

ABOUT WORK

In the years preceding 9-11, the use of eggshells in Jun's work becomes a central motif in foregrounding the notion of vulnerability, fragility, and uniqueness to all living things. The artist is interested in the duality of spaces and how this relates to life in contemporary society. The fragility of eggshells found in his early work suggests a temporality to existence and reminds us of what matters most to our lives.

Junichiro's current work explores the concept of 'Mu' in Japanese Zen. Often collaborating with his twin sister, they offer the following statement: *'in the contemporary era of divisive politics and fake news, going beyond binary positions is a useful reminder. 'Mu' recognizes that there is no definitive right or wrong, true or false, or good or bad. These are positions of polarity dependent on both time and space; history and contexts.'* Jun's current work may be interpreted as conceptual tools for meditation, serving as reminders to attain what Zen practitioners call 'nothingness' – a point of transcendence and an appreciation for life in the present.

SHORT BIO

Born in Tokyo (1971), Junichiro Iwase moved to Canada with family in 1972. After high school, he enrolls in the Fine Arts Program at Vancouver Community College but drops out to become an apprentice at the Johnson Atelier Technical Institute of Sculpture in N.J. Here, he meets sculptors George Segal, Marisol Escobar, Joel Shapiro, Claes Oldenburg, and Lucas Samaras, they play an important role in his decision to take up art as a profession. Since then, Jun's work has been included in international art fairs, exhibitions, biennials, residencies, and workshops in Asia, Australia, Europe, and North America. Jun's contribution to the visual arts has been acknowledged by awards and grants from The Canada Council for the Arts, British Columbia Arts Council and Pollock-Krasner Foundation. His current work focuses on themes of 'fragility' and 'balance' in the 21st century.

CV

http://www.junichiroiwase.com/media/./JUNICHIRO_IWASE_CV_DOWNLOAD_update2.pdf

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