

Sokyo

Shozo Michikawa – Solo Exhibition

July 12th – Sep 3rd 2022

Opening: July 12th, 6pm to 8pm — WITH THE PRESENCE OF THE ARTIST



Sculptural Form Natural Ash Black, 2021
Stoneware
H44 × W18 × D18 cm
(michsz0046)

Art gallery
Rua de São Bento 440
1250-221 Lisboa

Instagram @sokyoisbon
www.sokyoisbon.com

M +351 925 552 534
art@sokyoisbon.com

Lisbon

M +351 925 552 534
art@sokyoisbon.com

Art gallery
Rua de São Bento 440
1250-221 Lisboa

Instagram @sokyoisbon
www.sokyoisbon.com



Sculptural Form Kohiki, 2021
Stoneware
H47 x W20 x D20 cm
(michsz0047)

Press Release

Sokyo Lisbon is pleased to present Shozo Michikawa's first solo exhibition in Portugal.

Having more than 40 years of experience working with ceramics, Michikawa is one of the most acclaimed Japanese artists internationally. In his self-titled solo exhibition, *Shozo Michikawa*, the artist brings 15 artworks through which he invites the visitor to an energetic, dynamic and poetic journey to Japanese tradition and to his own life's path and experience. It is an invitation to discover the artist's exceptional and unconventional skills on the potter's wheel, and to enjoy carefully selected glazes that best bring out the nature of each piece, from the snowy scenery of Kohiki glaze, to the volcanic ash appearance of the natural ash and charcoal firing. Each ceramic sculpture tells the story of itself and all the visitor has to do is find it.

The artist grew up in the region of Hokkaido, Japan, where he was able to experience nature in its purest form, witnessing a volcanic eruption in his 20's, for example. By looking into his work, one can easily see how feeling and breathing the power of nature while growing up, clearly influenced Michikawa's artistic process and creative independence. Either resting on a shelf in a private dining room, or being displayed in the white space of an international museum, his artworks bring the feeling of natural phenomena rather than deliberately crafted works.

Michikawa has developed a unique approach to ceramics and sculpture. He says he builds from the negative space outward, but never considers the outside of a piece. The characteristic shapes of the artist's works are made by using the speed and centrifugal force of the potter's wheel and expanding it from the centre with a wooden stick. The colors are generated in the high-firing kiln, where often natural earthy hues develop or melt with applied materials, such as silver, in the tanka or carbonization process of reduction firing. Michikawa balances both traditional ceramic heritage techniques with innovative forms, and his works are often imbued with a strong sculptural presence, but they always retain some type of function.

In the 'Sculptural Form' series, each work commands a notable presence. Their often upright stance suggests the possibilities of infinite rotation. The horizontal cuts, executed before the clay is set upon the wheel, disrupt the sculpture in different sections, and, much like music, they grant rhythm to the form and provide for variations of movement and composition.

Art gallery
Rua de São Bento 440
1250-221 Lisboa

Instagram @sokyoisbon
www.sokyoisbon.com

M +351 925 552 534
art@sokyoisbon.com

Shozo MICHIKAWA

Born in 1953, Hokkaido, Japan. After graduating from Aoyama Gakuin University in 1975, he settled his base of ceramic activity in Seto, Aichi prefecture. Recent solo exhibitions include: Sokyo Gallery, Kyoto, Japan (2019); Shozo Michikawa, Centro Cultural Las Condes, Santiago, Chile (2016) and Shozo Michikawa, Museo Carlo Zauli, Faenza, Italy (2016).

His works are frequently part of collective exhibitions, such as: Vessel or Not?, Sokyo Lisbon, Lisbon, Portugal (2022); Design Miami, Pierre Marie Giraud, Miami, USA (2019); Design Basel, Pierre Marie Giraud, Basel, Switzerland (2019); 60th edition of the Faenza prize, International Museum of Ceramic, Faenza, Italy (2018) and About a Vase, Museo Montelupo, Montelupo Fiorentino, Italy (2018). The main awards received by the artist are: Finalist, Loewe Foundation Craft Prize (2019); Gold medal, The Bavarian State Prize at the International Trade Fair in Munich, Munich, Germany (2018); Ceramics Now: Faenza Prize is 80 years old, Faenza, Italy (2018); Grand Prix, CERAM ICAM OSAICO, Ravenna, Italy (2005) and Design Forum in Seto, Shinpei Asai Prize, Seto, Japan (1991). Michikawa is represented in various public collections such as: Victoria & Albert Museum, London, UK; International Museum of Ceramics in Faenza, Italy; Los Angeles County Museum, L.A, USA; Philadelphia Art Museum, USA; Modern Glass & Ceramic Museum of Coburg, Germany and the China-Japan Exchange Center, Beijing, China.

About Sokyo Lisbon

Sokyo Lisbon is a contemporary art and ceramics gallery based in Portugal in partnership with Sokyo Gallery in Kyoto, Japan. Sokyo Lisbon's aim is to present the highest quality of Japanese contemporary ceramics and works of art to an European audience including works by artists such as Machiko Hashimoto, Mishima Kimiyo, Osamu Kojima, Moriyasu Kimura, Toshio Matsui, Eiko Kishi, Toru Ishii and Satoru Hoshino, among others. Atsumi Fujita is the Director of Sokyo Lisbon, Sokyo Gallery and Sokyo Annex in Kyoto, and Sokyo Atsumi, in Tokyo. Founded in 2013, Sokyo Gallery represents over thirty artists working in ceramics, lacquer, textiles, glass and metal. The gallery participates regularly in international art fairs such as Artissima, ART021, Collect London, Dangdai, Design Basel, TEFAF Maastricht. Sokyo Gallery works closely with prestigious museums and institutions worldwide.

For further information please contact:

Helena Salgueiro

Email: helena.salgueiro@sokyolisbon.com

tel: (+351) 925 552 534

www.sokyolisbon.com

Instagram: @sokyolisbon

Instagram @sokyolisbon
www.sokyolisbon.com

Art gallery
Rua de São Bento 440
1250-221 Lisboa

M +351 925 552 534
art@sokyolisbon.com