

I am a Japanese sculptor.

When I create my works, the concept comes from cultural or religious relics such as Japanese Buddhist images or Noh masks. I relativize something Japanese inside of me, extract the element, which I think universal in culture or religion, and express it in my work.

For example, “aun(阿吽)” is one of the Buddhist magic words. “a(阿)” is the sound emitted first when a person opens his/her mouth. And “un(吽)” is the last word to say when a person closes the mouth. So they show the beginning and the end of everything.

I expressed the beginning and the end with minimum movement through a series of two head statues. In addition, I have dealt with “inseparable conflict” as my main theme recently. The examples are front and back, fact and fiction, hope and despair, past and future etc. They look paradoxical, but from wider point of view, I think they are something inseparable.

Most of my works are wooden figures. Many artists have created wood carvings in Japan, and human figure has been one of the typical motifs.

You will find the “eyes” in my works are unique. They are made of “七宝 (shippou)”. I was inspired by the technique “玉眼(gyokugan)”, which has often been used in Japanese Buddhist figures. I believe the “eyes” can connect the internal world of the work and the external world covered and separated by the skin of the carvings.

At the beginning, I stated that cultural or religious relics are the clues of my production. But they are only for the concept of the work. In most cases, I am inspired by people. So the next inspiration might come from the person who is reading this article like you. I would like to say thank you to all the people I have met and I will meet in the future.

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