

Koichi Ito

Curriculum Vitae



Born 1987, Tokyo, Japan

2005-2009 Musashino Art University, Tokyo, Japan, BA Fine Art
2010-2012 College of Fine Art, Seoul National University, Korea, MA Study

Working in Tokyo, Japan

“Can the traditional craft techniques become a methodology for contemporary aesthetics? This question has been the core of my studio practice.”

Working with the traditional Japanese methods of hammer-raising and colour patination, Koichi aims to re-interpret and re-define these techniques through his work in modern times.

Born and raised in a metalsmith family, Koichi has found his own artistic identity. Hammer-raising itself is a basic method of metal forming with 4,000 years of history, but he applies the process to form the interior and exterior at the same time, with each work formed from a single sheet of metal.

Koichi's copper and copper-based alloy pieces have unique surfaces, achieved with the Japanese colouring technique *Niirro*, which involves boiling a piece in a patina-based solution. This creates a cuprous oxide layer on the copper alloys.

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2024 *Adrian Sassoon*, The Treasure House Fair, London
Adrian Sassoon, TEFAF Maastricht, The Netherlands
- 2023 *Adrian Sassoon*, TEFAF Maastricht, The Netherlands
- 2022 *Adrian Sassoon*, Salon of Art & Design, New York, USA
- 2021 *The 68th Japan Traditional Kogei (Crafts) Exhibition*, Japan
11th Cheongju International Craft Biennale, Cheongju-City, South Korea
Katie Jones Gallery, Eye of the Collector, London
Katie Jones Gallery, Artefact, Design Centre, London
- 2020 *The 67th Japan Traditional Kogei (Crafts) Exhibition*, Japan
A Japanese Design, The Scottish Gallery, Edinburgh
- 2019 *LOEWE Foundation Craft Prize 2019 - Finalist Exhibition*, Sogetsu Plaza, Tokyo, Japan
Katie Jones Gallery, Collect, Saatchi Gallery, London
- 2018 *The 65th Japan Traditional Kogei Exhibition*, Japan
Exempla, Handwerksmesse, München, Germany
Katie Jones Gallery, Collect, Saatchi Gallery, London
- 2017 *Geschmiedet*, Galerie Handwerk München, Germany
The 64th Japan Traditional Kogei (Crafts) Exhibition, Japan
Katie Jones Gallery, Tresor, Messe Basel, Basel, Switzerland
- 2016 *Katie Jones Gallery*, Collect, Saatchi Gallery, London
Introducing, The Scottish Gallery, Edinburgh
Unvollkommen Vollkommen, Galerie Eva Maisch, Würzburg, Germany
- 2015 *9th Cheongju International Biennale*, Cheongju-City, South Korea
Katie Jones Gallery, Collect, Saatchi Gallery, London
Forum Silversmiths, Inhorgenta, Munich, Germany
- 2014 *Talente*, Munich, Germany
Katie Jones Gallery, Collect, Saatchi Gallery, London
Forum Silversmiths, Inhorgenta, Munich, Germany
- 2013 *Katie Jones Gallery*, Collect, Saatchi Gallery, London
Forum Silversmiths, Inhorgenta, Munich, Germany
- 2012 *Japanese Craft*, Erskine, Hall & Coe Gallery, London
Katie Jones Gallery, Collect, Saatchi Gallery, London
Forum Silversmiths, Inhorgenta, Munich, Germany
- 2011 *Katie Jones Gallery*, Collect, Saatchi Gallery, London
Forum Silversmiths, Inhorgenta, Munich, Germany
- 2010 *16th Silbertriennale*, Hanau, Germany
- 2009 *6th Cheongju International Craft Biennale*, Cheongju-City, South Korea

Awards

- 2022 2nd Prize, Youth Award, 20th Silver Triennial, Hanau, Germany
- 2020 New Artist Award, The 67th Japan Traditional Kogei Exhibition, Kanazawa, Japan
- 2019 Finalist, LOEWE Foundation Craft Prize, Sogetsu Plaza, Toyko, Japan
- 2018 Bavarian State Prize, Munich, Germany
- 2011 Finalist in Tableware, Inhorgenta Award 2011, Munich, Germany
- 2009 Merit Award, 6th Cheongju International Craft Competition, Cheongju, South Korea

Public Collections

The Ashmolean Museum, Oxford

Victoria and Albert Museum, London

National Museum of Asian Art Smithsonian, Washington, USA

Cheongju Museum of Art, South Korea