

Frieze Seoul 2024

Artists: Takuro Kuwata, Dan McCarthy



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Dates: September 4 - September 7, 2024

Venue: COEX

Booth: C20

<https://www.frieze.com/fairs/frieze-seoul>

KOSAKU KANECHIKA is pleased to present a dual presentation of works by Takuro Kuwata and Dan McCarthy at Frieze Seoul 2024.

Takuro Kuwata and Dan McCarthy's work have continually garnered significant attention and acclaim amidst the growing interest in ceramic work in the global art scene of recent years. Vivid colors and playful forms – as seen in McCarthy's "Facepots" and Kuwata's bold artistic expression achieved with glaze in his tea bowls made using the 'kairagi' ceramic technique – immediately attract the eye. On closer examination, one notices the technical refinement underpinning the appeal of their work – the application of ceramic techniques such as experimentation with glazing, the method of firing, and finer traditions such as 'kintsugi'. However, what these two artists share in common is not so much pursuit of technical mastery per se as how they bring out the characteristics of the material while showing their respect for it. They have also developed a distinctive sensibility and perspective that transcend different cultures and time periods, and in applying this to their work, the two artists connect the medium of ceramics to a wider context and pioneer a new realm of ceramic art. McCarthy and Kuwata's practices, in which the artists both revere and enjoy the inherently primitive process of creating ceramics, a prominent feature of which is not knowing the end result until the work is fired in the kiln, provide much insight for achieving freedom.

Takuro Kuwata has rapidly expanded the possibilities of ceramic art by creating works of an unparalleled nature that have been exhibited globally in Brussels, London, and New York. Kuwata's contemporary visual language, which utilizes techniques of traditional Japanese pottery such as 'kairagi' and 'ishihaze' in a novel manner, has garnered international acclaim. Situated at the heart of Japanese ceramic artistry, Kuwata's studio in the Mino region of Gifu retains history and techniques dating back to feudal Japan. Inheriting the traditional tea ceremony aesthetic of wabi-sabi, his works embrace imperfect beauty and natural forms that are celebrated in the preservation of a rustic, unrefined elegance. Through dialogue with the environment, history, nature, and time, Kuwata fuses together elements of tradition and modernity.

American artist, Dan McCarthy reconnected with ceramics after 25 years in 2012. Similar to his paintings and watercolors his vividly colored ceramic sculptures are created in a direct and hands on manner.

McCarthy's artworks possess an immediacy and emotional resonance, which taken together create a personal and dynamic statement outside of popular issues and trends. His artworks are created with a unique vision of potential and possibilities thus creating unlimited accessibility across diverse social and cultural lines.

Working freely and directly, his ceramics emphasize immediacy and intuitive tactility. McCarthy uses emotion and intuition to create artworks with a strong sense of spontaneity and freedom.

As exemplified by his series of Facepots, this work points to a simplicity and childlike quality upon first glance, however upon deeper examination we discover other moods and emotions.

The presentation at Frieze Seoul 2024 revisits "Dear Friend", a two-person exhibition of the artists shown at the gallery in 2022. The idea for the dual exhibition came from Kuwata, who recognized the affinities and the differing approaches between McCarthy and himself. One can imagine how these two artists, whose work stems from a dialogue between material and environment, have come to understand each other's practices. Bringing the works of both artists physically together allows the artists' creations to have a more intimate dialogue – in a language that can perhaps communicate more subtly than words allow. Viewers will witness, and at times mediate, the encounter.

This presentation for Frieze Seoul 2024 will consist of approximately 20 works by the two artists, and is designed by Tokyo based architect Kentaro Ishida.



Takuro Kuwata  
Tea bowl  
2024  
Porcelain, glaze, steel, pigment, platinum  
h.41.0 x w.49.5 x d.51.7 cm  
TaK-C-24-005



Dan McCarthy  
Glaze Tester Facepot Red Tear  
2024  
Ceramic clay, glaze, gold lustre  
h.48.3 x w.30.5 x d.33.0 cm  
DM-S-24-020

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Takuro Kuwata  
Tea bowl  
2024  
Porcelain, glaze, steel, pigment, platinum  
h.41.0 x w.49.5 x d.51.7 cm  
TaK-C-24-005





Dan McCarthy  
Glaze Tester Facepot Red Tear  
2024  
Ceramic clay, glaze, gold lustre  
h.48.3 x w.30.5 x d.33.0 cm  
DM-S-24-020





Dan McCarthy  
Glaze Tester FacePot Whitewash  
2024  
Ceramic clay, glaze, gold lustre  
h.54.7 x w.30.5 x d.33.0 cm  
DM-S-24-019



Takuro Kuwata  
Untitled  
2024  
Porcelain, glaze, pigment, gold  
h.40.5 x w.53.0 x d.52.0 cm  
TaK-S-24-001





Dan McCarthy  
Glaze Tester FacePot Whitewash  
2024  
Ceramic clay, glaze, gold lustre  
h.54.7 x w.30.5 x d.33.0 cm  
DM-S-24-019





Takuro Kuwata  
Untitled  
2024  
Porcelain, glaze, pigment, gold  
h.40.5 x w.53.0 x d.52.0 cm  
TaK-S-24-001



installation view from Dear Friend at KOSAKU KANECHIKA, 2022





installation view from Dear Friend at KOSAKU KANECHIKA, 2022

## Takuro Kuwata

Takuro Kuwata was born in Hiroshima, Japan in 1981. Following his graduation from Kyoto Saga University of Arts, in 2002 he began studying under ceramic artist, Susumu Zaima. In 2007, he graduated from the Tajimi City Pottery Design and Technical Center and is currently based in Gifu, Japan. His works have been exhibited globally in cities such as Brussels, London, and New York in major exhibitions including “Art Crafting Towards the Future” (21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, 2012), “Japanese Kōgei | Future Forward” (the Museum of Arts and Design, New York, 2015), “GO FOR KOGEI 2021” (Okamoto-Otaki Shrine, Fukui, 2021), and “Strange Clay: Ceramics in Contemporary Art” (Hayward Gallery, London, 2022). Kuwata was a finalist for the LOEWE Craft Prize in 2018, and his works have been acquired by various international public collections including the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Palm Springs Museum, the University of Michigan Museum of Art, and the Rubell Family Collection.



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Takuro Kuwata  
Tea bowl  
2024  
Porcelain, glaze, steel, pigment, platinum  
h.48.0 x w.56.5 x d.53.5 cm  
TaK-C-24-004





Takuro Kuwata  
Tea bowl  
2024  
Porcelain, glaze, steel, pigment, platinum  
h.48.0 x w.56.5 x d.53.5 cm  
TaK-C-24-004







Takuro Kuwata  
Tea bowl  
2024  
Porcelain, stone, glaze, steel, pigment  
h.54.0 x w.60.0 x d.57.5 cm  
TaK-C-24-003





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Takuro Kuwata  
Tea bowl  
2024  
Porcelain, glaze, steel, pigment, gold  
h.46.0 x w.54.5 x d.46.0 cm  
Takro 24-006





Takuro Kuwata  
Tea bowl  
2024  
Porcelain, glaze, steel, pigment, gold  
h.40.0 x w.54.5 x d.46.0 cm  
TaK-C-24-006

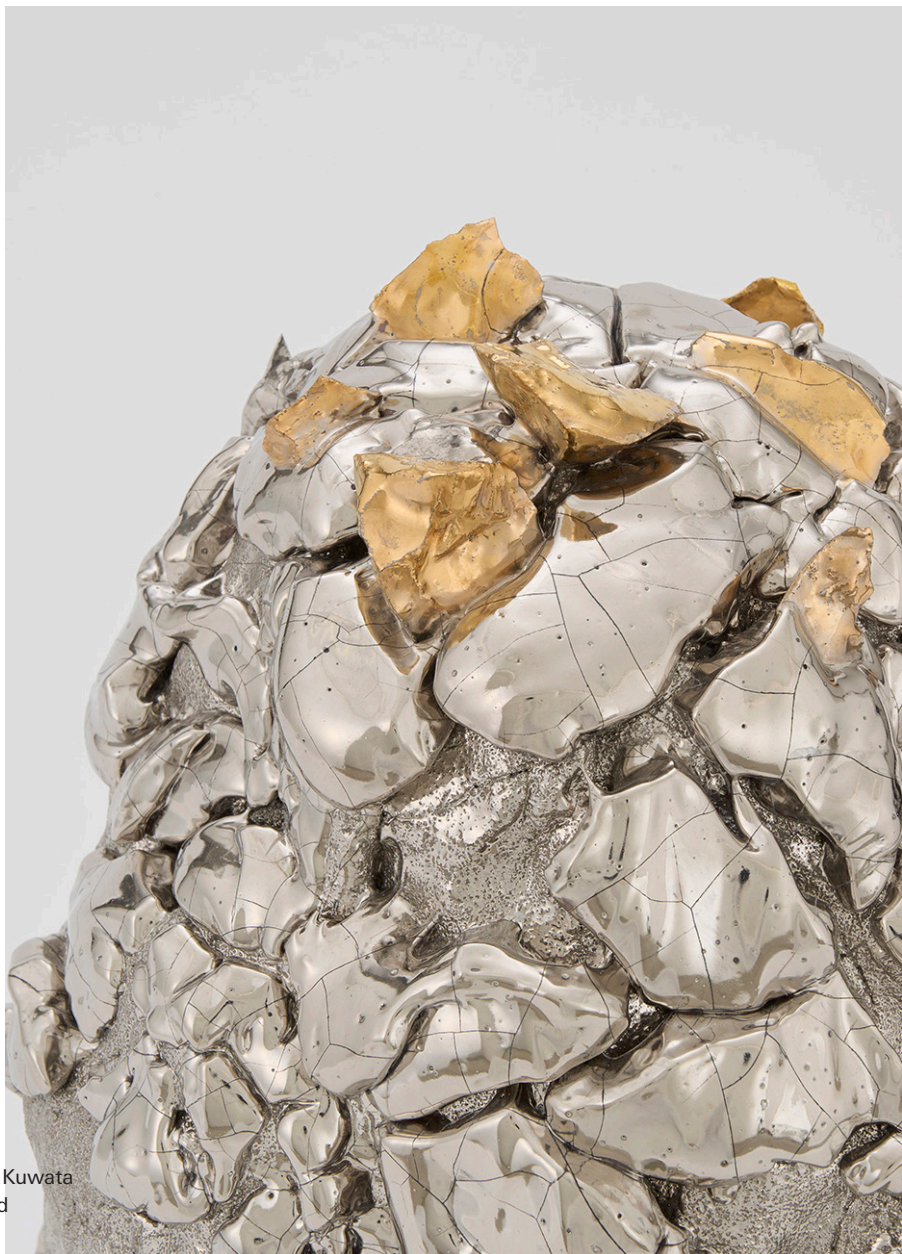




Takuro Kuwata  
Untitled  
2024  
Porcelain, stone, glaze, pigment, gold, platinum  
h.112.0 x w.40.5 x d.40.5 cm  
TaK-S-24-002







Takuro Kuwata  
Untitled  
2024  
Porcelain, glaze, pigment, gold, platinum  
h.58.0 x w.35.0 x d.30.0 cm  
TaK-S-24-003



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Takuro Kuwata  
Tea bowl  
2024  
Porcelain, stone, glaze, steel, pigment  
h.39.3 x w.53.3 x d.51.7 cm  
TaK-C-24-002





installation view from Dear Friend at KOSAKU KANECHIKA, 2022



installation view from Dear Friend at KOSAKU KANECHIKA, 2022



## Dan McCarthy

Dan McCarthy was born in Honolulu, Hawaii in 1962. He studied painting and ceramics at the San Francisco Art Institute where he received his BFA in 1984, and is currently based in New York. Recent solo exhibitions include "7 Bangers" (Anton Kern Gallery, New York, 2019), "Rainbow paintings & ceramics" (Rodolphe Janssen, Belgium, 2021), and "BirdPots" (Baldwin Gallery, Colorado, 2022). He has also exhibited works in group exhibitions, including "Pacific Coast Ceramics" (Galeria Mascota, Colorado, 2020), "36 Paintings" (Harper's Books, New York, 2020), and "Show 1" (Airfield Gallery, New York, 2021). McCarthy's works are held in many international public collections, including ICA Miami, the Aishti Foundation, the Museum of Modern Art, New York, and the Musée d'Art Moderne de Paris.

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Dan McCarthy  
Snowy BirdPot  
2023  
Ceramic clay, glaze, gold lustre  
h.48.3 x w.31.8 x d.33.7 cm  
DM-S-23-003







Dan McCarthy  
Snowy BirdPot  
2023  
Ceramic clay, glaze, gold lustre  
h.48.3 x w.31.8 x d.33.7 cm  
DM-S-24-003

KOSAKU  
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Dan McCarthy  
Chimney Sweep  
2024

Ceramic clay, glaze, gold lustre  
h.63.5 x w.43.2 x d.45.8 cm  
DM-S-24-004







Dan McCarthy  
Glaze Tester FacePot, Blue Tear & Birds  
2024  
Ceramic clay, glaze, gold lustre  
h.45.8 x w.33.0 x d.33.0 cm  
DM-S-24-017



KOSAKU  
KANECHIKA



Dan McCarthy  
Glaze Tester FacePot, Blue Tear & Birds  
2024  
Ceramic clay, glaze, gold lustre  
h.45.8 x w.33.0 x d.33.0 cm  
DM-S-24-017





Dan McCarthy  
Lemon Flower  
2024

Ceramic clay, glaze, gold lustre  
h.56.0 x w.43.2 x d.45.8 cm  
DM-S-24-003



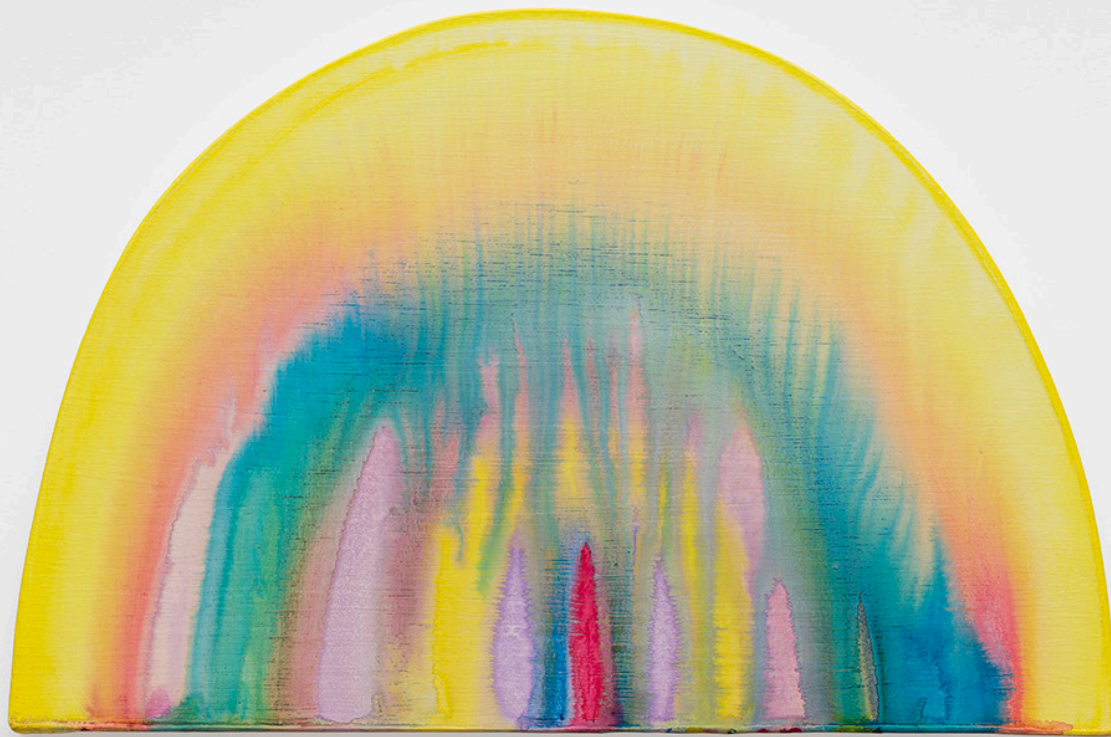
KOSAKU  
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Dan McCarthy  
Dusky BirdPot  
2023  
Ceramic clay, glaze, silver lustre  
h.48.3 x w.30.5 x d.33.0 cm  
DM-S-23-002



KOSAKU  
KANECHIKA



Dan McCarthy  
Aerosmythe  
2016  
Acrylic, marbled gesso on canvas  
h.57.0 x w.86.8 x d.4.0 cm  
DM-Pa-16-001