



MOMOKO USAMI

b. Kobe, Japan, lives and works in Barnard, MO

Momoko Usami received a BFA and an MFA from Kyoto City University of Art in Kyoto, Japan, and moved to the United States in January 2008. A resident artist at Lillstreet Art Center in Chicago in 2009-2010, Momoko went on to establish her personal studio in the countryside near Kansas City, Missouri, where she started Art Farm in 2014, hosting small art classes for the community. Momoko draws inspiration from many things, including Japanese painting from the Edo period, dreams, and daily encounters on the street. Her unique, playful, and often interactive ceramic works have been shown in the United States, Canada, and Japan.

ARTIST STATEMENT

Vision and Time are the two unspoken agreements to share the world you live. At the same time, they are very obscure and ambiguous. They are affected by his or her own background, memory, preference, or a feeling, colors, and temperature at the moment. Therefore, images in the real world are always fluid and beguiled; there is no frame and no ending. I attempt to express my interest in how people choose their own view. Real world images are full of temporal beauty and interest.

My work deals with eternal touchable materials such as clay, metal, and resin, or fragile images such as light, shadow and reflection. I use everyday phenomena as some of the important elements because it endows everyone fairly and it makes my work personable. I attempt to grasp a wobble and nonsense in the real world, and to make people uncover fresh views even in the mundane, in their everyday life. My interest in real life makes us think about observing the world carefully.

Now more than ever, artists have a responsibility in society to document what's happening in the world to pass it on to future generations, and to help heal broken hearts with curiosity and beauty.



Momoko Usami, "Rock of Anger (Consequences)", 2022