KOHEI UKAI



Connect VII
Manufactured by Kohei Ukai
Japan
Camphor wood, hemp, Urushi lacquer

Measurements
166 × 20 × 18h cm
65,4 × 7,9 × 7,1h in

Edition
Unique Piece

About

Kohei Ukai explores the relationship between natural materials and traditional Japanese craftsmanship, combining wood, hemp, and Urushi lacquer through processes of carving, layering, and surface treatment. In Connect VII, camphor wood, hemp, and lacquer form an elongated horizontal composition that emphasises continuity, balance, and spatial movement. The contrast between organic textures and refined surfaces reflects Ukai's investigation into material transformation, structural connection, and the dialogue between nature and contemporary sculptural expression.

Biography

Kohei Ukai (b. 1993, Aichi, Japan) is a contemporary Japanese artist specialising in wood and traditional Urushi lacquer. He graduated from Kanazawa College of Art in 2016 and completed his MFA in 2018, followed by a three-year residency at the Kanazawa Utatsuyama Craft Studio. His practice combines carving, layering, and polishing techniques to explore the relationship between the organic qualities of wood and the transformative properties of lacquer. Working primarily with Zelkova and camphor, he creates sculptural forms that merge traditional Japanese craftsmanship with contemporary artistic expression. In 2020, he was selected as a finalist for the LOEWE FOUNDATION Craft Prize and has exhibited internationally, including at the Ishikawa Wajima Lacquer Museum and Pierre Marie Giraud in Brussels.