

Yoshi Fujii
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Biography

Yoshi Fujii is a resident artist, instructor, and gallery manager at Baltimore Clayworks. Yoshi, from Fukuoka, Japan, moved to U.S. in 1996 and received a B.A. in Foreign Language and a B.A. in Anthropology in 2000 from the University of Southern Mississippi. In addition, he received a B.F.A. in Sculpture with an emphasis in Ceramics in 2002 and an M.A.T.L. in English as a Second Language in 2003. After a residency in Natchez, MS, he attended Southern Illinois University Carbondale where he earned his M.F.A. in Ceramics in 2008.

In 2000, he was the recipient of the Roger Brinegar Endowed Scholarship and the Charlie and Lorita Finnegan Endowment Scholarship, which are awarded for excellence in Ceramics, and he also won the Mississippi Gulf Coast Craftsman Guild Scholarship in 2002. He was selected as a recipient of the 2008-09 Lormina Salter Fellowship and invited to become a resident artist at Baltimore Clayworks in Maryland, and he also received 2010 Mary E. Nyburg Fund for Artist Development for his 10-week residency at Tainan National University for Fine Arts in Taiwan. He shows his work in national and international exhibitions and competitions, and won several awards. He is a member of the Craftsmen's Guild of Mississippi.

Artist Statement

Design and function of the work are influenced by my heritage. Porcelain and translucent glazes, such as celadon, historically sustain the value and also suggest the fascination toward elegance and beauty. In Japan, especially among the high-class society in the old time, it is a luxury to alternate dinnerware according to the season. In the forms of function, I always reference what I saw on the table as I grow up, the seasonal dishes served, and even the relationships with user/viewer. Through the search of my personal identity in the process of making objects, I project myself in the designs of the surface referencing ones from Art Nouveau. I also extend my inspirations from traditional wood cut prints or textiles to wrapping papers and tattoos. Within elegance that I always value in my aesthetics, I am interested in the eclectic inclusions of east/west and organic elements onto utilitarian objects by capturing the seasonal nature beings through carved surface decoration as well as the appreciation of production with thoughtful designs and keen craftsmanship.