

JUMPEI KANESHIGE

b. 1972 in Komaba, Tokyo, as the eldest son of Bizen-ware ceramist Kanashige Kosuke and grandson of Kaneshige Toyo, considered a national treasure in the field of ceramics.

Graduated from Waseda University's Faculty of Literature in 1994 and completed graduate school in sculpture at Long Island University in 2000. Held solo exhibitions mainly in Tokyo, Okayama and Osaka. Selected for the Tanabe Museum of Art Tea Ceremony Modeling Exhibition and the Japan Traditional Crafts Association Chugoku Branch Exhibition.

As a young apprentice, Jumpei watched his father's technique and approach to clay with reverence and awe. In the studio, he carefully practiced his father's movements, emulating his father's attitude towards the clay and his dedication to the craft. Over time, Jumpei's own style emerged.

Jumpei led his first firing in 2007, using the Momoyama-style firing techniques established by his grandfather, with his family gathered around for support. He directed the loading and unloading of the kiln, setting the vessels meticulously in place for desired coloring and textures. Every firing is an opportunity to experiment with the clay, to learn more optimal arrangements of the pieces in the kiln and to discover ever more ways that the clay reacts to the fire.

His faith in chance appears earlier in the process as well; when throwing, he surrenders his thoughts to the rhythm of the wheel—forming becomes like breathing. "I let the tempo of the wheel and feel of the clay guide me," Jumpei says. "The form itself becomes a vessel to express the music."