery, NSW
- 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  
"Contemporary Clay", Olsen Irwin, Sydney  
"Interplay – Aesthetic charm, material challenge", Malvern Artists' Society Gallery, Vic
- 2012 "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**

- 2023 "Bringing a Japanese perspective to ceramics", Meredith Hinchliffe, City News, <https://citynews.com.au/2023/bringing-a-japanese-perspective-to-ceramics/>
- 2022 *Pure form: Japanese sculptural ceramics*, Russell Kelty, Art Gallery of South Australia
- 2021 "Nature and the modern world collide", Kerry-Anne Cousins, *Canberra Times*, 6 December
- 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*, 18 July
- 2012 "Cross-culture narrative", Kerry-Anne Cousins, *Canberra Times*, 1 June
- 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

**COLLECTIONS**

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