

Tomohisa Obana

Biography

Tomohisa Obana, born and raised in Kyoto, is a graduate of the Kyoto Saga Art Junior College. His love for things made in nature—such as soil, trees, forests, and cliffs—which began at an early age, led him to his decision to choose a life path that would allow him to ‘lead a life handling soil or wood.’

At that time, he learned from Darren Damonte, who was active in Shirakashi, Iga City, for about two years, and worked part-time at a clay shop before going independent. He moved from Shigaraki to Iga, where he has a home and a kiln.

He is a person who is dedicated to his pottery and sincere in his way of life.

At one point, he became so distressed about the meaning of his work, his relation with people and places, and the way things should be that he was not even able to touch clay.

His pieces emphasize ‘firing the clay,’ the origin of pottery, while communicating with the earth using his skill, knowledge, and senses.

His candidness and warmth are what make his work so attractive.

- 1983 Born in Kyoto
Live & works in Iga Japan
- 2005 Graduated from the Kyoto Saga University of Arts Junior College of Ceramics
- 2005 Study under Mr. Damonte at Iga, Mie Prefecture.
- 2007 Independent in Iga
- 2015 Kiln moved to Otowa, Iga City

Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2022 *To see the rainbow at night, I must make it myself.*, Nonaka-Hill, Los Angeles
- 2021 *chapter 1 -One To One-*, wad, Osaka
- 2020 *Good day*, wad, Osaka
- 2019 *What I thought about being small*, wad, Osaka
Tomohisa Obana Exhibition, art space iga, Mie
Firing the White Clay, Tou-Gansui, Kyoto
- 2017 *Walking trails*, Tou-Gansui, Kyoto
- 2015 Tomohisa Obana Exhibition, wad, Osaka
- 2014 Finland Exhibition, Gallery Tosei, Osaka
Tomohisa Obana Exhibition, wad Osaka
- 2012 *Clay and Containers*, wad Osaka, Japan
- 2010 *Clay, Stone and Flowers*, cafe wakaya Mie

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- Selected Group Exhibitions
- 2022 not titled (not "Untitled"), Nonaka-Hill, Los Angeles
 - 2021 *Sized*, Los Angeles
 - Busy Work at Home*, Nonaka-Hill, Los Angeles
 - Sea Change*, Ratio 3, San Francisco
 - 2020 *Etsuke: Keigo Kamide, Katachi: Tomohisa Obana*, Tou-Gansui, Kyoto
 - 2018 *Small Vessel RYO ISSEKI*, Tokyo Japan
 - 2016 *Tomohisa Obana and Metin.Erturk Exhibition*, wad Osaka
 - 2016 *Iga Three Artists Exhibition* at gallery Yu, Aichi
 - 2015 *Memories of a Journey part II (Turkey)* , gallery Amco, Tokyo
 - 2014 *Memories of a Journey (Finland)* , gallery Amco, Tokyo
 - 2014 *Ceramic and Camellia*, Isseido, Aichi
 - 2013 *Flexible Ceramic*, gallery wks, Osaka
 - 2013 *Tomohisa Obana and Tomoko Izaki Exhibition*, Kobuharu, Kyoto
- Symposium and Workshop
- 2012 Shigaraki ACT Shiga
 - 2014 The 4th ARCTICLY Finland
 - 2015 International culture art dialogue Turkey
 - V. international MACSABAL Turkey