

Aperto 11

KUNO Ayako

Metamorphoses of the City

2019.7.6 (Sat) -

2019.9.23 (Mon-hol)

**The APERTO series of solo exhibitions by up-and-coming artists
Presenting the writhing, morphing form of the city in a delicate formative aesthetic
Offerings from high-profile metal sculptor KUNO Ayako,
produced in an ongoing dialogue with the casting process**

Exhibition Title	Aperto 11 KUNO Ayako Metamorphoses of the City
Period	Saturday July 6, 2019 - Monday (Holiday) September 23, 2019
Hours	10:00-18:00 (until 20:00 on Fridays and Saturdays)
Venue	21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa Long-term Project Room
Closed	Mondays (Open on July 15, August 12, September 16 and 23), July 16 [Tue] and Sep 17 [Tue]
Admission	Free
Inquiries	21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa Tel: +81-(0)76-220-2800
Organized by	21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa (Kanazawa Art Promotion and Development Foundation)

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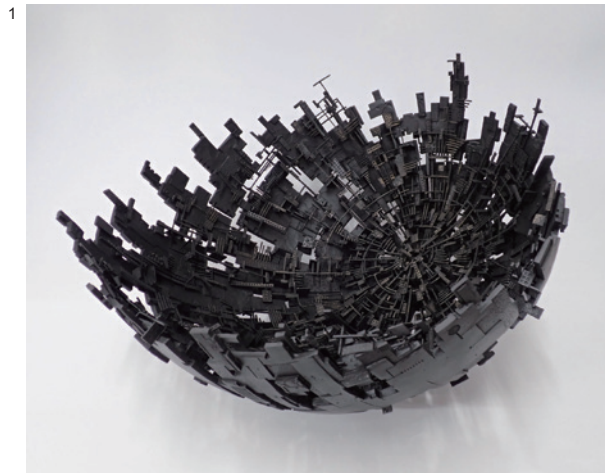
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**About
the Exhibition**

KUNO Ayako (b. 1983, Tokyo) employs lost-wax casting in her work. Lost-wax is a technique in which intricate forms made from wax are turned into casts, and Kuno uses it to produce pieces that combine the hard, solid texture of metal, with a dedication to detailed design. This exhibition presents works produced out of an earnest attitude to engage with metal and forge a dialogue with the method of metal casting: KUNO's display of high-density formative aesthetics applied to robust metal creating works on an urban theme, that conjure up visions of a writhing, proliferating metropolis, morphing as it is constructed.

TATEMATSU Yumiko, Curator



transform-hemisphere-2018
©KUNO Ayako

**Artist
Statement**

When I personally think of "landscapes," it is densely packed urban spaces that come to mind, mainly the shapes that appear when such spaces are viewed from above, and the outlines of structures, seen from various viewpoints.

For example, the sight of disorderly clusters of buildings with similar shapes; the shapes that support these; the shapes of the gaps between buildings; and the incongruous feel of nature and manmade structures standing side by side.

As I see it, people have different ideas of what constitutes a landscape; partial and fragmented, mixed with their own individual concerns and thoughts, occasionally morphing and moving in multiple ways.

It is common to view the chaos and inorganic appearance of modern urban spaces in a negative light, but a city steadily growing and changing resembles a single, giant life form, and for me, is a fascinating entity that conjures up positive thoughts of strength, hope, and vitality.

In this exhibition, I employ the precision lost-wax technique and plaster investment casting, both of which allow precise, detailed expression in metal, to develop my own version of a "landscape."

KUNO Ayako, Artist

About the Artists

KUNO Ayako

Born 1983 in Tokyo, where she is currently based, KUNO received her BFA in metalworking in 2008 from the Department of Industrial, Interior and Craft Design at Musashino Art University, and her MFA in crafts (metal casting) in 2010 from Tokyo University of Arts. Recent exhibitions include SICF15 (Spiral Hall, Tokyo; 2014), “erosion” (3331 Gallery, Tokyo, 2015), the 9th Sano Renaissance Metalcasting Competition (Sano Culture Center, Tochigi, 2017), 3rd Triennale of KOGEI in Kanazawa (People’s Gallery A, 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, 2017) and Special Exhibition “Metal Work” (Kanazawa Yasue Gold Leaf Museum, Kanazawa, 2018). Selected for the Kanazawa International Kogei Competition (2017), other awards include the Sano Renaissance Metalcasting Competition Encouragement Prize (2017), Shibuya Awards Grand Prize (2016) and SICF15 Audience Prize (2014).



Exhibition Features

Use of precision casting to present the writhing, shape-shifting city in striking metal sculptures

Employing the same method used in ancient times to cast the giant Daibutsu Buddha of Nara, Kuno Ayako uses metal to express the shape-shifting urban landscape in intricate detail. The technique allows extremely delicate modeling to be performed readily even in metal, to mesmerizing effect. Born, raised and still resident in Japan’s capital, Kuno interprets today’s constantly metamorphosing urban space as a gigantic life form suffused with a sense of strength and hope. The shape of the sprawling metropolis of Tokyo, changing from day to day in the lead-up to the 2020 Olympics, also echoes the kind of landscape found in Kanazawa itself, and all around the world.

UNESCO craft city Kanazawa, the perfect setting for work by a metal sculptor employing traditional techniques in contemporary expression

Designated a City of Crafts and Folk Art as part of the UNESCO Creative Cities network in 2009, Kanazawa is a place where many different traditional arts and crafts remain integral to the day-to-day lives of its people. Displaying examples of contemporary expression produced by Kuno using traditional casting techniques has enormous significance for a museum that takes a global view of the arts, and we hope it will spark new awareness and new ideas, among the Kanazawa community, and beyond.

Comprehensive view of the latest output of an outstanding metal sculptor

Kuno has earned numerous accolades at exhibitions widely acknowledged as gateways to success for up-and-coming sculptors, including selection for the 3rd Triennale of KOGEI in Kanazawa 2017 KOGEI World Competition in Kanazawa and the Encouragement Prize at the 9th Sano Renaissance Metalcasting Competition (2017). In addition to recent works featuring cities and regions across Japan, including urban space crammed with buildings under construction forming a map of Tokyo and a hemisphere calling to mind cities of the future, APERTO 11 will offer a new work created for the exhibition: *skyline-TOKYO-*, a relief showing the outlines of Tokyo buildings against a backdrop of the sky; all adding up to an intriguing display of urban landscapes infused with the artist’s hopes for the future.

About the “Aperto” Series

The exhibition series “Aperto” introduces up-and-coming young artists in a solo exhibition format. As an art museum actively engaged with the contemporary world, 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa looks closely at new trends now in the process of forming. Artists and curators collaborate in creating occasions for exhibiting works and act as an intermediary between today’s creation and that of the future. This exhibition series looks at individual artists who, although having little experience with solo or important group exhibitions at art museums, possess sufficient creative motivation to command a solo exhibition and who are expected to make a significant impact in the future. Artists are selected without regard for their nationality or expressive media by the curator at 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa. Note: “Aperto” is Italian for “open.”

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Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in advance.



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metropolis 2015
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