

David Zwirner to Represent Shio Kusaka



Production image, Kusaka's Los Angeles studio

September 3, 2020—David Zwirner is pleased to announce the gallery's representation of the Japanese-born, Los Angeles-based artist Shio Kusaka.

Kusaka has become known for her playful and open approach to the ceramic medium, crafting vessels and figures that are both functional and abstract. Painting and incising on thrown porcelain and stoneware surfaces, Kusaka merges sculpture and drawing while asserting the role of ceramics within the realm of contemporary art.

In her ceramics, which are often made in distinct series and sometimes displayed in groups, Kusaka embraces organic imperfections and poetic irregularities, relying on her characteristic sense of line and color to articulate unique forms and produce complex patterns with a heightened awareness of difference and repetition. Her work, like that of artists she has cited as influences, including Agnes Martin, Josef Albers, and Ellsworth Kelly, rewards close observation, which reveals layered intricacies and optical qualities through subtle shifts in glazing or decoration. The motifs she combines and recontextualizes—including wood grain and fruit textures, *boro* stitches and the iconic *seigaiha* pattern of Japanese textiles, and her children's infatuation with dinosaurs and other animals—are all influenced by her daily life. Process-oriented titles, composed of terms such as "carved" or "line" followed by a number, reveal the tactility of Kusaka's work.

David Zwirner states: "I've been a huge fan of Shio's work ever since I first saw it at Anton Kern's gallery in Chelsea. Few artists have been as successful as Shio in bringing the world of ceramics into the contemporary context. Her interest in and affinity for minimalism, the inherent restraint of her art making, her strength as a colorist, the elegance and thoughtfulness of her presentations, and, last but not least, the mastery of her craft make Shio Kusaka an entirely unique voice within the visual arts. I am excited and honored to be working with her."

Shio Kusaka was born in 1972 in Morioka, Japan, and moved to San Francisco in the early 1990s. After receiving her BFA in 2001 from the University of Washington, Seattle, she moved to Los Angeles, where she currently lives and works.

In early 2020, the historic Neutra VDL Studio and Residences in Los Angeles held a solo exhibition of Kusaka's work, curated by Douglas Fogle and Hanneke Skerath. Museum Voorlinden in Wassenaar, The Netherlands, held the two-person exhibition *Shio Kusaka and Jonas Wood*, in 2017. Kusaka's work has also been included in important group exhibitions, such as the Whitney Biennial 2014; *Going Public: The Napoleone Collection – International Art Collectors in Sheffield*, Graves Gallery, Sheffield, England (2016), which traveled to Touchstones Rochdale Museum, Rochdale, England (2016–2017); *Recent Acquisitions in Asian Art*, Allen Memorial Art Museum, Oberlin, Ohio (2017); and *Making Knowing: Craft in Art, 1950–2019*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York (2019–2022).

The artist's work is held in public collections worldwide, including the Allen Memorial Art Museum, Oberlin, Ohio; The Broad Art Foundation, Los Angeles; Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; The Museum of Modern Art, New York; Museum Voorlinden, Wassenaar, The Netherlands; Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, Overland Park, Kansas; and Whitney Museum of American Art, New York.

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