

PENLAND GALLERY

KENSUKE YAMADA

Little Rock, AR

CLAY | Figurative sculpture

Penland Affiliation | Penland Instructor 2013, 2017, Penland Benefit Auction 2019 Featured Artist

Artist Information | Studio artist and educator; education: MFA University of Montana (MT), BFA Evergreen State College (WA); teaching: Assistant Professor, University of Arkansas Little Rock (AR), Penland School, Centre College (KY), Tyler School of Art (PA); exhibitions: Duane Reed Gallery (MO), Red Lodge Clay Center (MT), Boswell Mourot Fine Art (AR), Aegon Gallery (KY), Cheekwood Botanical Garden and Museum of Art (TN), Blue Spiral Gallery (NC), Radius Gallery (MT), The Clay Studio Philadelphia (PA); residencies: Cheekwood Botanical Garden and Museum of Art (TN), The Clay Studio Philadelphia (PA), Archie Bray Foundation (MT), Watershed Center for the Ceramic Arts (ME)

Artist Statement | *I moved to the United States from Japan as a foreign exchange student. My story begins with the limited knowledge of the English language I came here with. My primary commonality with other people and with my surroundings was of the human gesture: facial expressions, body motions, the darting of a hand or blinking of an eye. In my struggle to learn the language and communicate through speech I gained a strong empathy for the universal experiences that seem to provide the undercurrent to language. I gained awareness for the complexities of our daily functions, and the social infrastructures that subtly guide these interactions. In my sculpture I seek figurative extensions of these shared experiences. Clay has become a primary source of communication for me. The vocabulary consists of gestures, patterns, textures, colors and rhythms. In conversation, these qualities bring the figure to life. With clay I look for sculptural conversations that evoke the beauty, the subtleties, the sadness and the humor of our everyday lives. In viewing my sculpture I hope for people to enjoy the moment, rather than the movement of time. I hope for my work to fill the space between two seemingly distant things, to provide a connection and thus create the story of you and me.*

Technical Information | Handbuilt stoneware

Penland School of Craft | Penland Gallery & Visitors Center
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