KOHEI UKAI



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

Measurements
96 × 92 × 103h cm
37,8 × 36,2 × 40,6h 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 and surface treatment. In Connect IV, camphor wood, hemp, and lacquer form an expansive three-dimensional composition defined by interconnected forms, contrasting textures, and substantial volume. The interplay between flexible natural fibres and rigid wooden structures reflects Ukai's investigation into connection, material transformation, and the relationship between organic growth and deliberate construction.

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.