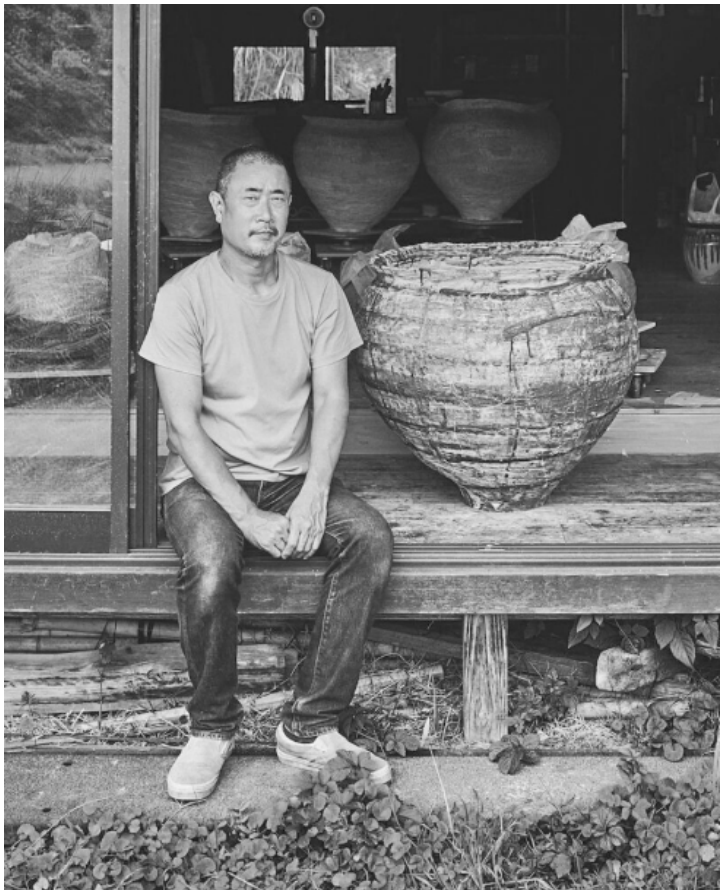

Kazunori Hamana

(b. 1969, Osaka)
Lives and works in Isumi, Chiba, Japan

Kazunori Hamana is a Japanese artist whose monumental ceramic vessels exist somewhere between sculpture, ancient artefact and living object. Working from his studio on Japan's Pacific coast, Hamana creates large-scale, hand-built forms that feel both prehistoric and distinctly contemporary. Their uneven silhouettes, weathered surfaces and earthy tones evoke objects unearthed from the ground or shaped slowly by the elements.

Hamana's fascination with archaic ceramics, amplified by the fact that he is a passionate collector of antique Japanese ceramics, is palpable in his practice. He is re-establishing the notion of conventional form while embracing the essence of objects defined as vessels rooted in past associations with utilitarian wares. His series of works reflect an understanding of the fundamental principles of hand-built Japanese ceramics, characterised by the coil technique, though in his works the shape is being reinterpreted and reconfigured by the artist and the surface is, at times, covered with graphic calligraphy, geometric patterns and pure autonomous lines.

Drawing inspiration from traditional Japanese *tsubo*, functional clay jars dating back to the 12th century, Hamana creates large-scale dynamic vessels that transcend mere containers. Working highly intuitively, the artist explores the idea of containment within the vessel, seeing space and volume as important representations of the human body.

Japanese, born in 1969
Self-taught ceramicist

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2026 *Kazunori Hamana*, Saatchi Yates, London, UK
202 Pierre Marie Giraud, Brussels, Belgium
2024 Curator's Cube, Tokyo, Japan
2022 Archipelago, Germantown, New York, USA
Kazunori Hamana Exhibition, organised by Curator's Cube, Sogetsu Plaza (Tengoku), Tokyo, Japan
Pierre Marie Giraud, Brussels, Belgium
2021 *Kazunori Hamana in collaboration with Yukiko Kuroda*, Blum & Poe, Los Angeles, USA
2020 Pierre Marie Giraud, Brussels, Belgium
Curator's Cube, Tokyo, Japan
Xavier Hufkens's home, organised by Pierre Marie Giraud, Belgium
2019 *Blue Projects*, Blue Mountain School, London, UK
2018 Curator's Cube, Tokyo, Japan
2014 *Vessels and Sea-Drift*, Hidari Zingaro, Tokyo, Japan
2013 Dieci, Osaka, Japan
2012 Playmountain, Tokyo, Japan

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2026 10th Biennial of Painting, Museum Dhondt-Dhaenens, Deurle, Belgium
The Mud Room: Itinerant Artists, Folk Spectacles, and Painted Walls, Matthew Lutz-Kinoy with Natsuko Uchino and Kazunori Hamana, Amant, Brooklyn, New York, USA
2025 *Surface and Signal*, BLUM, Tokyo, Japan
Heavenly Biches, Matthew Lutz-Kinoy with Kazunori Hamana and Eiko Ishibashi, Sogetsu Plaza (Tengoku), Tokyo, Japan
2024 *Thirty Years: Written with a Splash of Blood*, curated by Tim Blum and Mika Yoshitake, BLUM, Tokyo, Japan
Arrange Whatever Pieces Come Your Way, Galerie Francesca Pia, Zürich, Switzerland
2023 *Craft*, Galerie Francesca Pia, Zürich, Switzerland
Art Collaboration Kyoto, Kyoto, Japan. BLUM presented works by Kazunori Hamana, Asuka Anastacia Ogawa and Magdalena Skupinska.
2022 *William McKeown*, curated by Jonathan Anderson, Château La Coste, Le Puy-Sainte-Réparade, France
Momentary Pause, Casa Perfect, Los Angeles, USA
Vessels, SIZED.STUDIO, Los Angeles, USA
2021 *A Room with Six Floating Pots and Message Bottles: Kazunori Hamana and Yoichi Umetsu, Sokyo Annex*, Kyoto, Japan
Benefit Art Auction Preview Exhibition, Headlands Center for the Arts, Sausalito, USA
White, Sokyo Annex, Kyoto, Japan
2020 *Kazunori Hamana, Ooido Syoujou, Blum & Poe*, Tokyo, Japan
At the Noyes House: Blum & Poe, Mendes Wood DM and Object & Thing, The Eliot Noyes House, New Canaan, USA
5,471 miles, Blum & Poe, Tokyo, Japan
2019 *Mingei Now*, Sokyo Gallery, Kyoto, Japan
Echoes of Quiller Orchardson, Ben Hunter, London, UK
2016 *Juxtapoz x Superflat*, Pivot Art + Culture, Seattle, USA. Travelled to Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver, Canada.
Kazunori Hamana, Yuji Ueda, Otani Workshop, curated by Takashi Murakami, Blum & Poe, New York, USA
Takashi Murakami's Superflat Collection, Yokohama Museum of Art, Yokohama, Japan
2015 *Kazunori Hamana, Yuji Ueda, Otani Workshop*, curated by Takashi Murakami, Blum & Poe, Los Angeles, USA

COLLECTIONS

BY ART MATTERS, Hangzhou, China
The Rachofsky Collection, Dallas, USA