

KOICHI UCHIDA

Koichi Uchida was born in Aichi Prefecture in 1969, where his parents ran an ironworks shop. As he was growing up, he would often spend time making various things out of scrap metal. After graduating from Ceramics High School, he traveled around Southeast Asia, India, West Africa and Europe, where he worked with potters in a variety of countries. That was then he realized the innate desire felt by humans to 'fire clay' and the cultural significance that this process possessed. In between his trips overseas, he worked at a pottery studio in the town of Yokkaichi, throwing several hundred flowerpots every day and becoming sympathetic towards the skills of the potter's wheel. "The Earth is turning. A car moves by turning its wheels, everything moves through turning, even religion, with the cycle of reincarnation..." In 1992, at the age of 23, he built his own kiln in Yokkaichi. "Turning" the clay, applying pressure from within to create the shape on the wheel, he forms ceramic works with a certain dynamic quality, filled with cosmic energy, combining both primitive and contemporary worlds. He attempts, through clay, to harmonize the two extremes of power: the power of nature, and the power of human civilization.