

# Mineo Kuroda

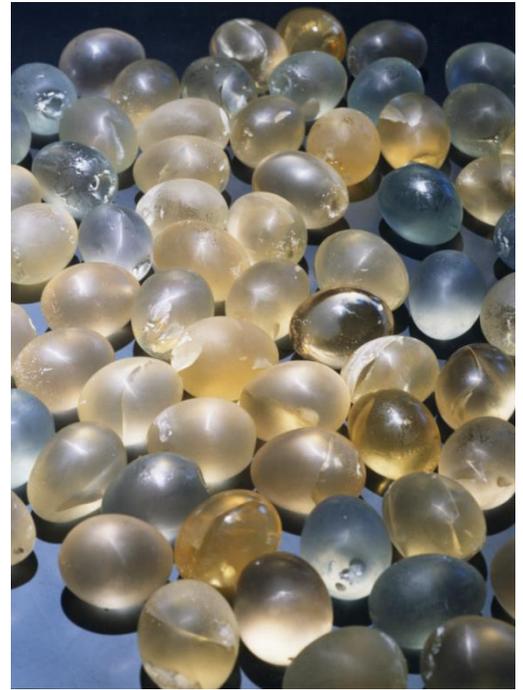
Consideration about my works, etc.

My purpose for sculpturing is to search for what is the reason for human beings' existence and "what is I?" Looking upon the earth from the universe. We exist as one part of the earth's system. The air, the ocean, the land, living things and human Beings each of these do not exist individually. Therefore human beings are a part of nature. When we think about how to live and what we should do here in earth's system, We should not forget that human beings were made by the universe. There are five types in my works. These titles of my works are.



The scenery from the shed (atelier)

Dying wooden root (2006~ )



Human beings are born in this way. (1998)



Are males phenomena? (1995)

My entrance to the sculpture was to create human body with clay.  
Through the creation process, when I thought what kind of sculptures  
I wanted to create, I've realized that the sculpture I myself was impressed  
is the one that expresses the deep inner spirit of human being.  
Then, the question was "Is it possible for me to create such kind of sculptures?"  
I've clearly realized that "It is impossible for those who have never lived  
with profound thought, knowledges and special experience to create such kind of sculptures."  
Then, at the beginning, I've started from the basic notion  
"Human being is one of the natural objects created in the universe."  
Also, I was attracted to the vitality of the tree trunk.  
Therefore, I tried to express the human being as a fused sculpture of a human body  
and a tree trunk.  
However, I could continue these activities only for a few years  
because the range of expression was limited.



Organisms (male and female?)  
(1989/Saitama prefecture)

## [KANNON \*1]

I had thought what kind of head sculptures and human body sculptures I could create.

I have worked as a PE teacher at the school for disabled children for 6 years.

Many times, I have been impressed by handicapped people who have accomplished wonderful things through strong efforts fueled by the seemingly negative complexed feeling.

I started try and error if it's possible to make sculptures stronger as a whole just because of the missing parts in the human body in the work.



Earth · Wind (1996)



Earth · Wind (1997)



KANNON(2003)

I have tried to use the natural wood for the human body's skeletons that are usually made of square timber before adding clay, I strongly felt the usage of natural wood in my work "Earth · Wind" in 1997 was so good.

I have started trials to use natural wood for the central frame of the human body sculptures. In this new architecture, the sculpture is unbalanced if clay is added in the conventional way because the existence of natural wood is strong.

This makes me to add some additional shapes in the head and some other parts of the body. I've got a special feeling that it is beyond human beings although it looks like human beings. Therefore, I have named it "Kannon"

\*1 Kannon = Guanyin is an East Asian spiritual figure of mercy, and a bodhisattva associated with compassion as venerated by Mahayana Buddhists. [From Wikipedia]

## [What is I?]

When I started to use the natural wood, I've moved to the studio at the base of the mountain. As I started my creation in nature everyday walking around mountains, I've found big wood roots below the rotten tree trunk. I witnessed that the roots returned to the earth giving many things to small animals and plants around them. Then, I expressed human beings who cannot return to the earth easily with these roots. I painted red on the roots to make it look like human beings and put them on the iron frame or in the resin.



upper left/ISHIDA TAISEISHA, Inc. (2006/Kyoto)

lower left/Honen-in temple (2013/Kyoto)

right/ gallery CMM (2003/Kyoto)

After that, I was wondering if it's possible to express "What is I?" using woods and roots that are getting rotten because I have felt the real feeling of the existence and elapsed time in trees getting rotten in the nature that cannot be expressed by my own artificial creation.

Then, I have started the "Where will human life go to?" series because I wanted to cope with the issues of organ transportation I had been interested in for some time.

## [Where will human life go to?]

**Medical science continues to advance so that we can live even a little bit longer.**

**As a result, we have found the system of human body that was created by the universe and it is changing the way of life and death significantly.**

## [Homage]

Auguste Rodin had the biggest influence to me who was creating human body sculptures. Especially I was attracted to 'Balzac statue' that was completed spending long time as his later years work. It is my selfish interpretation that this statue might be a kind of shape that can be called a big abstraction by wrapping human body's shape after struggling how to create a human body that can hold the intensely strong head. The series of my work called "Homage" is what I have tried to express "The human body as a natural object created by the universe" by torso. This series is based on my thought if it's possible to put an abstract form and a concrete form as a natural object human body has. As I have been creating the simplified shapes and thinking where the difference between 3 dimensional objects and plains exist at the same time, I came up with the idea to turn off the three dimensionality to express what the three dimensions are. To realize it, I used different colors for each sculpture. In this way, two kinds of torso were created. One is colored by three primary colors and another is by black and white. I wished if "Personality as a natural object" that human body has can be expressed by displaying them as a group.



Top / JM ARTS (2007/Paris)

Middle / JARFO (2011/Kyoto)

Bottom / branche (2015/Osaka)

## [Homage to human body]

Every time I create sculpture, I become attracted with shape of human body more. Human body is a natural object that has beautiful shape and functions created by the universe just like all natural objects I am impressed, just like twinkles of stars, shape of trees filled with vitality, beauty of flowers, etc. This fact is taken for granted from our scientific knowledge. On the other hand, especially in the modern society where we can artificially manipulate human body thanks to the progress of medicine, we sometimes even have illusion that we can create and modify anything.

Well, human head sculpture is different from the human body sculpture in a sense that the shape of the body itself can be a theme in human body sculpture's case. It is an issue what and how to express human being's inner spirit. Then, to think about the expression of spirit I can express, I think about what kind of people I feel attracted and what kind of person I would like to become. Then, I've realized that it is a positive person who keeps one's initial resolution. Then, using the same method of relationship between concrete and abstract here, I started trying to express the inner spirit by adding eyes, mouth and nose by using the most basic abstract shapes, i.e. circles, triangles and squares.



(2003)



A Corns gallery (2014/Tokyo)



(2007)

## [Plastic]

Among expressions of the art, the one where the material has the most direct meaning is sculptures. Speaking of sculptures, mainly stones, woods, bronzes and irons have been used as its material. However, in 20<sup>th</sup> century, plastics are getting used in addition to bronze and plaster. Nowadays the material called plastics that is inexpensive and can be easily processed is used in any places in our life instead of stones and woods and becomes indispensable. However, people have a strong image about plastics to be a substitute of other material. Then, I thought I would create the head sculpture made of plastics themselves by utilizing the characteristics of the material called "plastics".

## [Existence]

I have found material with wonderful color, shape and texture in stuff that was among the craps that were brought by a builder who lived next door. He has broken a house for renewal. The creation activities searching for “What am I?” has given me a chance to think about that what kind of meaning exists in my activities once more. It is taken for granted that useful stuff has value. I have felt the presence of the stuff itself has in the useless stuff. Then, to think about how that useless stuff exist, I have created my works only by combining the useless stuff with other ones without changing the shape and colors of them.

This is my “Existence” series.



(2009)



(2010)



(2012)



(2007)



(2005)

## [Field sculpture]

Kannon has been created as a field sculpture. There is another field sculpture called “Harmony – connected –” made of natural stones. This is made of natural stones mined in the place close to the point. Basically, each meaningful stones are put inside the large eclipse. And as a whole, I tried to harmonize it with the nature of the point. And I poured my thoughts into natural stones by changing the shape of some of those. “Harmony” I tried to create was not symmetric harmony that could be understood at a glance but the one created by the calm and peace space that was created by its environment and stones.



和 (wa) -to relate- (2009/Mietoinen Finland)



和 (wa) -to relate- (2005/Teterow Germany)

## [Emptiness]

20 years ago, I have encountered transparent acrylic resin. I thought that “Emptiness” can be expressed by this material. I have created the transparent cubic work with an emptiness whose shape is a head sculpture. Then, the head sculpture can be seen inside the transparent box. This is created by putting a head sculpture made of plaster in the box, pouring transparent acrylic resin in it, then breaking and removing the head sculpture after resin is fixed. At that time, I recognized that the substance that seems to exist but in reality does not is “Emptiness” in “Form is emptiness.”



(1997)

Since then, “Emptiness” has been always in my mind. With that in my mind, I have been creating works by mixing abstract and concrete for nearly 20 years. Soon, I began to feel that the shape itself, consciousness and recognition of the shape are very vague and fluid. Then, I have realized that “Form is emptiness.” is not an independent sentence but they are written as a pair “Form is emptiness. Emptiness is form.” I have realized it and understood that these sentences have a meaning only with a pair. Then, I have started my work thinking if it’s possible to express “Form is emptiness. Emptiness is form.”



色即是空 空即是色\*2 (SHIKISOKUZEKU KUSOKUZESHIKI) 2016

I have been making my works at anytime when I found the idea that I can express “What is I ? ”.  
As result, there ware some kind of works that appeared different artists’ works.  
I encountered with important theme, 色即是空 空即是色\*2 (“Form is exactly emptiness. Emptiness is exactly form”) in 2015.I am thinking about “What is I ? ” to go through SHIKISOKUZEKU  
KUSOKUZESHIKI then I will make all my works.

\*2 色即是空 空即是色

(SHIKISOKUZEKU KUSOKUZESHIKI ) “Form is exactly emptiness. Emptiness is exactly form”  
= one sentence in “Heart Sutra”

"O Shariputra, form does not differ from emptiness, emptiness does not differ from form; that which is form is emptiness, that which is emptiness form. The same is true of feelings, perceptions, formations, consciousness.

2016 early in summer