



Taka Ishii

Gallery

6-5-24 3F Roppongi Minato-ku Tokyo #106-0032, Japan
tel +81 (0)3 6434 7010
fax +81 (0)3 6434 7011
web www.takaishiiigallery.com
email tig@takaishiiigallery.com

William J. O'Brien

- 1975 Born in Eastlake, Ohio
1997 BA, Loyola University Chicago, Chicago, IL, USA
2005 MFA, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL, USA
Lives and works in Chicago

Solo Exhibitions

- 2020 *Safety Blankets. Fetish Objects*, Marianne Boesky Gallery, New York, NY, USA [online]
- 2019 *transitional objects*, Shane Campbell Gallery, Chicago, IL, USA
Shame Spiral, Atlanta Contemporary, Atlanta, GA, USA
- 2018 *Reliquary*, Madison Museum of Contemporary Art, Madison, WI, USA
- 2017 *Reliquary*, Shane Campbell Gallery Lincoln Park, Chicago, IL, USA
Reliquary, Shane Campbell Gallery South Loop, Chicago, IL, USA
William J. O'Brien Oscillates Wildly, KMAC Museum, Louisville, KY, USA
WILLIAM J. O'BRIEN: THE PROTECTORS, Marianne Boesky Gallery, New York, NY, USA
- 2015 *William J. O'Brien*, Shane Campbell Gallery, Chicago, IL, USA
WILLIAM J. O'BRIEN, Susanne Hilberry Gallery, Ferndale, MI, USA
- 2014 *water sounds*, Taka Ishii Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
Six Circles: Four Squares, Shane Campbell Gallery, Chicago, IL, USA
William J. O'Brien, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, accompanying monograph, Chicago, IL, USA
(curated by Naomi Beckwith) [Cat.]
The Lovers, Almine Rech Gallery, Paris, France

- 2013 *Wet 'N WILD*, Marianne Boesky Gallery, New York, NY, USA
- 2012 Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, Overland Park, KS, USA
- 2011 *Works on Paper*, SHAHEEN Modern and Contemporary Art, Overland, OH, USA
The Renaissance Society at The University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, USA
- 2010 *William J. O'Brien*, Shane Campbell Gallery, Oak Park, Chicago, IL, USA
- 2009 *William J. O'Brien*, Marianne Boesky Gallery, New York, NY, USA
William J. O'Brien, Susanne Hilberry Gallery, Detroit, MI, USA
- 2007 *the axis mundi*, Shane Campbell Gallery, Chicago, IL, USA
- 2006 *When Your Heart Is on Fire, Smoke Gets in Your Eyes*, Locust Projects, Miami, FL, USA
- 2005 *A Fairy Tale*, Ingalls and Associates, Miami, FL, USA (curated by Jose Diaz and Nina Arias)
12 x 12, New Artists, New Work, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL, USA

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2021 *YAKIMONO*, Taka Ishii Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
The Protectors, deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum, Lincoln, MA, USA
A Thought Sublime, Marianne Boesky Gallery, New York, NY, USA
Objects: USA 2020, R & Company, New York, NY, USA
- 2020 *The Long Dream*, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Chicago, IL, USA
Human Expectations II, HUB-Robeson Galleries, University Park, PA, USA
The Planter Show, Fort Makers, New York, NY, USA
Collage, Hans Gallery, Chicago, IL, USA

- Duro Olowu: Seeing Chicago*, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Chicago, IL, USA
- 2019 *Sculpture in the Parks*, Chicago Park District, Chicago, IL, USA
Survived!, Taka Ishii Gallery, Tokyo, Japan [Cat.]
Sculpture Milwaukee 2019, Sculpture Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI, USA
- 2018 *The Burke Prize 2018: The Future of Craft, Part 2*, Museum of Arts and Design, New York, NY, USA
 (curated by Samantha De Tillio and Angelik Vizcarrondo-Laboy)
DPAM Collects: Happy Little Trees and Other Recent Acquisitions, DePaul Art Museum, Chicago, IL, USA
the needle, the haystack, the thread, Arts Club of Chicago, Chicago, IL, USA
- 2017 *Thread Lines*, KMAC Museum, Louisville, KY, USA
Horror Vacui, or The Annihilation of Space, Misako and Rosen, Tokyo, Japan
- 2016 *Passing Through Minnesota*, Minnesota Street Project, San Francisco, CA, USA (organized by Berggruen Gallery)
Wild Style: Exhibition of Figurative Art, Peres Projects Berlin, Berlin, Germany
Soft Core, Invisible-Exports, New York, NY, USA
Pattern and Process, Dekalb, IL, USA (curated by Nina Rizzo and Steven Ciampaglia)
Chicago and Vicinity, Shane Campbell Gallery, Chicago, IL, USA
THIRTY NINE YEARS, Susanne Hilberry Gallery, Ferndale, CA, USA
- 2015 *I Can't Wait To Get Off Work*, Bannerette Gallery, Brooklyn, NY, USA (curated by Austin Eddy)
THIRTY NINE YEARS / Memorial for Susan Feld Hilberry, Susan Hilberry Gallery, Ferndale, MI, USA
Surrealism: The Conjured Life, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Chicago, IL, USA
Try Again. Fail Again. Fail Better, Cherry and Martin, Los Angeles, CA, USA
Defying Gravity: Inventions in Clay, Sun Valley Center for the Arts, Sun Valley, ID, USA
SOFT CORE, Invisible Exports, New York, NY, USA
Organic Sculpture, Alison Jacques Gallery, London, UK
- 2014 *KILN*, Leila Heller, New York, NY, USA
Kayla Guthrie, William J. O'Brien, McKeever Donovan, Annabeth Marks, U.S. Blues, Brooklyn, NY, USA

- Art on Paper 2014: The 43rd Exhibition*, Weatherspoon Art Museum, Greensboro, NC, USA
Thread Lines, The Drawing Center, New York, NY, USA
New Image Painting, Shane Campbell Gallery, Chicago, IL, USA
Platform, Almine Rech Gallery, Brussels, Belgium (curated by Nicolas Trembley)
- 2013 *DNA: Strands of Abstraction*, Loretta Howard Gallery, New York, NY, USA (curated by Paul Sinclair)
- 2012 *Surface in Volume*, Luce Gallery, Torino, Italy
Phantom Limb: Approached to Painting Today, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Chicago, IL, USA
Someone Puts a Pineapple Together, Acme, Los Angeles, CA, USA
- 2011 *Painted*, The Green Gallery, Milwaukee, WI, USA (curated by Tyson Reeder)
Painting... E X P A N D E D, Espacio 1414, Santurce, Puerto Rico
Works on Paper, SHAHEEN Modern and Contemporary Art, Cleveland, OH, USA
Josh Faught and William J. O'Brien, Lisa Cooley, New York, NY, USA
Making is Thinking, Witte de With Rotterdam, Rotterdam, Netherlands
- 2010 *L'Aur'Amara*, MC Gallery, New York, NY, USA, Dec. 2 - 30, 2010; Traveled to: Générale en Manufacture, Paris, France, Apr. 2011; Centro Ricerche Accademia di Brera ex Chiesa di S.Carpoforo, Milan, Italy, Jun. 2011 (curated by Bustos Domenech)
At Home/Not at Home: Works from the Collection of Martin and Rebecca Eisenberg, Center for Curatorial Studies and Art in Contemporary Culture, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY, USA
Mystic Visage, World Class Boxing space of the Debra and Dennis Scholl Collection, Miami, FL, USA (curated by Desiree Cronk)
New Icon, Loyola University Museum of Art, Chicago, IL, USA
- 2009 *In Stitches*, Leila Taghinia-Milani Heller Gallery, New York, NY, USA (curated by Beth Rudin DeWoody)
Selected Works from the MCA Collection, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Chicago, IL, USA
Your Gold Teeth II, Marian Boesky Gallery, New York, NY, USA
An Expanded Field of Possibilities, Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum, Santa Barbara, CA, USA
- 2008 *Now You See It*, Aspen Art Museum, Aspen, CO, USA [Cat.]

- BASE: OBJECT*, Andrea Rosen Gallery, New York, NY, USA
Andy Coolquitt, Frank Haines, William J. O'Brien, Galerie Krinzinger, Vienna, Austria
Jesuvian Process, Elizabeth Dee Gallery, New York, NY, USA
BASE: OBJECT: Sara Barker, Patrick Hill, Matthew Monahan, William J. O'Brien, Sterling Ruby, Andrea Rosen Gallery, Gallery 2, New York, NY, USA
- 2007 *William J. O'Brien/Anthony Pearson*, Project Space, Marianne Boesky Gallery, New York, NY, USA
Makers and Modelers: Works in Ceramic, Gladstone Gallery, New York, NY, USA
Sonotube® Forms: Contemporary Art and Transport, Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum, Santa Barbara, CA, USA
Jesse Chapman, Aliza Nisenbaum, William J. O'Brien, Shane Campbell Gallery, Chicago, IL, USA
So Wrong, I'm Right, Blum & Poe, Los Angeles, CA, USA
Stuff: International Contemporary Art from the Collection of Burt Aaron, Museum of Contemporary Art, Detroit, MI, USA
- 2006 *Modern Primitivism*, Shane Campbell Gallery, Chicago, IL, USA
Josh Mannis, Eric Lebofsky, William J. O'Brien, Western Exhibitions, Chicago, IL, USA
Cluster, Participant inc, New York, NY, USA (curated by Katie Holten)
MIXART, The James Hotel, Chicago, IL, USA
Champagne, Nina Menocal Projects, Mexico City, Mexico (curated by Jose Diaz)
Pathetisize, Open End Gallery, Chicago, IL, USA (curated by Alex May)
- 2005 *Macerate*, Around the Coyote Gallery, Chicago, IL, USA (curated by Currency Exchange)
The Living Room, CoDependent, Art Basel Miami Beach, Miami, FL, USA (curated by Gean Moreno)
We Created a Monster, Nina Menocal Projects for Art Basel, Miami, FL, USA (curated by Frederick Janka)
Winter Group Show, Booster and Seven, Chicago, IL, USA (curated by Steph Pavone)
Eagle Hand's Moon and The Orange Savior, The Church of the Friendly Ghost, Austin, TX, USA
Summer Group Show, Contemporary Art Workshop, Chicago, IL, USA (curated by Steph Pavone)
In Print2, Diamonds on Archer, Chicago, IL, USA
Appropriating Feminist Strategies, Gallery 1926, Chicago, IL, USA
Certain People I Know, Margaret Thatcher Projects, New York, NY, USA (curated by Tommy Everett)
Take My Hand, Three-Walls Gallery, Chicago, IL, USA, Feb. 4 – Mar. 12, 2015; Traveled to: Nina Menocal

- Gallery, Mexico City, Mexico, Apr. 2015 (curated by Ruba Katrib)
- M.F.A. Thesis Exhibition*, Gallery 2, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL, USA
- Stygine's Creek*, Video Screening, Three-Walls Gallery, Chicago, IL, USA (curated by Ruba Katrib)
- Bilingual*, Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, Chicago, IL, USA (curated by Tracy Taylor)
- Drawn Out*, Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, Chicago, IL, USA (curated by Tracy Taylor)
- CoDependent*, The Living Room for Art Basel, Miami, FL. USA (curated by Gean Moreno)
- 2004 *Eric Lebofsky, Josh Mannis, William O'Brien*, 1/Quarterly Space, Chicago, IL, USA
- Night of 1,000 Drawings*, Artist Space, New York, NY, USA
- 3 on 3, Straight Artists Curate 3 Gay Artists*, Higher Gallery, Chicago, IL, USA
- The Affair*, Jupiter Hotel, The Fresh-Up Club, Portland, OR, USA
- Identity Crisis*, Marshall Arts @ Delta Axis, Memphis, TN, USA
- Small Victories*, Modest Contemporary Art Projects, Chicago, IL, USA
- Art Poster Show*, Objex Artspace, Miami, FL, USA
- Click Formation*, Open End Gallery, Chicago, IL, USA
- Abracadabra*, Rocket Projects, Miami FL, USA
- G2 Group Show*, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL, USA
- The Pilot Conference*, Symbology Bathroom, Chicago, IL, USA
- Art Mule*, The Stray Show, Chicago, IL, USA
- 2003 *La Superrette*, Deitch Projects, Participant, Inc., New York, NY, USA
- 100% Cotton*, Glasgow School of Art, Glasgow, Scotland
- White Haute*, Shaff Gallery, Chicago, IL, USA
- 2001 *Benefit Invitation Group Show, Out and About*, SPACES Gallery, Cleveland, OH, USA
- 1997 *Undergraduate Thesis Show*, Crown Center Gallery, Loyola University Chicago, Chicago, IL, USA

Selected Bibliography

- 2020 Adamson, Glenn. *Objects: USA 2020*, New York: The Monacelli Press, 2020

- 2019 Calobrisi, Amanda Joy. *William J. O'Brien, "Transitional Objects" at Shane Campbell Gallery*, Chicago: ADF Webmagazine, 2019 [online]
- McIntosh, Monique. *Meet a Chicago creative who creates & deconstructs art*, Gateshead: Luxe Magazine, 2019
- Close Look: William J. O'Brien at Atlanta Contemporary*, Atlanta: Burnaway, 2019 [online]
- 2018 Clark, Brian E. Hey. *Milwaukee: Madison has a beautiful art museum, too - this one contemporary*, Wisconsin: Journal Sentinel, 2018
- Couzens, Julia. *Power to the people— through clay*, California: The Sacramento Bee, 2018
- Eler, Alicia. *Collector closeups: Twin Cities young art collectors with their favorite pieces*, Minneapolis: Star Tribune, 2018
- Goldstein, Caroline. *On View: William J. O'Brien's Enchanted Circus Installation Is Packed Full of Dizzying Detail*, New York: artnet News, 2018
- Scholl, Dennis. *"Inside my studio" with William J. O'Brien*, Miami: Cultured Magazine, 2018 [online]
- Stojilkovic, Lena. *William J. O'Brien's Reliquary art exhibit all about personality*, Madison, Wisconsin: The Badger Herald, 2018
- 2017 Burch, Tory. *To Do: William J. O'Brien at Marianne Boesky Gallery*, New York: Tory Burch, 2017
- Keel, Eli. *KMAC's 'Thread Lines' exhibit is a conversation between mediums*, Louisville: InSider Louisville, 2017
- Keel, Eli. *The evocative and varied works of William J. O'Brien are now at KMAC*, Louisville: InSider Louisville, 2017
- Kramer, Elizabeth. *KMAC Show with Work by Upcoming Chicago Artist*, Oxford: Courier Journal, 2017
- Travers, Andrew. *Making is Thinking': Artist William J. O'Brien to speak at Anderson Ranch Arts Center*, Snowmass Village: Snowmass Sun, 2017
- Yanoviak, Eileen. *Art Review: William O'Brien at KMAC in Louisville*, Atlanta: Burnaway, 2017
- 2016 Scicchitano, Paul. *You Don't Have to Sip Champagne to Love Art Basel*, Miami: Miami Beach Patch, 2016
- Steadman, Ryan. *5 Must-See Booths at the Art Los Angeles Contemporary Fair*, New York: Observer, 2015
- Williams, Maxwell. *As Mega-Galleries Descend on L.A., ALAC Warms Locals to Collecting Art*, New York:

- Artsy, 2016
- 2015 Boucher, Brian. *The 10 Best Contemporary Artworks at the 2015 Armory Show*, New York: artnet News, 2015
- Boucher, Brian. *What's Really Cool at the Armory Show 2015? Brian Boucher Points it Out*, New York: artnet News, 2015
- Brooks, Katherine. *13 Artists You Should Fall In Love With This Spring*, New York: Huffington Post, 2015
- Bryant, Eric. *25 Most Collectible Midcareer Artists*, New York: Blouin Artinfo, 2015
- Girgenti, Maria. *Portrait of the Artist: William J. O'Brien*, Chicago: Newcity Art, 2015
- Guiducci, Mark. *How To See the Armory Show in One Hour Flat*, New York: Vogue, 2015
- Jovanovic, Rozalia. *Rozalia Jovanovic's Top 10 Booths at the Armory Show 2015*, New York: artnet News, 2015
- Kazakina, Katya. *No Art Fair Lull as One Gallery Sells \$1 Million in Three Hours*, New York: Bloomberg, 2015
- Kirsch, Corinna. *Dealers Report: The 2015 Armory Show is Legit Awesome*, New York: Art F City, 2015
- 11 Booths You Need to See Before The Armory Show Closes*, New York: Artsy, 2015
- AD Gets a First Look at the 17th Annual Armory Show*, New York: Architectural Digest, 2015
- At The Armory Show, a Fresh-Faced Vernissage with Accessible Price Points*, New York: Artsy, 2015
- Preview Art Basel Miami Beach: 10 Works By Artists Who Have Altered the Way We Perceive Our World and Ourselves*, New York: Art Dealers Association of America, 2015
- 2014 Grabner, Michelle. *William J. O'Brien, Curated by Naomi Beckwith – Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago*, New York: artforum, 2014
- Eichinger, Elle. *Chicago's William J. O'Brien Shows Multimedia Pieces at the MCA*, Chicago: Michigan Avenue, 2014
- Mathis, Meg. *Art Luminaries Share a Vegetarian Lunch at Mana Food Bar*, Chicago: Michigan Avenue, 2014
- 2013 *Things We Like – Hitlist*, New York: Modern Painters, 2013
- Johnson, Paddy. *6 Must-See Discussions at Expo Chicago*, Brooklyn: Art Fag City, 2013
- 2011 Vogel, Sabine B. *William J. O'Brien*, New York: Artforum, 2011

- Bailey, Stéphanie. *A Reaction to Globalised Production*, York: Aesthetica, 2011
- O'Toole, Sean. *Making is Thinking*. New York: Frieze, May 2011
- Foumberg, Jason. *Review: William J. O'Brien/Renaissance Society*, New City: Art Section, 2011
- 2010 Higgs, Matthew. *At Home/not at Home: Works from the Collection of Martin and Rebecca Eisenberg, Annandale-on-Hudson*, New York: Center for Curatorial Studies, Bard College, 2010
- Rondeau, James. *Emerging Artists*, New York: Frieze, January 2010
- Grabner, Michelle. *New Icon*, New York: Artforum.com, July 21, 2010
- 2009 Smith, Roberta. *Make Room for Video Performance and Paint*, New York: The New York Times, 2009
- 2008 Jacobson, Heidi Zuckerman. *Now You See It: Paintings That Demand a Second Look*, Aspen: Aspen Magazine, 2008
- Oksenhorn, Stewart. *Blindness Isn't an Option*, Aspen: Aspen Times, 2008
- Jacobson, Heidi Zuckerman, Peter Eleey, Jeremy Sigler, George Stranahan, and Paul Valery. *Now You See It*, Aspen: Aspen Art Press, 2008
- Taft, Catherine. *Base: Object. Andrea Rosen Gallery*, New York: Artforum, 2008
- Dault, Julia. *Akimblog: New York City*, New York: Akimbo.com, 2008
- Base: Object Exhibition*, New York: NYArtBeat.com, 2008
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- Tranberg, Dan. *Review: 'Out of Sight' at Front Room Gallery*, Cleveland: Beautiful/Decay, 2008
- Reilly, Brittany. *Breakout Artists: Chicago's Next Generation of Image Makers*, Chicago: New City Chicago, 2008
- Seckler, Judy. *Review: Makers and Modelers: Works in Ceramic*, Westerville: Ceramics Monthly, 2008
- Grabner, Michelle. *Makers and Modelers: Works in Ceramic*, Los Angeles: X-Tra 10, No. 3, 2008
- Sonnenborn, Katie. *Makers and Modellers*, New York: Frieze 113, 2008
- 2007 Yood, James. *William J. O'Brien: Shane Campbell Gallery*, New York: Artforum XLVI, No. 4, 2007
- Darwent, Charles. *Reviews: Makers and Modelers: Works in Ceramic*, London: Crafts Magazine for Contemporary Art, 2007
- Smith, Roberta. *Museum and Gallery Listings: 'Makers and Modelers: Works in Ceramic'*, New York: The

New York Times, September 28, 2007: Art & Design section.

Fry, Naomi. *Makers and Modelers*, Gladstone Gallery, New York: Artforum.com, 2007

Smith, Roberta. *It's Just Clay, but How About a Little Respect?* New York: The New York Times, September 7, 2007: Weekend Arts, Fine Arts/Leisure section.

2006 Weinberg, Lauren. *Lebofsky, Mannis, and O'Brien*, Chicago: Time Out Chicago, June 29-July 6, 2006

Dan Devenin. *Editions, William J. O'Brien*, Chicago: Chicago Social, May 2006

Dan Devening. *Editions at Art Chicago: William J. O'Brien*, Chicago: Time Out Chicago, May 2006

Moreno, Gean. *William J. O'Brien*, Atlanta: Art Papers, March/April, 2006

2005 Tyson, Josh. *Group Show: Booster and Seven*, Chicago: Time Out Chicago, December 15-29, 2005

Rosenfeld, Kathryn. *The Inner Light, Absurdity and the Tactics of Perversion: William J. O'Brien*, Chicago: CAC Chicago Artists' News, December 2005

Heidemann, Jason A. *Out on the Town...Taking in Queer Culture*, Chicago: Time Out Chicago, October 20-27, 2005

Davis, Andrew. *Gay Artist Featured at MCA*, Chicago: Windy City Times, October 2005

Pesanti, Heather. *Macerate Catalogue Essay*, May 2005

Nusser, Madeline. *Macerate*, Chicago: Time Out Chicago, June 16-23, 2005

Hawkins, Margaret. *Take My Hand*, Chicago: Chicago Sun-Times, February 4, 2005: Weekend section.

Gay Broken Hearts, New York: Genre Magazine, September 2005

Girls, Boys, Pop Music, New York: Teen Vogue, December/January 2005

Awards

2020 Recipient of Illinois Arts Council Artist Fellowship

2019 Herp Alpert/Ucross Prize

2018 Museum of Arts and Design, Burke Prize

2011 Recipient of Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Award

2006 Artadia: The Fund for Art & Dialogue, Chicago Finalist, Grant Recipient

Vermont Studio Center, Full Fellowship Residency

Mellon Award, Loyola University Chicago, Chicago

Public Collections

The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL, USA

Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, OH, USA

DePaul Art Museum, Chicago, IL, USA

Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, CA, USA

Hara Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo, Japan

Miami Art Museum, Miami, FL, USA

Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL, USA

New York Presbyterian Hospital, New York, NY, USA

Pérez Art Museum Miami, Miami, FL, USA

Saatchi Gallery, London, UK