



Taka Ishii

Gallery

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## 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

2019 *Transitional Objects*, Share 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 Campvell 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 Hiberry 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**

- 2019 *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**

- 2019     McIntosh, Monique. "Meet a Chicago Creative Who Creates & Deconstructs Art," *Luxe Magazine*, 2019  
           "Crafting the Future the MAD Way," *TL Magazine*, Brussels 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  
           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



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- 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**

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