

Takeshi Igawa

Curriculum Vitae



Born 1980, Hyogo Prefecture, Japan

1999 - 2003	Kyoto City University of Arts, Kyoto, Japan (BFA)
2003 - 2005	Kyoto City University of Arts, Kyoto, Japan (MFA)
2005 - 2008	Kyoto City University of Arts, Kyoto, Japan (PhD)

Working in Saga, Japan  
Associate Professor, Saga University, Saga, Japan

"I use a traditional Japanese urushi, Japanese lacquer, as the main and essential material for executing my work. Urushi, is a high-quality material particular to East Asia and is made from the sap of the urushi tree, [*Rhus Verniciflua*]. As it has no form of its own, I have pursued the expression of beauty of this material without using makie decoration, but through the application of several coats of urushi using traditional Japanese lacquer techniques.

The *Line and Surface* series is made using the kanshitsu technique. Each piece is fashioned with many layers of hemp cloth soaked with lacquer; the surface details being subsequently modelled with a mixture of lacquer, sawdust, powdered clay stone, and other materials. The mould is very important and I spend a great deal of time perfecting the carved shape."

### Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2019 Nihonbashi Takashimaya, Tokyo, Japan  
2018 Gion Konishi, Kyoto, Japan  
2017 *Igawa Takeshi*, Gallery Keifu, Kyoto, Japan  
2016 Orié Art Gallery, Tokyo, Japan  
2012 *Takeshi Igawa: Urushi*, Kouichi Fine Arts, Osaka, Japan  
Abiesfirma, Kobe, Japan  
2010 Gallery Kian, Kyoto, Japan  
2007 Wacole Ginza Art Space, Tokyo, Japan  
2005 *Works of Urushi*, Ishida Taiseisha Hall, Kyoto, Japan

### Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2024 *Adrian Sassoon*, The Treasure House Fair, London  
2023 *Adrian Sassoon*, TEFAF Maastricht, The Netherlands  
2022 *Adrian Sassoon*, Masterpiece London, The Royal Hospital Chelsea, London  
2021 *Adrian Sassoon at Parham, a House of History*, Parham House, West Sussex  
2020 *Japanism*, Kouichi Fine Arts, Osaka, Japan  
*Challenge: Three Urushi Sculptors*, Sokyô, Kyoto, Japan  
*Adrian Sassoon*, TEFAF Maastricht, The Netherlands  
2019 *Adrian Sassoon*, Masterpiece London, The Royal Hospital Chelsea, London  
*Adrian Sassoon*, TEFAF Maastricht, The Netherlands  
2018 *Urushi Nowadays*, Nihonbashi Mitsukoshi, Tokyo, Japan  
*Igawa Takeshi and Sakai Naoki*, Gallery Aoian, Kyoto, Japan  
*URUSHI\_ISM II, Contemporary Lacquer from Japan*, ESH Gallery, Milan, Italy  
*Adrian Sassoon*, Masterpiece London, The Royal Hospital Chelsea, London  
*FuEiSho – Tan*, Nihonbashi Takashimaya, Tokyo, Japan  
*Japanese Lacquer Collection*, Kouichi Fine Arts, Osaka, Japan  
*Art Meets Winter*, Shimazu Seisakusho, Kyoto, Japan  
*Adrian Sassoon*, TEFAF Maastricht, The Netherlands  
2017 *Hard Bodies: Contemporary Japanese Lacquer Sculpture*, Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minnesota, USA  
*Adrian Sassoon*, Masterpiece London, The Royal Hospital Chelsea, London  
*LOEWE Foundation Craft Prize*, COAM, Madrid, Spain  
*Japan in Black and White*, ESH Gallery, Milan, Italy  
*Adrian Sassoon*, TEFAF Maastricht, The Netherlands  
2016 *Adrian Sassoon*, Pavilion of Art & Design London, London  
*URUSHI\_ISM, Contemporary Lacquer from Japan*, ESH Gallery, Milan, Italy  
*Adrian Sassoon*, Masterpiece London, The Royal Hospital Chelsea, London  
*IKI SUMISomé*, Seiryukan, Kyoto, Japan  
*Adrian Sassoon*, TEFAF, Maastricht, The Netherlands  
2015 *Adrian Sassoon*, Masterpiece London, The Royal Hospital Chelsea, London  
*Urushi Sculptures*, Gallery Sokyô, Kyoto, Japan  
*Japan Spirit x 15*, Orié Gallery, Tokyo, Japan  
2014 *Dialogue with Materials: Contemporary Japanese Arts and Crafts*, Ahmed Adnen Saygun Sanat Merkezi, Izmir, Turkey

**Selected Group Exhibitions (continued)**

- 2014 *Urushi: Couleurs et formes des Laques, Japonaises contemporaines*, Mizen Fine Arts, Paris, France
- 2013 *Harmony – Peace*, Kouichi Fine Arts, Osaka, Japan
- 2012 *Takeshi Igawa and Hanako Gejo*, Gallery Kian, Kyoto, Japan
- 2011 *From Asuka to Nara, New Forms by Urushi*, Itami Craft Centre, Hyogo, Japan  
*Contemporary Lacquer*, Calvin Morris Gallery, New York, USA
- 2010 *From Asuka to Nara*, International Sculpture Exhibition, Daijoin Temple Garden Cultural Hall, Nara, Japan  
*Craft and Life*, Gallery Keifu, Kyoto, Japan
- 2009 *Sofa*, New York, USA  
*Young Lacquer Artists*, Wajima Museum of Lacquer, Wajima City, Japan  
*Contemporary Japanese Lacquer*, Keiko Gallery, Boston, USA
- 2008 *Cool Black*, Daimaru Art Gallery, Tokyo, Japan  
*Sofa*, Chicago, USA  
*Asahi Modern Craft Exhibition*, Tokyo, Japan
- 2007 *Formative Arts: Works of Wood, Urushi and Bamboo*, Miyama Thatched-Roof Museum, Kyoto, Japan
- 2006 *Urushi Show: Drinking Vessels for Sake or Green Tea*, Machi-ya (Merchant Family-House), Kyoto, Japan  
*Floral Festival: An Exhibition by Three Artists*, Konishi Gion, Kyoto, Japan  
*Talente 2006*, International Trades Fair, Munich, Germany
- 2005 *Prospects For Lacquer Clay: Work by Artists in Kyoto*, Gallery Nishikawa, Kyoto, Japan  
*The Ishikawa International Urushi Exhibitio 2005*, Meitetsu M'ZA, Kanazawa, Japan  
*One Hundred Artists Works of Drawings*, Ishida Taiseisha Hall, Kyoto, Japan  
*Selected Artists in Kyoto 2005: New Wave*, The Museum of Kyoto, Kyoto, Japan
- 2004 *Kyo Ryu Art Project*, Okinawa, Japan  
*Artists Works in Black*, Ishida Taiseisha Hall, Kyoto, Japan

**Awards**

- 2021 Winner, 32<sup>nd</sup> Takashimaya Art Award, Takashimaya Cultural Foundation, Japan
- 2017 Finalist, LOEWE Foundation Craft Prize, Madrid, Spain
- 2016 Grand Prize, 3<sup>rd</sup> Triennale of Kogei in Kanazawa, Japan
- 2015 Award for Excellence, 55<sup>th</sup> Japan Craft Exhibition, Tokyo, Japan
- 2014 41<sup>st</sup> Saga Arts and Culture Award, Saga, Japan  
Takeuchi Sawako Award, 53<sup>rd</sup> Japan Craft Exhibition, Tokyo, Japan
- 2012 Grand Prize, 52<sup>nd</sup> Japan Craft Exhibition, Tokyo, Japan
- 2011 Silver Prize, Cheongju International Craft Biennale, Korea
- 2009 Grand Prize, Ishikawa International Urushi Exhibition, Ishikawa, Japan  
Umehara Award for PhD Thesis, Kyoto City University of Arts, Kyoto, Japan  
New Artists Award, Kyoto City Art Exhibition, Kyoto, Japan
- 2008 Award for Excellence, Asahi Modern Craft Exhibition, Tokyo, Japan
- 2007 Grand Prize for Elegance, *Elegant Shapes: Works of Urushi in our Daily Life*, The Miyako Messe, Kyoto, Japan

**Awards (continued)**

- 2006 Talente – Prize for Design, Talente 2006, The International Trade Fair, Munich, Germany
- 2005 Mayor's Prize, Annual Exhibition of Kyoto City University of Arts, The Kyoto Municipal Museum of Art, Kyoto, Japan  
Award for Excellence, 45<sup>th</sup> Japan Craft Exhibition, Tokyo, Japan
- 2003 Mayor's Prize, Annual Exhibition of Kyoto City University of Art, Kyoto, Japan
- 2002 Hiradate Prize, Annual Exhibition of Kyoto City University of Art, Kyoto, Japan

**Public Collections**

Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA  
JAL International Terminal Lounge, Haneda Airport, Tokyo, Japan  
The Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Kyoto, Japan