KOHEI UKAI



Fusion 23-04
Manufactured by Kohei Ukai
Japan, 2023
Katsura wood, hemp, Urushi lacquer

Measurements
27 × 14 × 57h cm
10,6 × 5,5 × 22,4h in

Edition
Unique Piece

About
Kohei Ukai explores the relationship between natural materials and traditional Japanese craftsmanship through the combination of wood, hemp, and Urushi lacquer. In Fusion 23-04, Katsura wood, hemp, and lacquer form a vertical composition that brings together contrasting textures, fibrous elements, and refined surfaces. The interplay between the materials reflects Ukai's investigation into material fusion, transformation, and the relationship between organic qualities and artistic intervention.

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.