KOICHI IO



Three Legged Vase
Manufactured by Koichi Io
Japan, 2026
Patinated shakudo
(98% copper, 2% gold alloy)
Hammer-raised

Measurements
10 × 10 × 9,6h cm
3,9 × 3,9 × 3,8h in

Details
Unique Piece

About

Koichi Io is a Japanese designer whose work combines traditional metalworking techniques with a contemporary sculptural approach. Using processes such as hammer-raising, chasing, and patination, he creates vessels characterized by tactile surfaces, subtle irregularities, and balanced proportions. His works, including Three Legs Vase, reveal the traces of craftsmanship through the textures and tonal variations of patinated metal, exploring the relationship between material, process, and form.

Biography

Koichi Io (b. 1987, Japan) is a Japanese metal artist whose practice bridges traditional metalworking techniques and contemporary sculptural expression. He studied metalwork at Musashino Art University in Tokyo before continuing his education at Seoul National University in South Korea, developing a practice shaped by both Japanese craft traditions and a broader East Asian approach to material and making. Working primarily with metals including silver, copper, and specialized alloys, Io employs demanding techniques such as hammer-raising and chasing, building each work gradually through repeated manual intervention. His vessels are characterized by carefully articulated volumes, subtle asymmetries, and surfaces that retain the physical traces of their production, emphasizing the relationship between material, gesture, and form. Io has received recognition in Japan and internationally for his contribution to contemporary metalwork. In 2019, his work was selected as a finalist for the Loewe Foundation Craft Prize, bringing his practice to an international audience. Through his ongoing exploration of vessel forms and metalworking processes, he contributes to a new generation of Japanese makers who approach inherited craft knowledge not as a fixed tradition, but as a field for experimentation and contemporary expression.