



Taka Ishii

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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

2025 *From Here to There*, Governors State University Visual Arts Gallery, University Park, IL, USA

2024 *Freak Flags*, Ackerman Clarke, Chicago, IL, USA
Healing Machines, The Collection at Fashion Outlets of Chicago, Chicago, IL, USA

2023 *Earth, Water, Fire, Wind & Space, 2023*, The Lincoln Park Conservatory, Chicago, IL, USA
Bowls Crucibles Receptacles, ACKERMAN CLARKE, Chicago, IL, USA
Duplex Magic (with Matthew Fischer), Outer Space Gallery, Concord, NH, USA

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

- 2025 *City in a Garden*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, USA
 Fringe Figure, Andrew Rafacz, Chicago, IL, USA
 Lines, forms and color, Taka Ishii Gallery Maebashi, Gunma, Japan

- 2024 *Making Space*, Alma Art & Interiors, Chicago, IL, USA
 OK SO WERE FIGHTING, Old Friends Gallery, Chicago, IL, USA
- 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
 By Example, W. Gallery, Chicago, IL, USA
 Food for Thought, Taka Ishii Gallery Maebashi, Gunma, Japan
 The Subject is Ceramic, Leon Benrimon Gallery, Los Angeles, CA, 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

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- 2023 Ballogg, Mark. *Making Space*. Ballogg Photography Inc., 2023. pp. 43, 50-51, 119.
 Vizcarrondo-Laboy, Angelik. "The Clayjá Vu of Sasha Feldman and William J. O'Brien."
 Clayjá Vu, 2023, Ki Smith Gallery.
- 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, August 20, 2019. Japan: NPO Aoyama Design Forum. [online]
 McIntosh, Monique. "Meet a Chicago creative who creates & deconstructs art." *Luxe Magazine*, July 12,
 2019. Florida: SANDOW.
 "Close Look: William J. O'Brien at Atlanta Contemporary." *Burnaway*, August 3, 2019. Atlanta:
 Burnaway, Inc., [online]

- Scholl, Dennis. "'Inside my studio' with William J. O'Brien." *Cultured Magazine*, June 18, 2019.
Los Angeles: Cultured Magazine. [online]
- 2018 Clark, Brian E. "Hey, Milwaukee: Madison has a beautiful art museum, too - this one contemporary." *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, August 24, 2018. Wisconsin: Gannett Co., Inc.
- Couzens, Julia. "Power to the people — through clay." *The Sacramento Bee*, May 4, 2018.
Chatham Borough: McClatchy.
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- 2017 Zuckerman, Heidi. *Conversations with Artists*. Aspen: Aspen Art Press, 2017. pp. 42-49.
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New York: River Light V, L.P.
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Louisville: Insider Louisville.
- Kramer, Elizabeth. "KMAC Show with Work by Upcoming Chicago Artist." *Courier Journal*, 2017.
Louisville: Gannett Co., Inc.
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- 2016 Koenigsnecht, Nick. *Group Spirit / Wild Style*. Milan: Skira Editore S. p. A., 2016. Pp. 29, 39, 111.

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- 2015 Boucher, Brian. "The 10 Best Contemporary Artworks at the 2015 Armory Show." *Artnet News*, March 5, 2015. New York: Artnet Worldwide Corporation. [online]
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- 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
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- 2009 Smith, Roberta. "Make Room for Video Performance and Paint." *New York Times*, December 31, 2009. New York: The New York Times Company.
- 2008 Jacobson, Heidi Zuckerman. "Now You See It: Paintings That Demand a Second Look." *Aspen Magazine*, 2008. Aspen: Aspen Magazine.
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- 2005 Tyson, Josh. "Group Show: Booster and Seven." *Time Out Chicago*, December 15 - 29, 2005. Chicago: Time Out Group.
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- "Gay Broken Hearts." *Genre Magazine*, September 2005. New York: Window Media LLC.
- "Girls, Boys, Pop Music." *Teen Vogue*, December/January 2005. New York: Condé Nast.

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
- The City of Flossmoor, Flossmoor, IL, USA
- Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, OH, USA

College of Lake Country, Waukegan, IL, 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
Kalamazoo Museum of Art, Kalamazoo, MI, 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
The University of Iowa Stanley Museum of Art, Iowa City, IA, USA
Weatherspoon Art Museum, Greensboro, NC, USA