

Takashi Iwasaki Artist statement

1982: born in Hokkaido, Japan. Iwasaki moved to Winnipeg to study fine arts at the University of Manitoba in 2002, where he earned Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. Attracted to the Winnipeg's vibrant and supportive arts community, he gained the permanent resident status in Canada and now lives and works in Winnipeg and calls it his new hometown.

Iwasaki's art practice diverges into many mediums from embroidery, paintings, collages, to three-dimensional works such as wooden sculptures, ceramic sculptures, and large public artworks; inspired by things and events which surround his daily life as sources of his creation.

Most of his recent works are either visual recording of his daily life or visualization of his imaginary worlds or landscapes. Most shapes and colours have meanings and origins that are very significant to him in the way he feels them, therefore they represent and reflect his state of mind.

His recent work with ceramics, traditionally valued for their functionality, has inspired a shift in his focus toward creating objects and spaces that are either functional or suggest functionality. He is currently interested in designing environments that incorporate a variety of his artworks to form “a total work of art” — a cohesive integration of multiple art forms into a unified whole.

In his words “things that I feel are never the same in the next moment because I keep changing. Capturing moments and sharing my visions with others have been my obsession and pleasure.”

Joy and positive feelings:

“I want viewers, including me, to feel joy and positive feelings when they look at my work. Often the media reports negative things and tragedies partly because happy stories aren't as sensational; and it is true that there are those things out there in the world. It's easy to be trapped in negative thoughts and worry about things especially when we're exposed to those things so often. Thinking about problems is a good way to solve them and to make the world a better place, but I think thinking positively and realizing that there is also joy in the world helps that, too, and is very essential. I want my work to present a more joyous side of the world for this reason.”