

SHIZUKA TAKUBO

Featured Artist

June 2022

INTERVIEW WITH SHIZUKA TAKUBO (PART2)

We had an exclusive interview with Shizuka Takubo, who is specializing in cups and saucers for her solo exhibition to be held from June 17. In part2, we asked Mr. Takubo about people she admires and her vision for the future.



Josephine H8.4 x W11.3 x D8.5cm (cup) H3.0 x W16.3 x D16.3cm(Saucer)

—What do you think about the ratio between ease of use and design?

Takubo : Well, In my mind, it is okay if it is difficult to use, but I am not comfortable with a vessel that cannot be used, so I design everything in accordance with stylistic beauty.

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I was given an opportunity to present my work in English in the past, and at that time, I found it very difficult and roundabout to explain the history of Japanese crafts to international people, and when I thought about how to explain my vessels, I felt that it would be most appropriate to describe my work as sculpture. I am conscious of making the work look like a three-dimensional object rising up on the stage of a plate. However, if I am too conscious of the fact that it is a sculpture, the height of the cup may become higher and higher, so I analyze while maintaining a balance.

—Have you ever have any worries since you started making ceramics? How do you change your mood when you are down?

Takubo : I struggle all the time! Since I was in Yamagata just prior to pandemic, I was able to meet my friends and talk with them to relieve stress, but after returning to Chiba, it became not easy to go out much, so I became more conscious of keeping my body and mind healthy by running and doing yoga. I honestly don't know how that affects my work. Also, since coming to Chiba, it has become easier for me to visit museums and galleries, so I am stimulated by seeing beautiful things. However, even if I am struggling with my thoughts, I still believe that I will not find the answer unless I keep making them.

—Do you have anyone you admire?

Takubo : Kazuo Yagi. I have great respect for him in the sense that he established an era. He worked hard to decrease the gap between fine arts and crafts, but I think that the laziness of the younger generation who admired him and continued to make things without learning has widened the distance between fine arts and crafts in our time. So I would like to tell people to think about what they should make and what they should leave for the future, knowing the historical nature of craft history. It may be a very humble thing, but I want to live my life in such a way that I can leave my name in the times like Kazuo Yagi did.

—What do you find most rewarding about being ceramic artist?

Takubo : Of course, the most exciting thing is when I was able to create a good work of art. I also want to compete in the world of craft, which is why I often work with craft galleries but craft galleries often display works of art on shelves, which is not always in line with the desire to show

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them as art and to display them one by one on display tables. So, on the contrary, I am very happy when I am able to exhibit in such a way that is close to my ideal.

—Are there any challenges you would like to take on in the future?

I do wish I could do a higher grade of work. I would like to make each piece of work with even more care than before. The rest is still in the conceptual stage, but I would like to be able to make drawings of my work into two-dimensional works. When I exhibit my works, I would like to hang copperplate engravings like a development of a cup and saucer on the wall, like a small museum of cups and saucers.

How was our interview with Shizuka Takubo?

At a young age, Shizuka Takubo is leading the contemporary ceramic art world by incorporating historical background into each of her works and always thinking about what she will leave behind for the future.

We hope you will take this opportunity to enjoy her brilliant works.

Shizuka Takubo's exhibition will be held from Friday, June 17 to Thursday, June 30, 2022.

We are looking forward to seeing you at the gallery.