

SIDE GALLERY

MOMOKO TAKESHITA KEANE



Ceramic

From "Hozuki Series" - Wood-fired Ceramics
Manufactured by Momoko Takeshita Keane
Japan, 2025

Ceramics, Scartched surface and underglazing, reduction firing, wood kiln

Measurements

22 x 18 x 24h cm
8,7 x 7,1 x 9,5h in

Edition

Unique Piece

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Museums

New Taipei City Yingge Ceramics Museum, Taiwan
Cincinatti Art Museum, Cincinatti, OH, USA
Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, OH, USA

About

The Hozuki series by Momoko Takeshita Keane reflects her mastery of hand-building techniques and her dialogue with fire. Each sculptural vessel is shaped slowly and intuitively through coil-building and pinch-building, processes that allow the form to grow organically from the base upward. Once complete, the work is placed into a wood-fired kiln as greenware—without glaze or preliminary bisque firing—and subjected to an intense firing cycle lasting three to five days.

In this demanding process, flame and ash act as collaborators. The surface tones and subtle variations emerge not from applied pigment but from the natural deposit of ash and the shifting atmosphere inside the kiln. As the artist herself notes, "I design the form, and the kiln designs the color."

The resulting works carry an elemental duality: deliberate in their structure yet unpredictable in their surface, they embody a balance between human intention and natural chance. With their earthy textures and quiet presence, the Hozuki pieces reveal Keane's ability to transform clay into objects that are not only material but also poetic.

Biography

Momoko Takeshita Keane is a Kyoto-based ceramic artist whose work bridges Japanese kokei traditions with contemporary sculpture. Trained in Shigaraki and at the Kyoto City Ceramic Research Institute, she later deepened her practice in the U.S., where she embraced wood-firing and new influences. Today, she creates hand-built vessels in her Kyoto studio, characterized by fabric-like textures and fired in wood-fueled kilns. Her work balances heritage and experimentation, resulting in poetic, timeless forms that embody both tradition and innovation.