

TAKAHIRO KONDO
Japanese artist

TAKAHIRO KONDO is a renowned Japanese contemporary ceramist, born into a family of ceramists who was famous for their sometsuke porcelain (cobalt blue and white porcelain). The artist

Takahiro Kondo is born in 1958 in Kyoto, Japan. He graduated from Kyoto Prefectural Ceramics Technical Institute (1985) and Kyoto Municipal Institute of Industrial Research (1986). He also received a Master of Design and Applied Arts awarded, from the Edinburgh College of Art (2002) and a Master degree of Design and Applied Course, Edinburgh College of Art (Inglis Allen Masters of Design Award) (2003). In 1994 he received the Kyoto City Emerging Artist Award. Takahiro Kondo lives and works in Kyoto.

Artwork

Takahiro Kondo draws his inspiration from the world of nature, water being a central theme. The artist began to create ceramics when he was around his twenty years old. When he reached the age of 50, Takahiro Kondo decided to examine his work and his history. This was followed by the creation of a working group in which he moulded his own porcelain head and revisited the main glazes, drawings, motifs he had used during his 25 years working with clay. On one hand it is a very personal Series, which he sees as both masks of death and life, but it is also a set of works that expresses his concerns about the relationship (deteriorating) between men and the nature and the instability of the system which has led to excesses and distortions due to misuse of resources and imbalances in the distribution of wealth.

This working group ended in 2010 and then exhibited in Japan, New York and London. Shortly thereafter, the Tohoku region of Japan was hit by a magnitude 9 earthquake that revived fears of the nuclear threat. Takahiro Kondo felt the need to respond with his art to the disaster. Thus, from 2014 he created a Series of porcelain sculptures from a cast made on his body, "the Reduction Series". His characters adopt a yogic posture which suggests a return to the artist's roots, towards Buddhism, meditation, self-giving. The gintekisai glaze is characteristic of Takahiro Kondo and illustrates its interest in water in all its forms. It is made of a mixture of silver, gold and platinum that form subtle droplet flows on the sculpture.