

PRESS RELEASE

Approved for immediate release

Please contact: press@messumswiltshire.com

Makoto Kagoshima

20 September – 13 October 2023

Messums London



Makoto Kagoshima at Messums London

Makoto Kagoshima's quirky and exuberant ceramics bridge gaps between folk art, craft and fine art through his imaginative motifs of the natural world, both animal and botanical. His colour palette is full and bright, and his draughtsmanship is clean and illustrative, and the resultant works have a pattern-like quality that simultaneously recalls the decorated black and red narrative vases of the ancient Mediterranean and the refined geometric graphics of post-modern European design. Makoto Kagoshima trained as an artist, and then worked for the Conran Shop in Japan, but it is with clay that he has found his medium. Emma Crichton-Miller describes:

On carved and moulded terracotta bodies, whether plates, vases, tiles or simply designed, three dimensional animals, Kagoshima unfolds a joyful and dreamlike universe of curling tendrils, bursting blooms, charming animals, darting fish, soaring birds, strutting geese and alluring snakes. These highly stylised creatures and plants, some drawn from childhood memory, some swimming up from his dreams, may seem

naive, but the designs are sophisticated, the colour sense refined and the craftsmanship accomplished. While each piece is unique, the design language is consistent, creating en masse a distinctive, exuberant imaginary world.

Kagoshima's work conveys the influence of European storytelling and Japanese making. His influences are wide-ranging and include the patterns in his grandmother's and mother's kimono collections, the architecture and sculpture of Ancient Greece, the rustic crafts of Spain and Portugal and ancient Mayan, Incan and Aztec imagery, the Arts and Crafts movement in the United Kingdom, and Scandinavian design. He has spoken of the significant influence of architecture, paintings, sculptures and crafts of the Romanesque period on his work.



This exhibition at Messums London opening on 20 September will feature approximately 200 new works by Kagoshima, shown for the first time and exploring the theme of the harvest.



A new publication will accompany the exhibition and will offer a retrospective view of Kagoshima's practice to date incorporating interviews with the artist, a series of essays from leading academics and richly illustrated with images of Kagoshima's work and exhibitions from recent years.

The publication will be available to pre-order from Messums Wiltshire from July 2023.



PRESS

For further information and press images, please contact:

press@messumslondon.com

MESSUMS WILTSHIRE is a leading multi-purpose gallery and arts centre set inside a restored thirteenth-century tithe barn and surrounding buildings with exhibition space, sculpture garden and restaurant.

MESSUMS LONDON is a 2,000 sq ft exhibition space on Cork Street behind the Royal Academy. It hosts a rolling programme of exhibitions for our contemporary artists.