

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

- 2022 *Adrian Sassoon*, Salon of Art & Design, New York, USA
- 2021 *The 68<sup>th</sup> Japan Traditional Kogei (Crafts) Exhibition*, Japan  
*11<sup>th</sup> 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 67<sup>th</sup> Japan Traditional Kogei (Crafts) Exhibition*, Japan  
*A Japanese Design*, The Scottish Gallery, Edinburgh
- 2019 *LOEWE Foundation Craft Prize 2019 - Finalist Exhibition*, Sogetsu Plaza, Toyko, Japan  
*Katie Jones Gallery*, Collect, Saatchi Gallery, London
- 2018 *The 65<sup>th</sup> Japan Traditional Kogei Exhibition*, Japan  
*Exempla*, Handwerksmesse, München, Germany  
*Katie Jones Gallery*, Collect, Saatchi Gallery, London
- 2017 *Geschmiedet*, Galerie Handwerk München, Germany  
*The 64<sup>th</sup> 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 *9<sup>th</sup> Cheongju International Biennale*, Cheongju-City, South Korea  
*Katie Jones Gallery*, Collect, Saatchi Gallery, London  
*Inhorgenta*, Forum Silversmiths, Munich, Germany
- 2014 *Talente*, Munich, Germany  
*Katie Jones Gallery*, Collect, Saatchi Gallery, London  
*Inhorgenta*, Forum Silversmiths, Munich, Germany
- 2013 *Katie Jones Gallery*, Collect, Saatchi Gallery, London  
*Inhorgenta*, Forum Silversmiths, Munich, Germany
- 2012 *Japanese Craft*, Erskine, Hall & Coe Gallery, London  
*Katie Jones Gallery*, Collect, Saatchi Gallery, London  
*Inhorgenta*, Forum Silversmiths, Munich, Germany
- 2011 *Katie Jones Gallery*, Collect, Saatchi Gallery, London  
*Inhorgenta*, Forum Silversmiths, Munich, Germany
- 2010 *16<sup>th</sup> Silbertriennale*, Hanau, Germany
- 2009 *6<sup>th</sup> Cheongju International Craft Biennale*, Cheongju-City, South Korea

## **Awards**

- 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, 6<sup>th</sup> Cheongju International Craft Competition, Cheongju, South Korea

## **Public Collections**

The Ashmolean Museum, Oxford  
Victoria and Albert Museum, London  
Cheongju Museum of Art, South Korea