

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

- 2025 *Adrian Sassoon*, TEFAF Maastricht, The Netherlands
- 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, Daijōin 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 Exhibition 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, 32nd Takashimaya Art Award, Takashimaya Cultural Foundation, Japan
- 2017 Finalist, LOEWE Foundation Craft Prize, Madrid, Spain
- 2016 Grand Prize, 3rd Triennale of Kōgei in Kanazawa, Japan
- 2015 Award for Excellence, 55th Japan Craft Exhibition, Tokyo, Japan
- 2014 41st Saga Arts and Culture Award, Saga, Japan
 Takeuchi Sawako Award, 53rd Japan Craft Exhibition, Tokyo, Japan
- 2012 Grand Prize, 52nd 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, 45th 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