

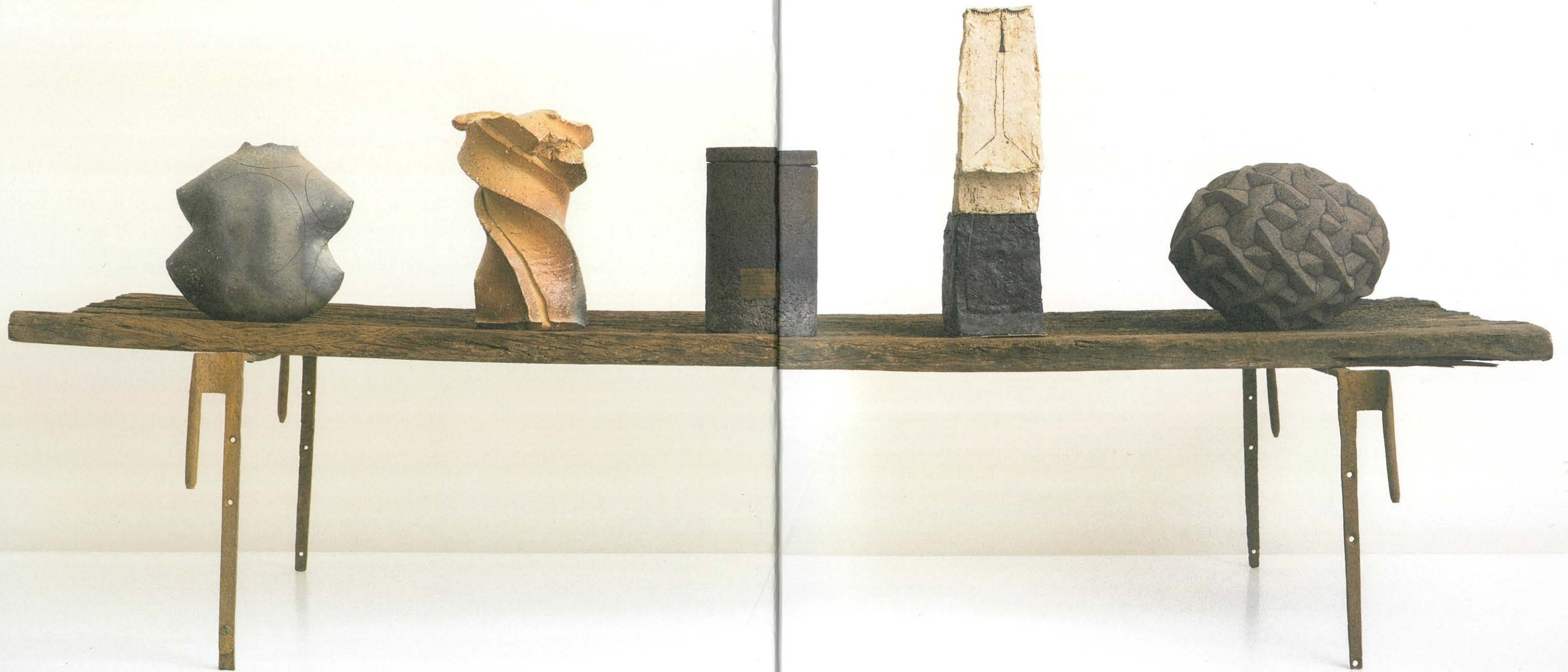


# 幽玄 YUGEN

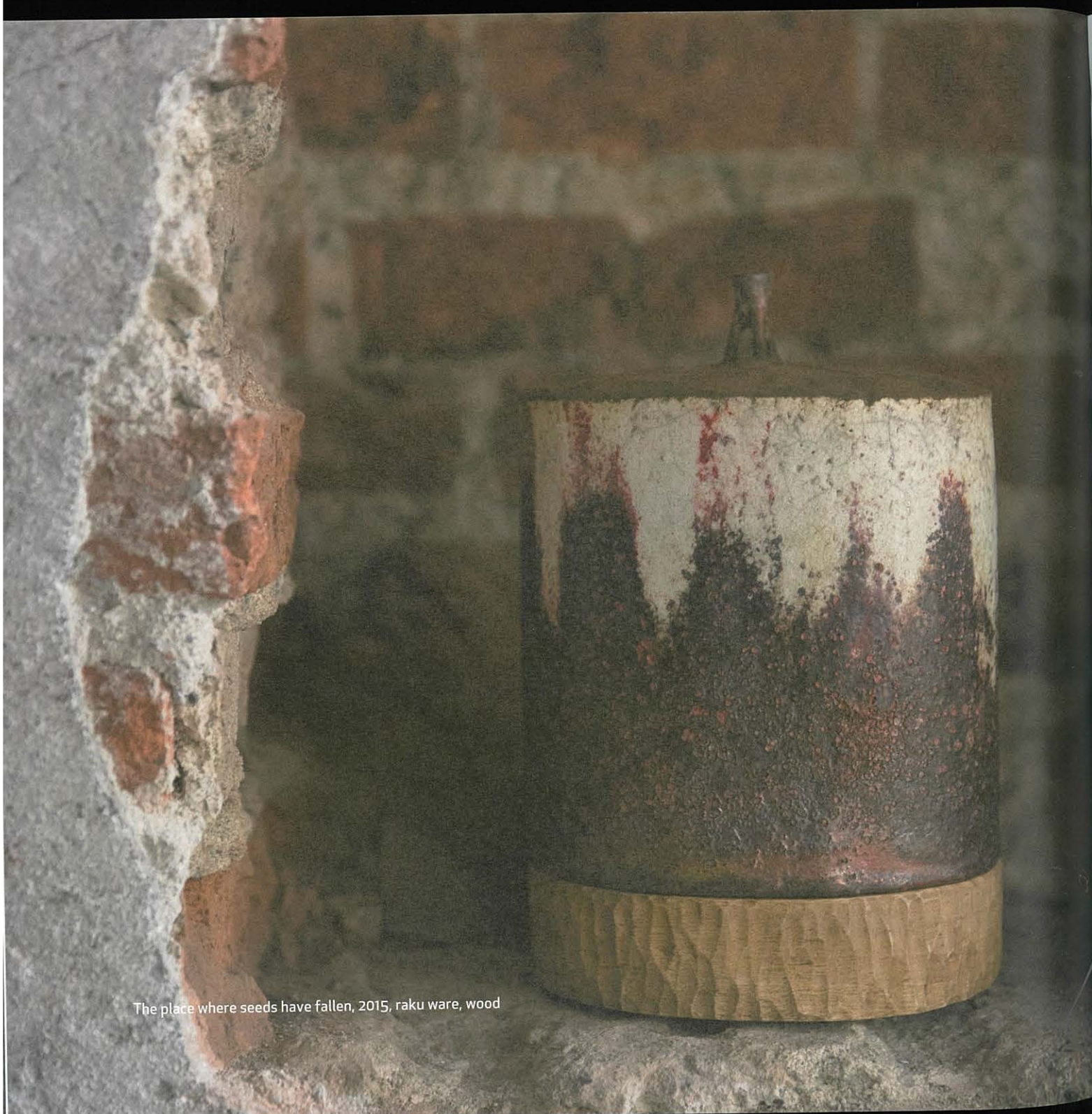
Contemporary Japanese Ceramics

Keiji Ito  
Yasuhisa **Kohyama**  
Shozo **Michikawa**  
Kazuhito **Nagasawa**  
Shingo **Takeuchi**









The place where seeds have fallen, 2015, raku ware, wood

## KAZUHITO NAGASAWA

by Masahiko Shibatsuji

Though they are basically pieces of ceramic art, Nagasawa's containers, of various shapes, have rusty screws used to keep the lids sealed. What had been sealed inside? You can discover their contents from ageing paper labels and letters written directly on each container with a pen. But still, they seem out of date because today we have more useful items available, such as some arid directories. What did Kazuhito Nagasawa want to seal? When you look at the labelled title, you will find that he sealed quite odd things inside. Though their contents are intriguing enough, what makes them even more interesting is the maximum effort that he dedicated to making those ceramic containers. This makes sense because he wanted to seal inside them his precious "kioku", mementoes.

The containers that seal the memories are in various shapes – like pots or rusty iron-coloured ceramic boxes, tightly sealed with bolts and nuts. Take the work titled *Yoru* (Container of Night), this makes us wonder how he sealed it. In the work named *Iki no keshiki* (Scenery through Breath), small amounts of breath are exhaled from the chimney-like tip. In a series of works titled *Koe* (Voice), he implies that voices can be heard through the trumpet. *Broken Circuit* is an installation work on the theme of memory circuits. In a series of works titled *The place where seeds have fallen*, lids are tightly sealed with bolts. Inside, there are seeds that survived ruinous disaster, and he probably wants them to be preserved for the next century and beyond.

Some may say it is utter nonsense to seal and preserve shapeless, odd things such as memories, night, breath and voice. However, those witty titles and

odd contents demand appropriate containers, with the same degree of wit in their shape. This is not an impossible task for Nagasawa, because he has developed an appreciable technique as a studio master.

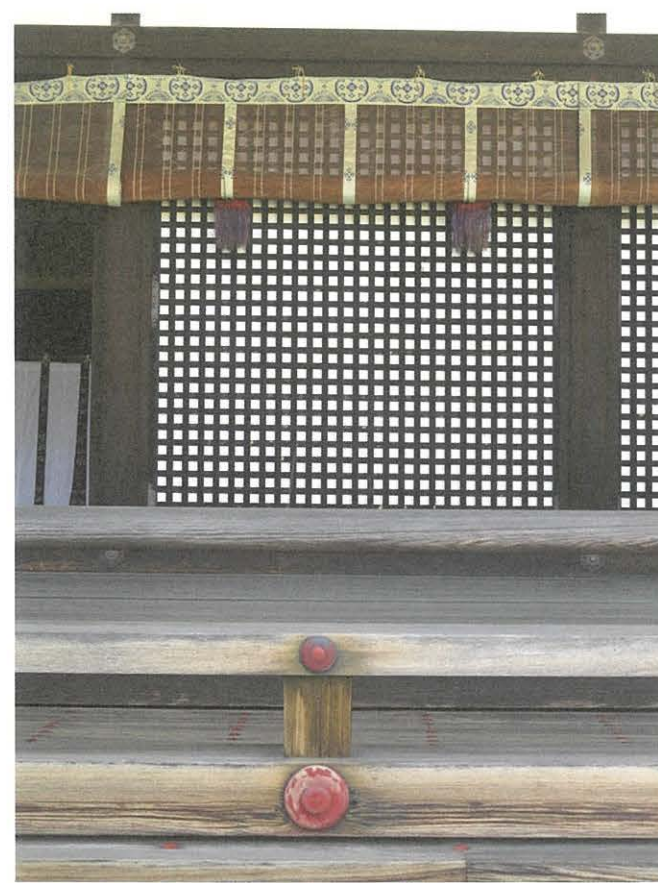
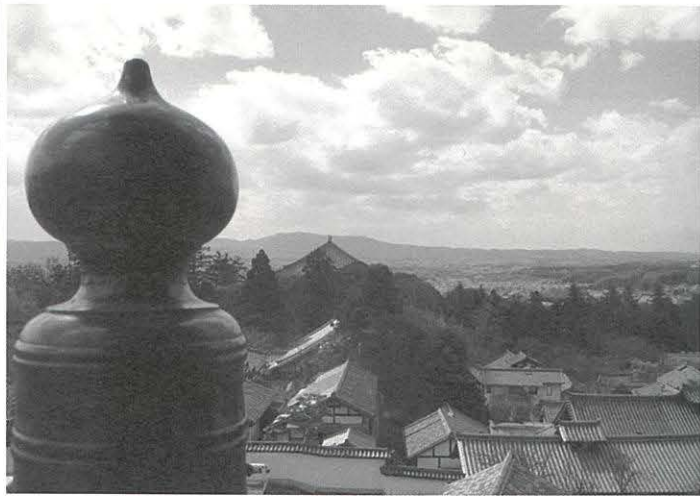
There is another work with a carefully-shaped lid, again sealed tightly by bolts and nuts, resembling his "memento" works. When observers look at a piece like this, they inevitably think that it would be fun to secretly open the lid. On one occasion I actually loosened the fastening screw in order to peer into inside. It was an act performed in complete secrecy: I discovered that the container was filled with vacant darkness.

Then it makes sense that all of Nagasawa's sealing works – memories, night, breath, voice, memory circuits – represent aphorisms for the modern age.

**Kazuhito Nagasawa** was born in 1968 in Osaka, Japan. His works combine together multiple elements: clay is linked to iron, glass and wood.

In 1994, he took part in the fourth edition of the International Ceramic Competition in Mino, Japan. In 1997 he exhibited at the 5<sup>th</sup> Biennial Ceramics show in Japan, and in 2001 at the World Ceramic Expo in Korea. In 2013 he took part in the exhibition "Japanese Ceramics in Italy" in Rome, curated by Claudia Casali, a group show of Japanese artists at the Japanese Institute of Culture in Italy. He currently lives and works in Kyoto.









Kioku, 2015, earthenware, iron

## GROUP SHOWS AND AWARDS

2016 Made in Japan, International Museum of Ceramics in Faenza, Italy / Yugen – Contemporary Japanese Ceramics, Officine Saffi, Milan, Italy

2015 Collect, Officine Saffi, London, UK

2013 Contemporary Japanese Ceramics in Italy: the Faenza Prize, Japanese Cultural Institute, Rome, Italy

2001 World Ceramic Exposition, Korea

2000 37<sup>th</sup> Asahi Ceramics Exhibition, Japan / Izushi Porcelain Triennale, Hyogo, Japan / 6<sup>th</sup> Taiwan Golden Ceramic Exhibition, Taiwan

1999 51<sup>st</sup> Faenza Prize, Faenza, Italy

1998 5<sup>th</sup> International Ceramic Competition, Mino, Japan

1997 5<sup>th</sup> Zagreb World Triennale Exhibition of Small Ceramics, Croatia / 35<sup>th</sup> Asahi Ceramics Exhibition, Japan

1994 4<sup>th</sup> International Ceramic Competition, Mino, Japan

## PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

International Museum of Ceramics in Faenza, Italy / Izushi Museum, Hyogo, Japan / Shigaraki Ceramic Park, Shiga, Japan





Koe, 2015, raku ware



Kioku, 2015, earthenware, iron, steel





Koe, 2015, raku ware



Kioku, 2015, earthenware, iron



Scenery of Breath, 2015, raku ware, wood



The place where seeds have fallen, 2015, clay, aluminium, stainless steel



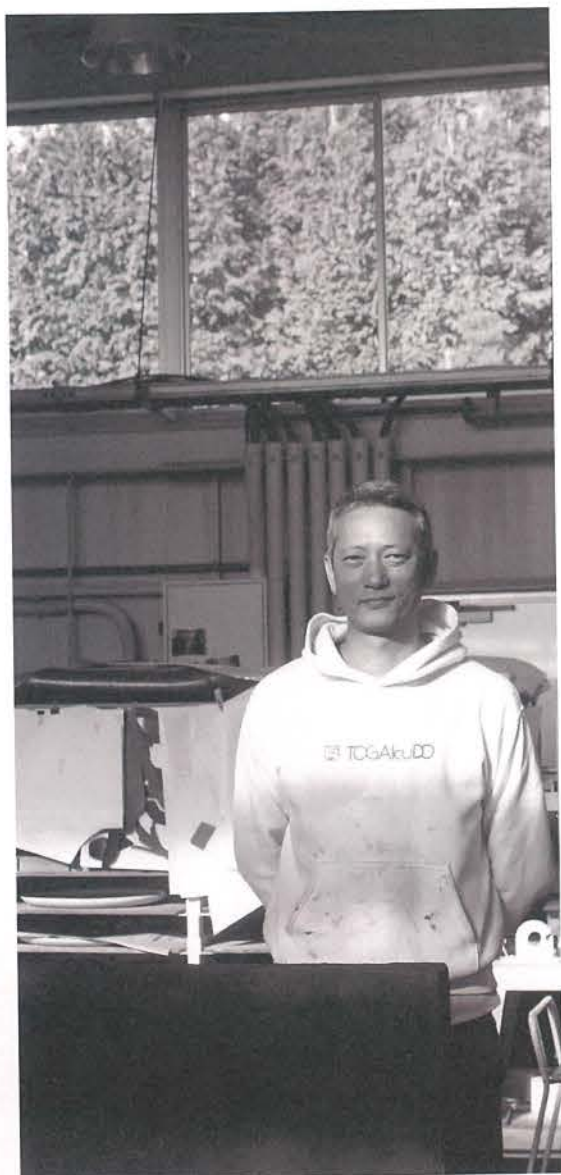
The place where seeds have fallen, 2015, earthenware, wood (camphor tree), aluminium

渋い

Shibui  
Keiji Ito, Kazuhito Nagasawa

001/100  
#





# Kazuhito Nagasawa

Kazuhito Nagasawa nasce nel 1968 a Osaka, Giappone.

Le sue opere sono ricche di rimandi alla filosofia giapponese e si compongono di più elementi che si uniscono e fondono tra loro, l'argilla viene agglomerata al ferro, al vetro, al legno. Ogni oggetto, ogni opera da lui realizzata contiene e cela un universo naturale misterioso. Le sostanze custodite all'interno delle opere di Nagasawa sono infatti elementi naturali, semi, terra; questi semi, protetti da viti e bulloni, sembrano sopravvissuti a disastri nucleari e celati nella terra possono ora essere conservati per secoli.

Negli anni Nagasawa ha partecipato a diverse manifestazioni importanti quali l'International Ceramic Competition a Mino, al Premio Faenza e al World Ceramic Expo in Corea. Nel 2013 espone a Roma alla mostra "La Ceramica Giapponese in Italia" a cura di Claudia Casali.

*Kazuhito Nagasawa was born in 1968 in Osaka, Japan.*

*Nagasawa's works, rooted in Japanese philosophy, consist of several elements combined: clay is linked to iron, glass and wood. Every object, every work he has created contains and hides a mysterious natural universe. The substances contained are natural elements, such as seeds and earth. These seeds are protected by screws and bolts. They look like they have survived terrible disasters, and in the artist's intentions they will remain protected for centuries.*

*Over the years, Nagasawa has participated in several major events such as the International Ceramic Competition in Mino, the Faenza Prize and the World Ceramic Expo in Korea. In 2013 he took part in the exhibition "La Ceramica Giapponese in Italia", a group show curated by Claudia Casali.*



# Cv

## GROUP SHOWS AND AWARDS (a selection)

2016

Made in Japan, International Museum of Ceramics in Faenza, Italy

Yugen – Contemporary Japanese Ceramics, Officine Saffi, Milan, Italy

2015 Collect, London, UK

2013 Contemporary Japanese Ceramics in Italy: the Faenza Prize, Japanese Cultural Institute, Rome, Italy

2001 World Ceramic Exposition, Korea

2000

37th Asahi Ceramics Exhibition, Japan

Izushi Porcelain Triennale, Hyogo, Japan

6th Taiwan Golden, Ceramic Exhibition, Taiwan

1999 51st Faenza Prize, Faenza, Italy

1998 5th International Ceramic Competition, Mino, Japan

1997

5th Zagreb World Triennale Exhibition of Small Ceramics, Croatia

35th Asahi Ceramics Exhibition, Japan

1994 4th International Ceramic Competition, Mino, Japan

## PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

International Museum of Ceramics in Faenza, Italy

Izushi Museum, Hyogo, Japan

Shigaraki Ceramic Park, Shiga, Japan

Opere  
Works





Kazuhito Nagasawa  
*Kioku*  
2015  
earthenware  
95x97x16cm  
KN11







Kazuhito Nagasawa  
*Kioku*  
2004  
earthenware  
42x25x7cm  
KN13



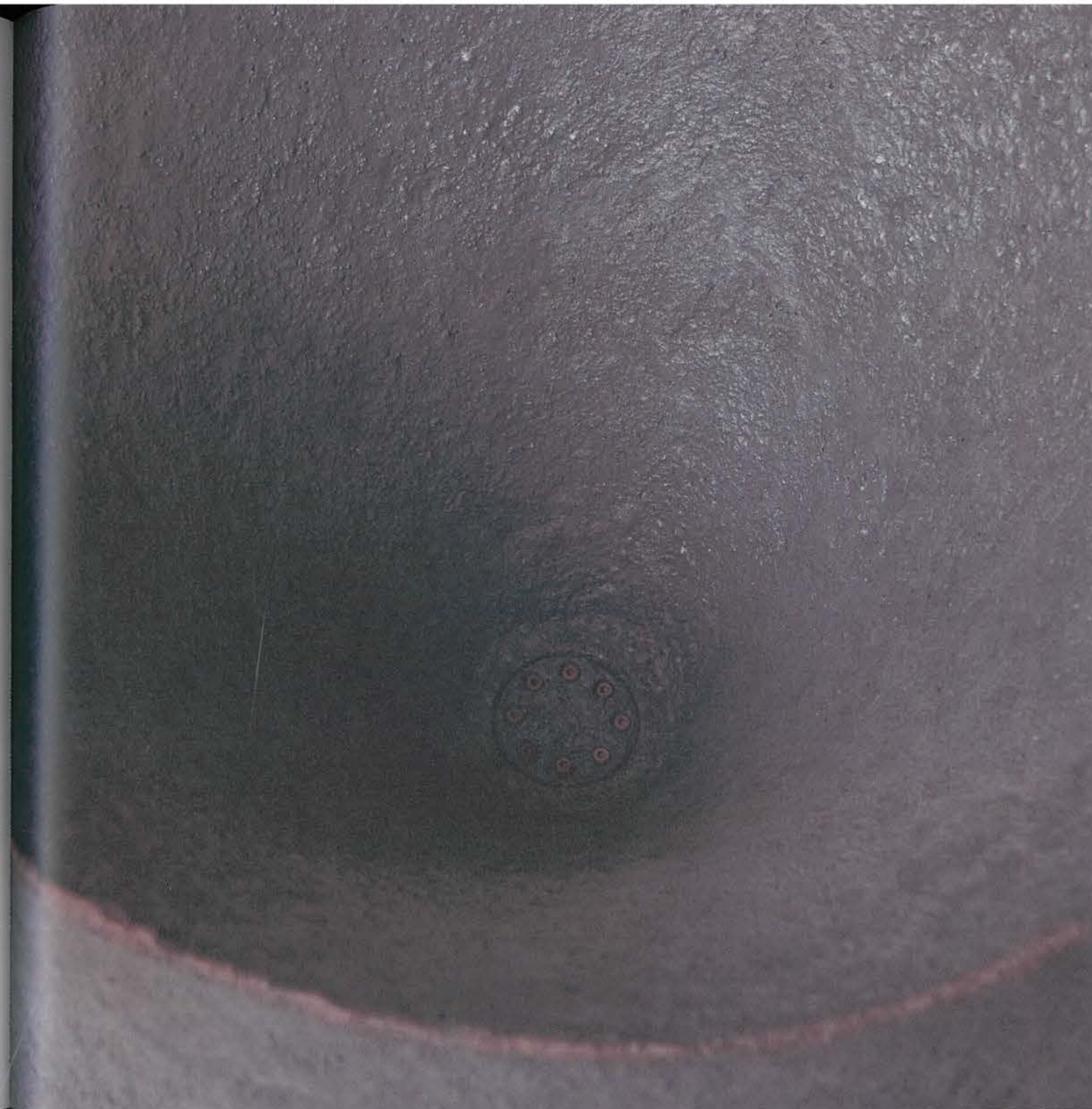
Kazuhito Nagasawa  
*The place where seeds have fallen*  
2013  
earthenware  
15x11x11cm  
KN14







Kazuhito Nagasawa  
*Kioku*  
2015  
earthenware  
6058x58cm  
KN12







Kazuhito Nagasawa  
*The place where seeds have fallen*  
 2015  
 earthenware, aluminium, iron  
 21x19x9,5cm  
 KN03





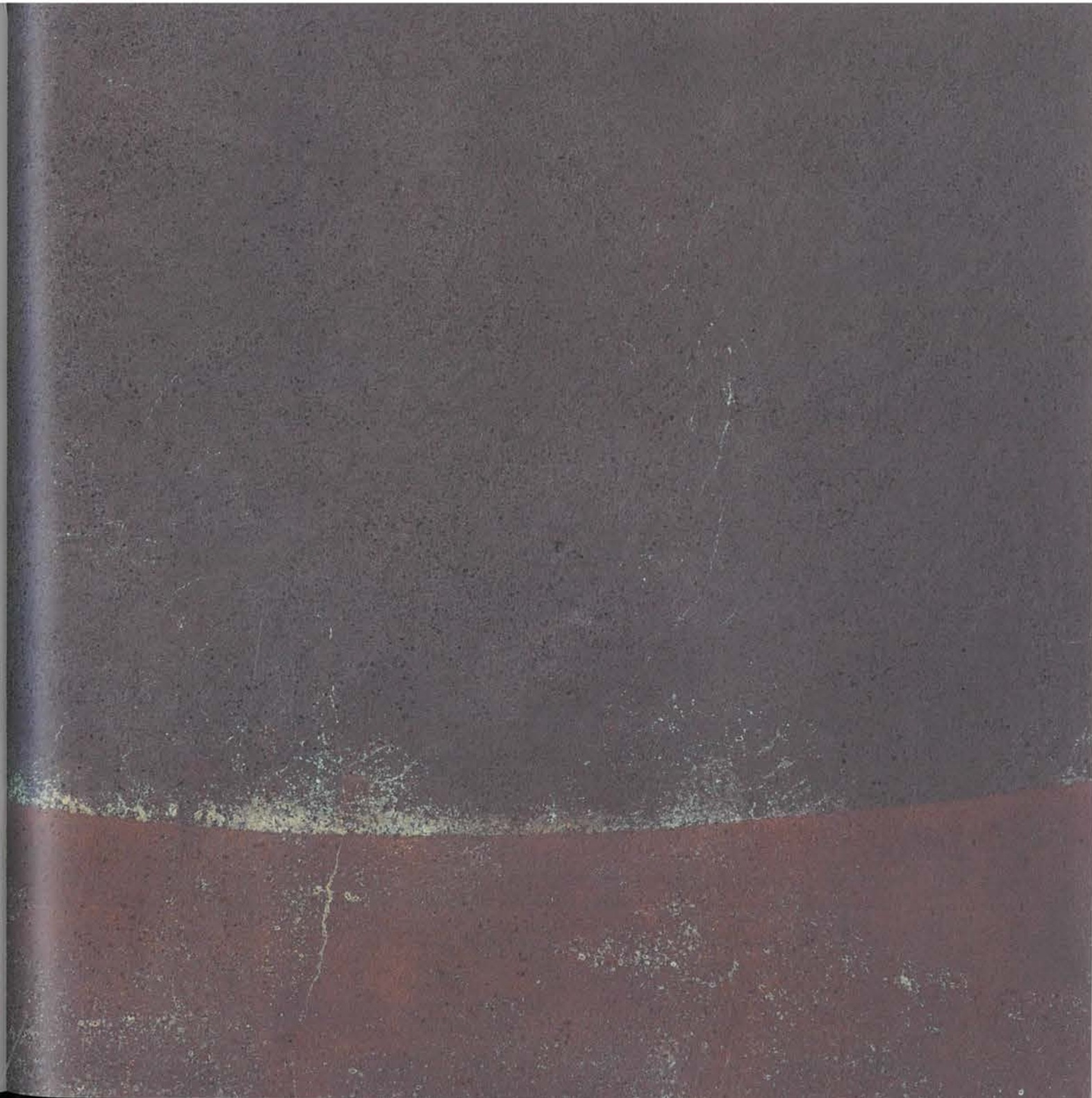


Kazuhito Nagasawa  
*tea bowls*  
2016  
earthenware  
10x12cm c. each





Kazuhito Nagasawa  
*The place where seeds have fallen*  
2013  
earthenware  
86x86x2,5cm  
KN16



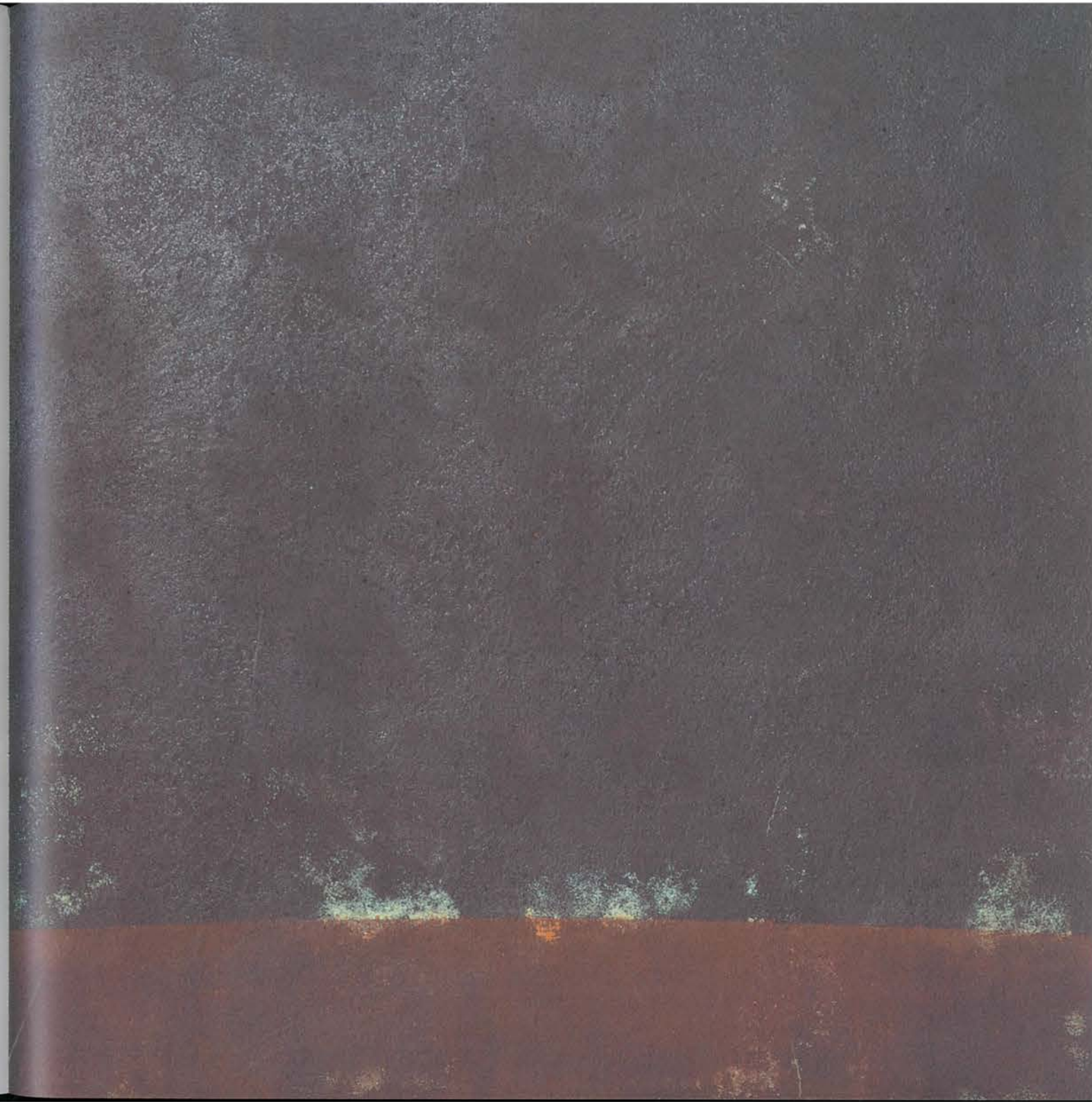




Kazuhito Nagasawa  
*The place where seeds have fallen*  
2013  
earthenware  
86x86x2,5cm  
KN18



Kazuhito Nagasawa  
*The place where seeds have fallen*  
2013  
earthenware  
86x86x2,5cm  
KN15







Kazuhito Nagasawa  
*The place where seeds have fallen*  
2013  
earthenware  
86x86x2,5cm  
KN17





Kazuhito Nagasawa  
*The place where seeds have fallen*  
 2013  
 earthenware, wood, aluminium  
 38,5x27,5x13,5cm  
 KN07







Kazuhito Nagasawa  
*Koe*  
 2015  
 raku  
 31×27×5.5 cm  
 KN08

