

Artist Statement

Yu Seto creates life-size sculptures of wild animals, drawing on his sustained interest in natural science and close observation of the living world.

Working primarily in terracotta, Seto embraces the tactile nature of clay, preserving traces of his fingertips, gestures, and physical interaction with the material on the surface of each sculpture. By working at a 1:1 scale, he seeks to convey not only the physical presence of the animals he depicts, but also the subtle sense of vitality and atmosphere that surrounds them.

Rather than simply reproducing the appearance of an animal, Seto approaches each subject as a living presence. The immediacy of his modeling process gives his sculptures a sense of movement and tension, allowing the material itself to retain the memory of touch. Through this direct relationship between hand, clay, and subject, his works evoke the quiet force and dignity of animals living in the wild.

His practice has expanded beyond gallery exhibitions to include public sculpture, commissioned projects, collaborations with companies and fashion brands, and other interdisciplinary projects. In 2026, his work was presented at the Sapporo Art Park Museum, further extending the scope of his practice in Japan.

Born in Odawara, Kanagawa, Japan in 1994. Seto graduated from the Department of Sculpture at Tokyo University of the Arts and completed his MFA in Sculpture at the same university. He has received several awards, including the Geidai Arts in Marunouchi Award, the KENZAN roid works gallery Award, and the Tokyo Medical and Dental University Encouragement Award.

Biography

2020

Completed the Master's Program in Sculpture, Graduate School of Fine Arts, Tokyo University of the Arts

2018

Graduated from the Department of Sculpture, Faculty of Fine Arts, Tokyo University of the Arts

1994

Born in Odawara, Kanagawa, Japan

Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2026 *Lost in the Forest* / SHIKISAISHA, Tokyo
 Beyond the Forest / Empathy Gallery, Tokyo
- 2025 *ARCTIC POINT* / M-SPACE JINGUMAE, Tokyo
 Dry Night / GINZA SIX Tsutaya Books, Tokyo
 Beyond the Gaze / Fujisaki, Sendai
 Memory of the Fingers / Matsuzakaya Nagoya, Nagoya
- 2024 *HOWL* / GINZA SIX Tsutaya Books, Tokyo
 The Sun Shines Even at Night / Hankyu Umeda Main Store, Osaka
 Counting the Stars / GINZA SIX Tsutaya Books, Tokyo
 Time traveler / Empathy Gallery, Tokyo

Selected Art Fairs

- 2026 ONE ART TAIPEI 2026 / Hotel Metropolitan Premier Taipei, Taipei
 ART FAIR TOKYO 2026 / Tokyo International Forum, Tokyo
- 2025 OSAKA INTERNATIONAL ART 2025 / Osaka-jo Hall, Osaka
 Enter Art Fair / Copenhagen, Denmark
 ART FAIR ASIA FUKUOKA 2025 / Marine Messe Fukuoka, Fukuoka
 Tobi Art Fair 2025 / Tokyo Art Club, Tokyo
 Vietnam International Art Fair / Hotel Nikko Saigon, Vietnam
- 2024 ONE ART TAIPEI 2024 / Hotel Metropolitan Premier Taipei, Taipei
 ART TAINAN 2024 / Silks Place Tainan, Taiwan
 Beijing Dangdai Art Fair / National Agricultural Exhibition Center, Beijing
 ART FAIR ASIA FUKUOKA 2024 / Fukuoka International Center, Fukuoka

Selected Awards

Tokyo Medical and Dental University Encouragement Award
KENZAN roidworksgallery Award
Geidai Arts in Marunouchi Award (GAM Award)

Selected Collections / Public Installations

In the Forest at Night – Iriomote Cat

Bronze sculpture exhibited at the France Pavilion, Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan, and subsequently installed in front of THE NORTH FACE / HELLY HANSEN Ishigaki.

Love Michan Memorial

Bronze horse sculpture installed at Kasamatsu Town Hall, Gifu.

Beyond the Gaze – Cackling Goose

Donated to Yagiyama Zoological Park, Sendai.

Suigetsu – White Rhinoceros

Publicly installed at Omiya Kadomachi, Saitama.

His works are also held in numerous corporate, institutional, and private collections.

Selected Commission Works

2025 Nikka Whisky — Original box design for Single Malt Miyagikyo

2024 The Ritz-Carlton, Tokyo — Label designs for original sake and whisky

2022 AUBETT — Textile design collaboration for the 2022 A/W collection

2018–2019

FRAPBOIS — Original textile designs featuring Seto's drawings for the 2018–19 A/W and S/S collections