SIDE GALLERY

KODAI UJIIE



Oribe Tea Bowl
Manufactured by Kodai Ujiie
Japan, 2026
Ceramic

Measurements
17,8 × 15,3 × 13h cm
7 × 6 × 5,1h in

Details
Unique Piece
Produced exclusively for Side Gallery

About
Rooted in traditional Japanese ceramics, **Kodai Ujiie**'s sculptures explore the evolving boundary between vessel and sculpture through a balance of controlled construction and improvisational techniques. Inspired by the anatomical strangeness of amphibians and other biological forms, his works feature soft, bulbous, creature-like shapes that evoke familiar yet otherworldly presences. His restrained, almost ghostly palette and carefully worked surfaces suggest frozen landscapes, ash-covered minerals and surreal environments, creating a sense of stillness and suspended time. Drawing on traditional Japanese pottery, Ujiie combines historical 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. Blurring the distinction between functional vessels and sculptural objects, his ceramics embrace ambiguity, expressive surfaces and anthropomorphic qualities, inviting viewers to engage with them as enigmatic, almost animated 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.