"100 grains of rice"

"Influenced by the 17th century Spanish painter Juan Sanchez Cotan, I arrived in Bali with the idea to interpret my new surroundings through a still life of ceramic objects. Immediately, the omnipresence of rice made a strong impression. The fragrance was the first thing I noticed, then the rice fields that I walked through everyday, the rice I observed everyday on banana leaves as offerings, and of course its taste. I soon found myself modeling the form of Balinese rice gains.

Early on while working on these rice forms, I became aware of the irony of the project. The villa I live in was once a rice field, developed for visitors like myself – yet my presence is contributing the decline of rice production here in Ubud.

This strong sense of contradiction has informed the development of the visual dichotomy in this body of work. I think about the contradictory visual elements such as black and white, shiny and matt, exterior and interior, flat and dimension, order and chaos. The completed objects represent the sense of contradiction in my excitement about the beauty of the rice." Megumi Naitoh





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