

*galerie frank elbaz.*

**Machiko Ogawa**

Machiko Ogawa (born in 1946, Sapporo, lives and works in Yugawara)

Ogawa Machiko is one Japan's most celebrated contemporary ceramicists. Renowned for her singular approach to clay, Ogawa's work displays a strong relation with geological forms, mineralogy and the different effects of extreme heat and pressure.

After graduating from the Tokyo University of Fine Arts, Ogawa studied ceramics at l'École Nationale Supérieure des Arts Appliqués et des Métiers d'Art in Paris. During her time in Paris, she visited the Musée de Minéralogie where she discovered the beauty of minerals - the study of a large type of geological specimens has extremely influenced her practice.

She then moved to Burkina Faso as a research assistant for her husband, the anthropologist Kawada Junzo. There, she learned from the local ceramic techniques, taking advantage of properties such as distortion, crazing, chips, and glaze crawling.

Her practice goes through a complicated process of sculpting and firing clay into a fissured, crag-like form, onto which a pinnacle of glass was then fused. The raw and elemental appearance of her works suggests a rise from the depths of the earth.

In 2019, her work *Time Unearthed* was presented in the inaugural exhibition of the National Museum of Qatar. She will be part of the Aichi Triennale in 2025.

Ogawa's works are in numerous public collections, including the National Museum of Modern Art Tokyo, the Musée Guimet, the Victoria & Albert Museum, the LACMA, The MET, the Brooklyn Museum, the Art Institute Chicago and the Baltimore Museum of Art.





Shiryū Morita / Machiko Ogawa, 2023  
Exhibition view, galerie frank elbaz, Paris.  
Photo by Claire Dorn

galerie frank elbaz.



Machiko Ogawa  
*Crystal and Memory 2023- 2, 2023*  
Porcelain with silica sand, Feldspar and frit glaze  
35,5 x 13 x 25,5 cm  
14 x 5 1/8 x 10 inches  
Unique  
OGA2023-3529



Machiko Ogawa  
*Crystal and Memory, 2020*  
Multifired porcelain with glass  
40,5 x 31 x 18,5 cm  
16 x 12 1/4 x 7 1/4 inches  
Unique  
OGA2020-3072

galerie frank elbaz.

## Distant Intersection

In Ogawa Machiko's objects, one perceives two distinct voices:

One that creates and one that takes apart.

This is because in their encounter, creation and destruction become one.

A strong fire of seduction and the blaze of rejection - resulting in a burst of flames.

The wild and beautiful sensation of eros.

The attraction of dissonance. A wise man once said whatever man builds up, nature will return it all to the ground.

Ogawa Machiko makes it appear as if these two sides of the world are turned into one.

A distant intersection, where love and eternity breathe, guided by earth and fire.

It is a scenery of immense contradiction: Or rather: a vessel of compassion.

— Lee Ufan  
May 2021

Ogawa Machiko, *Distant Intersection*  
*Works from 2019-2021*

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Machiko Ogawa  
*Crystal and Memory 2023-1, 2023*  
Porcelain with silica sand, Feldspar and frit glaze  
16,5 x 23 x 18,5 cm  
6 1/2 x 9 x 7 1/4 inches  
Unique  
OGA2023-3528



Machiko Ogawa  
Exhibition view of *Radical Clay*, Art Institute Chicago, 2024

Fujino Kachiko 藤野 加子  
Nameless (無名)  
Transformation Black (変容・黒)  
Woodless (無木)

Ogawa Machiko 小川 真知子  
Evocative Vessel (喚起の器)  
Red Vessel (赤の器)



Machiko Ogawa  
*Crystals and Memory: Five Mountains, 2020*  
Photo by Tadayuki Minamoto



Machiko Ogawa  
*Crystals and Memory: Five Mountains (details)*, 2020  
Photo by Tadayuki Minamoto





Machiko OGAWA  
*Broken Vessel 1*, 2017  
Multifired porcelain with glass  
63 x 38 x 11 cm  
24 3/4 x 15 x 4 3/8 inches  
Unique  
OGA2017-3068



Machiko Ogawa  
*Broken Vessel 3*, 2017  
Multifired porcelain with glass  
43,2 x 24,2 x 13 cm  
17 x 9 1/2 x 5 1/8 inches  
Unique  
OGA2017-3070



Machiko Ogawa  
Work, 2013  
Multifired porcelain with glass  
60 x 59 x 22 cm  
23 5/8 x 23 1/4 x 8 5/8 inches  
Unique  
OGA2013-3071



Machiko Ogawa  
Broken Vessel 2, 2017  
Multifired porcelain with glass  
55,3 x 31,2 x 12,9 cm  
21 3/4 x 12 1/4 x 5 1/8 inches  
Unique  
OGA2017-3069



Machiko Ogawa  
Exhibition view, National Museum of Qatar.  
Doha, Qatar.  
2019

Courtesy of Nakacho Konishi



Machiko Ogawa  
Exhibition view, Ginza Maison Hermès.  
Tokyo, Japan.  
2023

Courtesy of Nakacho Konishi

## Machiko Ogawa

Born in 1946

Lives and works in Sapporo, Japan

### Education

- 1969 Graduated from Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music, Japan
- 1969 - 71 Graduated from École d'Arts et Métiers, Paris, France
- 1972 - 75 Finished learning traditional pottery in Burkina Faso, West Africa

### Solo Exhibitions

- 2024 *Mineral Vein*, Shibunkaku, Kyoto, Japan
- 2022 *Red Earth*, Joan B. Mirviss Ltd., New York, USA
- 2018 *Into the Earth*, Joan B. Mirviss Ltd, New York, USA
- 2017 *Machiko Ogawa, Japan Art*, Galerie Friedrich Muller, Frankfurt, Germany  
*Machiko Ogawa*, Shibunkaku, Kyoto and Tokyo, Japan
- 2016 *Machiko Ogawa*, Erskine, Hall & Coe, London, UK
- 2015 *Machiko Ogawa, Crystals and Memories*, Shibunkaku, Kyoto and Tokyo, Japan
- 2014 *Lunar Fragments: Ceramic Sculpture of Ogawa Machiko*, Salon Art + Design Fair, New York, USA
- 2013 *Du temps cristallisé*, Shibunkaku, Kyoto, Japan
- 2012 *Over the moon*, Nihonbashi Takashimaya X Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
- 2011 *Archetypal Vessels*, Toyota Municipal Museum of Art, Aichi, Japan
- 2009 *Fire and Ice: The Dynamic Clay Art of Ogawa Machiko*, Joan B. Mirviss Ltd, New York, USA
- 2004 *Na<sub>2</sub>O · ZnO · Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> · SiO<sub>2</sub> · B<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>*, MDS Gallery, Tokyo, Japan

- 2002 *Li<sub>2</sub>O · NaO · CaO · Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> · SiO<sub>2</sub> · Breathing Bubbles*, The Museum of Modern Art, Kamakura and Hayama, Kanagawa, Japan
- 2000 Exhibition, Gallery Koyanagi, Tokyo, Japan
- 1999 Exhibition, Seto City Culture Center, Aichi, Japan
- 1991 Exhibition, Sogetsu Museum, Tokyo, Japan

### Group Exhibitions

- 2023 *Radical Clay: Contemporary Women Artists from Japan*, Art Institute of Chicago, USA  
*Worlds in Balance: Art in Japan from the Postwar to the Present* | Okura Museum of Art, Tokyo, Japan  
*Morita / Ogawa*, galerie frank elbaz, Paris  
*Japanese Ceramics*, Erskine, Hall & Coe, London, UK  
*Small Works, Great Artists*, Erskine, Hall & Coe, London, UK  
*International Ceramics*, Erskine, Hall & Coe, London, UK  
*Enamel and Body / Ceramics*, Fondation d'entreprise Hermes, Tokyo, Japan
- 2022 *Ten Great Works*, Erskine, Hall & Coe, London, UK  
*Genreless Kogei*, National Crafts Museum, Tokyo, Japan  
*Toucher le Feu*, Musée Guimet, Paris, France  
*Small Works, Great Artists*, Erskine, Hall & Coe, London, UK  
*Listening to Clay*, Joan B. Mirviss Ltd., New York, USA
- 2021 *Path of the Teabowl*, Alfred Ceramic Art Museum, New York, USA  
*USA MOMAT Collection Special: Masterpieces of Japanese Art from the End of the 19th Century to the Present*, The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo, Japan  
*Small Works, Great Artists*, Erskine, Hall & Coe, London, UK
- 2018 *New Forms, New Voices*, New Orleans Museum of Art, USA  
*Primal Water: An Exhibition of Japanese Contemporary Art*, Bellagio Gallery of Fine Art, Las Vegas, USA
- 2016 *Craft Arts: Innovation of „Tradition and Avant-Garde“, and the Present Day*, Crafts Gallery, The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo, Japan

**Public Collections**

- Japan
  - Aichi Prefectural Ceramics Museum
  - Musée Tomo, Tokyo
  - Sōgetsu Art Museum
  - Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery
  - Takamatsu City Museum of Art
  - Suntory Museum of Art
  - Museum of Modern Ceramic Art
  - Museum of Modern Art
  - Museum of Modern Art, Kamakura and Hayama
  - Rakusui-tei Museum of Art
  - River Retreat Garaku
- Australia
  - Art Gallery of Western Australia
- UK
  - Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology
- USA
  - Asian Art Museum, California
  - Baltimore Museum of Art
  - Brooklyn Museum
  - Chazen Museum of Art, The University of Wisconsin-Madison
  - Los Angeles County Museum of Art
  - Metropolitan Museum of Art
  - Minneapolis Institute of Art
  - Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
  - Yale University Art Gallery
  - Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art
  - Peabody Essex Museum
  - Smith College Museum of Art
- France
  - Musée national des Arts asiatiques-Guimet
- Qatar
  - National Museum, Doha



Machiko Ogawa  
Exhibition view, Toyota Municipal Museum of Art.  
Toyota, Japan.  
2011

Courtesy of Toyota Municipal Museum of Art