SIDE GALLERY

KODAI UJIIE



Nezumishino Jar Circle
Manufactured by Kodai Ujiie
Japan, 2026
Ceramic

Measurements
48 × 48 × 50h cm
18,9 × 18,9 × 19,7h in

Details
Unique Piece
Produced exclusively for Side Gallery

About

Rooted in traditional Japanese ceramics, **Kodai Ujiie**'s sculptures explore the shifting boundary between vessel and sculpture through a combination of controlled construction and improvisational techniques. Inspired by the unusual anatomy of amphibians and other biological forms, his works feature soft, bulbous shapes that evoke quiet, creature-like presences, both familiar and otherworldly. His restrained, almost ghostly palette and carefully worked surfaces suggest frozen landscapes, snow-covered terrains and ash-dusted minerals, creating an atmosphere of stillness and suspended time. Ujiie combines traditional Japanese pottery techniques with contemporary experimentation, notably adapting the kintsugi lacquer-mending process. His thick, unpredictable glazes introduce spontaneity and contrast with the deliberate construction of each form. Subtly referencing functional vessels and architectural fragments, his ceramics move between utility and abstraction, combining expressive surfaces with ambiguous, anthropomorphic forms that invite viewers to perceive them as animated, enigmatic presences.

Biography

Kodai Ujiie (b. 1990) is a contemporary Japanese ceramic artist known for his avant-garde and organic, hand-built vessels that incorporate kintsugi-inspired lacquer mending and explore themes of impermanence and resilience. After graduating from Tohoku University of Art and Design in 2013 and 2015, Ujiie began creating abstract and sculptural works that merge traditional Japanese forms with a distinctive blend of unusual celadon colors, unique shapes, and textures reminiscent of skin, scales, and bone. His work has been exhibited internationally at galleries and major art fairs, and his pieces are held in public collections including the Miyagi Prefectural Jun Sugimura Museum of Art.