



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

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, Chicago, IL, USA
Oscillates Wildly, KMAC Museum, Louisville, KY, USA
The Protectors, Marianne Boesky Gallery, New York, NY, USA

2015 Shane Campbell Gallery, Chicago, IL, USA
Susanne Hilberry Gallery, Ferndale, MI, USA

2014 *water sounds*, Taka Ishii Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
Six Circles: Four Squares, Shane Campbell Gallery, Chicago, IL, USA
Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Chicago, IL, USA [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, Cleveland, OH, USA
The Renaissance Society at The University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, USA
- 2010 Shane Campbell Gallery, Oak Park, Chicago, IL, USA
- 2009 Marianne Boesky Gallery, New York, NY, USA
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
12 x 12, New Artists, New Work, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL, USA

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2023 *Life Cycles*, DePaul Art Museum, Chicago, IL, USA
Clayjà Vu, Ki Smith Gallery, New York, NY, USA
Lilac, Moonbeam, and Heavenly Blue, Goldfinch Gallery, Chicago, IL, USA
- 2022 *FIRE: A Curated Selection of Ceramics*, Alison Bradley Projects, New York, NY, USA
Regarding the Missing Objects, Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, IL, USA
SAIC Faculty Sabbatical Triennial, SAIC Galleries, Chicago, IL, USA
2022 Outdoor Sculpture Exhibition, Indiana University East, Richmond, IN, USA
Craft Invitational, Dubuque Museum of Art, Dubuque, IA, USA
Connect the Dots, SAIC Wellness Center, Chicago, IL, USA
Holding Pattern, The Holland Project Gallery, Reno, NV, USA

- 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
 DPAM Collects: Happy Little Trees and Other Recent Acquisitions, DePaul Art Museum, Chicago, IL, USA
 Queering Space, Fosdick-Nelson Gallery at Alfred University, Alfred, NY, USA
- 2017 *Thread Lines*, KMAC Museum, Louisville, KY, USA
 Horror Vacui, or The Annihilation of Space, Misako and Rosen, Tokyo, Japan
- 2016 *Wild Style: Exhibition of Figurative Art*, Peres Projects Berlin, Berlin, Germany
 Chicago and Vicinity, Shane Campbell Gallery, Chicago, IL, USA
 Pattern and Process, Northern Illinois University, Dekalb, IL, USA
- 2015 *Thirty Nine Years*, Susanne Hilberry Gallery, Ferndale, MI, USA
 I Can't Wait To Get Off Work, Bannerette Gallery, New York, NY, 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, New York, 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
- 2013 *DNA: Strands of Abstraction*, Loretta Howard Gallery, New York, NY, USA
- 2012 *All Good Things Become Wild and Free*, H. F. Johnson Gallery of Art, Kenosha, WI, USA
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
Painting... E X P A N D E D, Espacio 1414, Santurce, Puerto Rico
Josh Faught and William J. O'Brien, Lisa Cooley, New York, NY, USA
Making is Thinking, Witte de With Rotterdam, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
- 2010 *The Maginot Line*, David Castillo Gallery, Miami, FL, USA
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
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
New Icon, Loyola University Museum of Art, Chicago, IL, USA
- 2009 *In Stitches*, Leila Taghinia-Milani Heller Gallery, New York, NY, USA
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
- 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
- MIXART*, The James Hotel, Chicago, IL, USA
- Champagne*, Nina Menocal Projects, Mexico City, Mexico
- Pathetisize*, Open End Gallery, Chicago, IL, USA
- 2005 *Macerate*, Around the Coyote Gallery, Chicago, IL, USA
- The Living Room, CoDependent*, Art Basel Miami Beach, Miami, FL, USA
- We Created a Monster*, Nina Menocal Projects for Art Basel, Miami, FL, USA
- Winter Group Show*, Booster and Seven, Chicago, IL, USA
- 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
- 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
- Take My Hand*, Three-Walls Gallery, Chicago, IL, USA, Feb. 4 – Mar. 12, 2015; Traveled to: Nina Menocal

- Gallery, Mexico City, Mexico, Apr. 2015
- 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
- Bilingual*, Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, Chicago, IL, USA
- Drawn Out*, Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, Chicago, IL, USA
- CoDependent*, The Living Room for Art Basel, Miami, FL, USA
- 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 *Annual Members Show*, Greenwich House Pottery, New York, NY, USA
- 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]
- Scholl, Dennis. *'Inside my studio' with William J. O'Brien*. Cultured Magazine, 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, 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
- Vogel, Sabine B. *Picks: Vienna; Andy Coolquitt, Frank Haines, William J. O'Brien at Krinzingler Projekte*, New York: Artforum.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

- 2020 Illinois Arts Council Artist Fellowship
- 2019 Herp Alpert/Ucross Prize
- 2018 Museum of Arts and Design, Burke Prize
- 2011 Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Award
- 2007 Artadia: The Fund for Art & Dialogue, Chicago Finalist, Grant Recipient
- 2006 Vermont Studio Center, Full Fellowship Residency
- Mellon Award, Loyola University Chicago

Public Collections

The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL, USA

Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, OH, USA

deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum, Lincoln, MA, USA

DePaul Art Museum, Chicago, IL, USA

Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, CA, USA

Hara Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo, Japan

Hessel Museum of Art, Bard College, Annadale-on-Hudson, NY, USA

KMAC Museum, Louisville, KY, USA

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