

### About the Artist

The history of glass art in Japan is a relatively youthful one. Yet this reality is hardly a bane but a blessing, for glass artists are not shackled by the constrictions imposed on their creativity by the towering ghosts of tradition. It is within this context that the creativity of Kyoto artist Niyoko Ikuta (b. 1953 –) flows freely into her spiralling sheets of glass. Considered to be one of the leading figures in Japanese glass art, Ikuta has enraptured collectors and museums the world over for her dynamic sculptures, executed with emphatic lyricism and spellbinding precision. With the artist's glass works collected by leading public institutions such as the Metropolitan Museum in New York and the Victoria & Albert Museum in London, Ikuta's works continue to inspire generations of younger artists.

1953 Born in Kyoto, Kyoto Prefecture, Japan  
Lives and works in Kyoto

#### Selected Awards

1986 Mayor's Prize, Kyoto Exhibition, Kyoto Municipal Museum of Art  
1987 Japan Glass Artcrafts Association Prize  
1991 Special Prize, Notojima Glass Art Now  
1998 Special Prize, Osaka Triennale Sculpture  
2014 Kyoto Art Culture Prize, Kyoto Chuo Shinkin Bank  
2017 Kyoto City Cultural Merit Award, Kyoto City

#### Selected Exhibitions

1985 Art Now'85, Hyogo Prefectural Museum of Art, Japan  
Neues Glas aus Japan, Badisches Landesmuseum Karlsruhe, Germany  
2nd Interglass Symposium Novy Bor, Czechoslovakia  
1987 Musee des Arts Decoratifs Lausanne, Switzerland  
1992 Contemporary Glass Sculpture, New Jersey Center for Arts, USA  
Glass from Ancient Crafts to Contemporary Art, The Morris Museum, USA  
1993 Heller Gallery, New York, USA  
1994 Vänersborg Glass Festival, Vänersborg, Sweden  
Habitat Galleries, Pontiac, Michigan, USA  
1995 Japanese Studio Crafts, Victoria & Albert Museum, London, UK  
1996 The National Museum of Art Osaka, Japan  
2003 The Glass Vessel, Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft, USA  
2009 Collect, Saatchi Gallery, London, UK ('10, '11, '12, '13, '14, '15)  
Voices of Contemporary Glass, The Corning Museum of Glass, New York, USA  
2011 Yufuku Gallery, Tokyo, Japan  
2012 SOFA Chicago, USA  
2013 SOFA Chicago, USA ('14, '15)  
2013 Gallery Nakamura, Kyoto, Japan  
2014 Art Stage Singapore, Singapore ('15, '16, '17)  
TEFAF Maastricht, The Netherlands ('15, '16, '17, '18, '19, '20, '21)  
Takashimaya Department Store Gallery, Kyoto, Japan  
Asia Week New York, USA  
Art Miami, USA ('15, '16, '17, '18, '19)  
2015 Art Silicon Valley / San Francisco, San Mateo, USA  
2016 Spring Masters New York, USA  
EAF Monaco, Monaco  
Art Taipei, Taiwan  
2017 Palm Beach M+C, Palm Beach, USA  
TEFAF New York Spring, USA  
2018 Seattle Art Fair, USA ('19)  
2019 West Bund Art and Design, Shanghai, China ('20)  
Silhouettes of Tomorrow, Yufuku Gallery, London, UK  
2020 Kyoto: Capital of Artistic Imagination, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, USA  
Opening Ceremony, A Lighthouse called Kanata, Tokyo, Japan  
2021 Art Fair Tokyo, Japan

### About the Work

Capturing the complexity of light as it reflects, refracts and passes through cut cross sections of sheet glass, conveyed in Ikuta's glass sculptures are the artist's aesthetic melodies – graceful, almost musical manifestations of Ikuta's inner consciousness, each sheet of glass cut by hand and attached one by one with a special type of glue that disappears completely under ultraviolet light. In fact, Ikuta's signature series "Ku" expresses the Buddhist concept of reality and existence as being different yet "true" to each and every individual. The reality perceived by one person may be different from the reality experienced by another, even though they are equally true. Likewise, Ku changes completely at each and every angle, yet each individual viewer, even from different viewpoints, will still experience its true self. The iridescent rhythms of glass, captured herein, sparkling, riveting, and ultimately, enrapturing.



p.24

#### Public Collections

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, USA / Badisches Landesmuseum Karlsruhe, Germany / State Lemberk Chateau Crystalex, Czech Republic / Musée de Design et d'Arts Appliqués Contemporains Lausanne, Switzerland / Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, The Netherlands / Yokohama Museum of Art, Japan / Notojima Glass Museum, Japan / Suntory Museum, Japan / The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo, Japan / The National Museum of Art, Osaka, Japan / Detroit Institute of Arts Museum, USA / Corning Museum of Glass, USA / Cafesjian Center for the Arts, Armenia / Victoria & Albert Museum, UK / Bristol Museum and Art Gallery, UK / Philadelphia Museum of Art, USA / The Ringling Museum of Art, USA / Long Museum, China / The Jupiter Museum of Art, China

#### Selected Commission Works

OS Building, Japan / Hiroshima Women's College, Japan / Yao City Gymnasium, Japan / The Japanese Embassy, Vietnam / Tokyo Memorial Park, Japan / The Kobe Shimbun, Japan / The Kobe Shimbun Matsukata Hall, Japan / Pfizer Japan Inc. Nagoya Plant, Japan / NTT DATA, Komaba, Japan / Aoyama Park Tower, Japan / Imabari Funeral Hall, Japan / Hotel Grand Arc Hanzomon, Japan / Palace Hotel Tokyo, Japan / ANA Crown Plaza Hotel Okayama, Japan / The Peninsula Tokyo, Japan / Shima Kanko Hotel Bay Suite, Japan