Gallery 38 is delighted to present a gallery show of Eiji Uematsu's works from the 1990's to the present.

Uematsu's studio, in the Marubashira district, Iga Prefecture, is located in an airy, open space on the top a hill with the vast sky above. This area is surrounded by the fields and the mountain villages full of nature. At the foot of the mountains in a short walking distance, there is a pond which reflects the greenery and the blue sky on its water surface, and the air is filled with the singing of the birds. Footmarks of animals and insects found at the beginning of spring. In the sunny days, the veranda became filled with the warm light; at night, it becomes the best place to look at the stars covering the whole sky when lying down. In the raining days, Uematsu faces with clay hearing the sound of the rain on the tin roof of his studio.

Uematsu describes his creative activity as a work to face with clay that predates expression. It is thought to be an internal process to link his consciousness and unconsciousness that leads him to discover the source of creation; instead of seeking afar for unusual images and ideas, he carefully captures inconspicuous everyday scenes, and touches the clay with child-like innocent mind.
As if ancient people drew beautiful constellation by joining the stars in the sky, innumerable events perceived inside of Uematsu are linked, and ultimately incarnated into the works through the clay with various shapes and colours.

Uematsu's artworks, created by such process, are regarded "contemporary art" in ceramics world, and "ceramics" in contemporary art world. Those notions prove his originality that cannot be apprehended by the conventional framework. At the same time, it probably shows a clue to reach into a new creative territory for the artists under the situation where artistic expression tends to pursue rather superficial novelty and techniques in a closed category.

After Uematsu started actively presenting his works from the 1980s onwards, his works are shown at a number of both domestic and international museums and galleries, and received a high reputation: *'85 Hinuma Clay Landscape* where many contemporary artists and Mono-ha artists participated, *Clay - Image and Form 1981-1985*, in 1986, which showed contemporary ceramic artists, a recent solo shown at Kyoto City University of Arts Gallery @KCUA in 2016, and a group exhibition at The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo.

Our exhibition shows an insight of his creative careers with his works made after 1990, including previously exhibited works at Koumi-Machi Kougen Museum of Art in 2009.

From a small shape of soil to the large piece on the wall, all the works are imbued with Uematsu's gaze and excitements.

Profile

Eiji Uematsu

Born 1949 in Kobe, Hyogo Prefecrure, Japan, Uematsu began creating reliefs in 1972 to gain appreciation of different soil qualities before starting to fire earthenware ceramics in Tokyo. In 1975, he moved to Shigaraki, Shiga Prefecture, to start working at a pottery factory while continuing the independent production of his own works. In 1982, he moved to the Marubashira district of Iga, Mie Prefecture, where he built a kiln fueled by firewood together with kerosene. It expanded the scope of his practice along with pit-fired pottery (*noyaki*). In 1996, he was invited to produce his works at the Shigaraki Ceramic Cultural Park.
His works have been widely exhibited in a number of solo and group shows since the 1980s in both the museums and the galleries.

Exhibition

Gallery Show:
植松永次 / Eiji Uematsu

14th November (Tue.) - 22nd December (Fri.) 2017
Opening hours: 12:00 - 19:00
Closed on: Sundays, Mondays and National Holidays

Gallery 38
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