

# Stanley Street gallery

## Akira Kamada

### Artist Statement

The initial concept for these & many of my works comes from my interaction with the elements: materials / found objects that I have come across in my day-to-day life. Stories emerge naturally as the work is created.

*Gathering of Thoughts* came to encapsulate the experience of aging, a privilege that many never encounter. I noticed the mat of dark hair in my hairbrush gradually turning silver. This triggered a sharper awareness of other changes around me. Branches fall, sticks dry out and become brittle, and disintegrate.

*Landscape of the mind* grew out of meditative play with bamboo sticks. It refers to the memories we hold, abundant at times, less so at others, becoming increasingly more skeletal and fragile.

The pumice used in *Floaters* turned up a few years ago on a local beach in the Shoalhaven. I wondered where it had originated. It occurred to me that the natural world has no national borders to contain tides, currents, inanimate objects, or the determined communities that travel the globe. Migration is a natural instinct for fish, sea mammals and birds, just as it is an innate, irrepressible urge for humans who risk their lives when necessary to save themselves.

### Bio

Akira Kamada is a sculptor and installation artist whose central concern is the impact of human behaviour on the natural environment, and on our overall social fabric, combined with an artistic respect and reverence for the beauty of natural materials.

Born in Japan in 1955, Kamada studied photography and painting before immigrating to Australia in 1987. While working as a landscape gardener, specialising in contemporary Japanese garden design, he studied ceramics and sculpture, and began exhibiting in group shows and public exhibitions from the early 2000s.

In 2003 he was commissioned by the Art Gallery of NSW to design and construct four contemporary Japanese gardens in conjunction with the Japanese *seasons* exhibition, and in 2005 he was invited to join *Art of Flowers* and *Art and About* at Government House. Over this period however, he began to focus more on creating large sculptures, working mostly with recycled timber. He received a Highly Commended award at the Thursday Plantation 9<sup>th</sup> East Coast Sculpture Show.

Kamada first entered Sculpture by the Sea Bondi in 2006. In 2008 he received the Clitheroe Foundation Emerging Artists' Mentor Program Scholarship. He has exhibited regularly in most major sculpture shows around Sydney and the east coast since then, winning prizes at Sculpture in the Vineyards, the North Sydney Art Prize, the Warringah Art Prize, Sculpture in the Glen, and the Jervis Bay & Basin Arts Festival, as well as being commissioned to show at *ScenicWorld* in Katoomba in 2016. He has been a finalist in the Bondi show five times, and the Cottesloe show three.

His pieces are featured in collections at Thursday Plantation, Western Sydney University (Campbelltown and Penrith campuses), Transfeld Holdings, Sydney Office, and numerous private collections. However, in recent years he has begun focusing on more ephemeral, site-specific pieces and installations.

Kamada moved from Sydney to the Jervis Bay area in 2014, where he combines his artistic practice with building a life in the bush.

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## CV

### EDUCATION

- 2004 Sculpture Course, Sydney Gallery School Meadowbank TAFE
- 1999 Certificate IV in Ceramics, National Art School East Sydney TAFE
- 1978 Oil Painting, Musashino Art School Tokyo
- 1975 Photography, Tama Art School Tokyo

### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2011 Gallery@28, Woollahra *Compositions in Wood*
- 2010 Cross Bay Gallery, Elizabeth Bay *Forest Society*
- 1979 Photo Gallery Put, Tokyo
- 1978 Café Gallery Denen, Tokyo

### GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2017 *Harbour Sculpture*
- 2017 *North Sydney Art Prize*
- 2017 *Sculpture by the Sea, Cottesloe*
- 2016 *Art Atrium, Summer Sojourn – End of Year Group Exhibition*
- 2016 *Sculpture in the Vineyards*
- 2016 *Sculpture at Sawmillers*
- 2016 Western Sydney University Acquisitive Sculpture Award Exhibition
- 2015 Jervis Bay Maritime Museum, *Summer X*
- 2015 Defiance Gallery *6 inch Miniature Sculpture Show*
- 2015 Cessnock Regional Art Gallery, *Hefty Fab*
- 2015 *Sculpture in the Vineyards*
- 2015 *Sculpture in the Glen*
- 2015 *Sculpture on the Greens*
- 2015 *Harbour Sculpture*
- 2014 *Sculpture by the Sea, Bondi*
- 2014 Defiance Gallery *6 inch Miniature Sculpture Show*
- 2014 Cessnock Regional Art Gallery *Lines of Substance*
- 2014 *Sculpture in the Vineyards*
- 2014 Rookwood Cemetery *Hidden*
- 2014 Hunters Hill *Harbour Sculpture*
- 2014 Lady Denman Gallery Huskisson *SeeChange*
- 2014 Incinerator Art Space *Thin Ice2*
- 2014 Sydney Town Hall *Crossing Boundaries – A Celebration of Contemporary Asian Australian Art*
- 2013 Conny Dietzschold Gallery *Back Stage*
- 2013 Blacktown Art Centre *Blacktown City Art Prize 2013*
- 2013 Defiance Gallery *6 inch Miniature Sculpture Show*
- 2013 *Sculpture in the Vineyards*
- 2013 *North Sydney Art Prize*
- 2013 *Warringah Art Exhibition*
- 2013 Incinerator Art Space *Thin Ice*

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- 2013 *Sculpture by the Sea, Cottesloe*
- 2012 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art *Members' Show*
- 2012 Defiance Gallery *6 inch Miniature Sculpture Show*
- 2012 *Sculpture in the Vineyards*
- 2012 Gosford Regional Gallery *Gosford Art Prize*
- 2012 Blacktown Art Centre *Blacktown City Art Prize 2012*
- 2012 *Warringah Art Exhibition*
- 2012 Sydney Olympic Park, The Armory Exhibition *Excavation*
- 2012 Sheffer Gallery Darlington *SHIFT*
- 2012 *Hunters Hill Art Exhibition*
- 2011 Conny Dietzschold Gallery, East Sydney *Boxes*
- 2011 Ocean Care Day Festival, Manly
- 2011 Defiance Gallery *6 inch Miniature Sculpture Show*
- 2011 *In Situ* Mosman Arts Festival
- 2011 *Sculpture in the Vineyards*
- 2011 Manly Arts Festival
- 2011 *Warringah Art Exhibition*
- 2011 *Sculpture by the Sea, Cottesloe*
- 2010 *Sculpture by the Sea Bondi, Inside*
- 2010 Defiance Gallery *6 inch Miniature Sculpture Show*
- 2010 Gallery @ 28, Woollahra *Water*
- 2010 Andrianakis Fitzroy Gallery *Innerscapes*
- 2010 *Sculpture in the Vineyards*
- 2010 *Warringah Art Exhibition*
- 2010 *University of Western Sydney Acquisitive Sculpture Award Exhibition*
- 2009 High & Dry Festival
- 2009 Defiance Gallery *6 inch Miniature Sculpture Show*
- 2009 Invited artist *Sculpture in the Vineyards*
- 2009 *Sculpture by the Sea, Bondi*
- 2009 Gallery @ 28, Woollahra
- 2009 *Warringah Art Exhibition*
- 2008 *Sculpture in the Vineyards*
- 2008 Vacluse House *Rustic*
- 2008 *Sculpture by the Sea, Bondi*
- 2008 *Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize*
- 2008 *University of Western Sydney Acquisitive Sculpture Award Exhibition*
- 2008 Cross Bay Gallery, *The Shadow of Landscape*
- 2007 *Sculpture by the Sea, Bondi*
- 2007 *Thursday Plantation 12<sup>th</sup> East Coast Sculpture Show*
- 2006 *Sculpture by the Sea, Bondi*
- 2006 Defiance Gallery *6 inch Miniature Sculpture Show*
- 2006 *University of Western Sydney Acquisitive Sculpture Award Exhibition*
- 2005 Invited artist *Thursday Plantation 10<sup>th</sup> East Coast Sculpture Show*
- 2004 *Thursday Plantation 9<sup>th</sup> East Coast Sculpture Show*
- 2004 Muse Gallery, Ultimo TAFE
- 1999 East Sydney TAFE Gallery
- 1987 Gallery Yohaku, Tokyo

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## AWARDS

- 2015 Winner, Jervis Bay Maritime Museum, *Summer X*
- 2015 Winner, Director's Prize, *Sculpture in the Glen*
- 2013 Winner, Site-Specific Award, *Sculpture in the Vineyards*
- 2013 Winner, Site-Specific Award, *North Sydney Art Prize*
- 2010 Winner, *Waste to Art, Warringah Art Exhibition*
- 2010 Highly Commended, *UWS Acquisitive Sculpture Award Exhibition*
- 2008 *Clitheroe Foundation Emerging Artists' Mentorship Program, Sculpture by the Sea*
- 2004 Highly Commended, *Thursday Plantation 9<sup>th</sup> East Coast Sculpture Show*

## PROFESSIONAL WORKSHOPS

- 2014 *Sculpture by the Sea, Bondi*
- 2010 Killara High School
- 2009 Gosford Regional Gallery for *Sculpture by the Bay*
- 2008-9 *Sculpture by the Sea, Bondi*

## COLLECTIONS

University of Western Sydney, Parramatta Campus  
University of Western Sydney, Campbelltown Campus  
Thursday Plantation, Ballina  
Transfield Holdings, Sydney Office  
Private collections, Sydney, Perth, Tokyo, New York

## COMMISSIONS

- 2016 ScenicWorld
- 2005 *Art of Flowers* and *Art and About* exhibitions, Government House
- 2003 Art Gallery of NSW, 4 Japanese rock gardens to display in conjunction with *Japanese seasons* exhibition