SIDE GALLERY

YUJI UEDA



Ceramic Vase No. 08
Manufactured by Yuji Ueda
Japan, 2026
Ceramic

Measurements
28 × 28 × 27h cm
11 × 11 × 10,6h in

Edition
Unique Piece
Produced exclusively for Side Gallery

About

The ceramic works of **Yuji Ueda** are distinguished by their raw physicality, organic asymmetry, and deeply textured surfaces. Each vessel transcends functionality, existing instead as a sculptural presence that reflects both material experimentation and a profound respect for tradition.

Ueda often pushes clay to its physical limits, hand-building forms that reveal cracks, fissures, and irregularities as integral aspects of their beauty. His glazes, ranging from deep blacks and earthy browns to vivid blues, greens, reds, and whites, enhance their sense of geological force, as if the works had been unearthed from the natural world rather than formed in the studio.

Rooted in Japanese ceramic traditions yet radical in their execution, Ueda's pieces inhabit the space between artifact and artwork. Their fractured surfaces and irregular silhouettes embody resilience, impermanence, and the intimate dialogue between earth, fire, and hand.

Biography

Yuji Ueda (b. 1975, Shigaraki, Japan) is a contemporary ceramic artist known for his bold reinterpretation of Japanese pottery. Raised in Shigaraki, one of Japan's historic ceramic centers, he developed an early connection to traditional clay and kiln techniques. After studying under renowned ceramic masters, he established his own studio and developed a distinctive artistic language. Moving beyond functional pottery, Ueda creates sculptural works characterized by raw forms, irregular textures, cracks and bulges, which he embraces as expressions of vitality and authenticity. His distinctive glazes evoke landscapes, minerals and natural phenomena, bringing together traditional craftsmanship, nature and contemporary art. Internationally recognized, his work has been exhibited across Asia, Europe and the United States, establishing him as a notable figure in 21st-century Japanese ceramics.