

# JUNICHIRO IWASE

## MU:Beyond Duality

### Exhibition Dates

September 15 - November 10, 2017

### Opening Reception

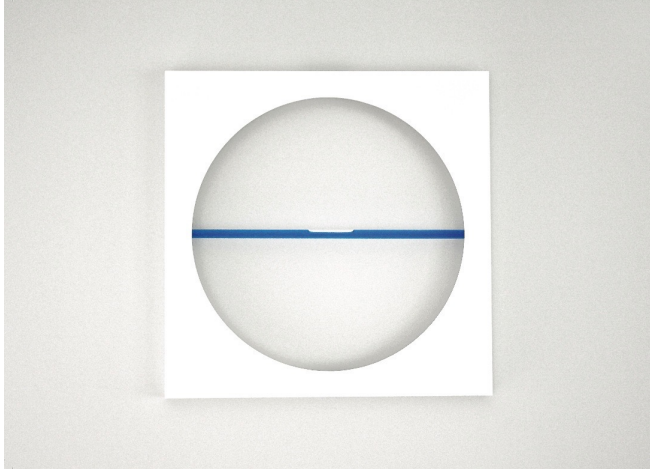
Friday, September 15, 2017, 3-6pm

Front Image: *Level 1*, 2017, Sculpture (Acrylic Sheet and Pipe, Food Colour and Water), 24" x 24" x 2"

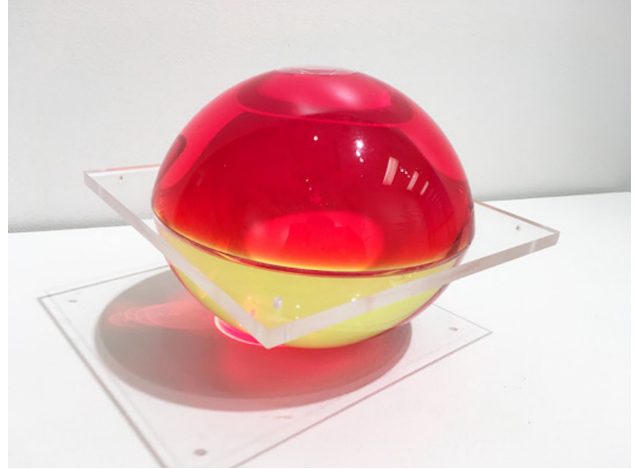


**ART BEATUS** 精 108 - 808 Nelson St, Vancouver, BC Canada V6Z 2H2 (t) 604.688.2633 (f) 604.688.2685  
(Vancouver) Consultancy Ltd 藝 info@artbeatus.com [www.artbeatus.com](http://www.artbeatus.com) Hours: Monday - Friday 10am to 6pm  
呼 Calling to arrange an appointment is recommended. Street/underground parking available.

**2017, MU: Beyond Duality**  
**Art Beatus Gallery, Vancouver, Canada**



***LEVEL 1***, Water, color dye, acrylic sheet and tube dome



***Big Eye***, Water, color dye, acrylic sheet and dome



***Green MU***, 2017, Water, color dye, acrylic sheet and tube

**For Immediate Release**

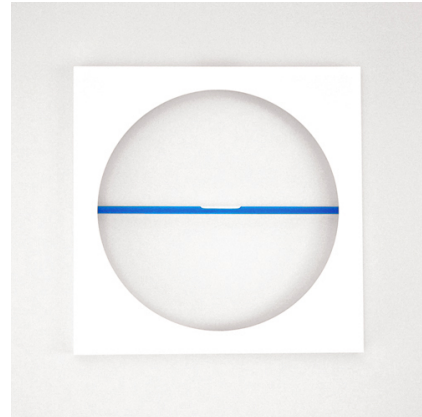
## Mu: Beyond Duality

***Sculptures by Junichiro Iwase***

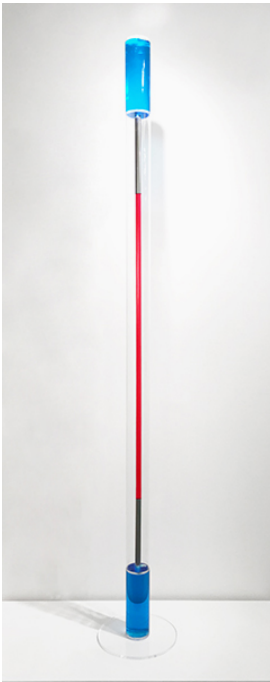
**September 15 - November 10, 2017**

Opening Reception | [Friday, September 15](#), 3 - 6pm

[Meet the Artist](#) | Junichiro Iwase will be in attendance from [4pm - 6pm](#)



**Art Beatus (Vancouver) Consultancy Ltd** is very pleased to present returning gallery artist **Junichiro Iwase** in his solo exhibition of new sculptures, ***MU: Beyond Duality***. These works were inspired by Zen Buddhist teachings of 'Mu', or 'nothingness', which **Junichiro** describes as “arriving at a point of transcendence”.



The sculptures in his latest exhibition are minimal, conceptual and interactive. A prominent feature in this collection of works is the transparent tube containing brightly coloured solutions and an air bubble resembling a spirit level. However, as visually compelling and fascinating as these works are, **Junichiro** wanted to place more importance on their function rather than form – primarily, their purpose is to help one find their centre and to lay conflicting questions to rest.

The artist intended that these works can be utilized as tools for meditation in order to strive for 'Mu' where, according to **Junichiro**, one can “...find balance between duality and to rise above it.” The artist states, “Mu recognizes that there is no definitive right or wrong, true or false, or good or bad.” As such, **Junichiro** adds, “...the sculpture is the empty space inside the bubble. Everything else is secondary, serving as a pedestal or supportive structure.”

Born in Japan in 1971 and raised in Canada, **Junichiro Iwase** and his family immigrated to Richmond, BC in 1972, where he currently lives and works. **Iwase** graduated from Johnson Atelier Institute of Sculpture in New Jersey in 1997, and since then has participated in local and international art exhibitions, residences, biennials, workshops and public commissions in Asia, Australia and North America.



# gallerieswest

BLOGS & BUZZ ARTISTS ART REVIEWS ART EVENTS GALLERY GUIDE SERVICES  
THE MAGAZINE



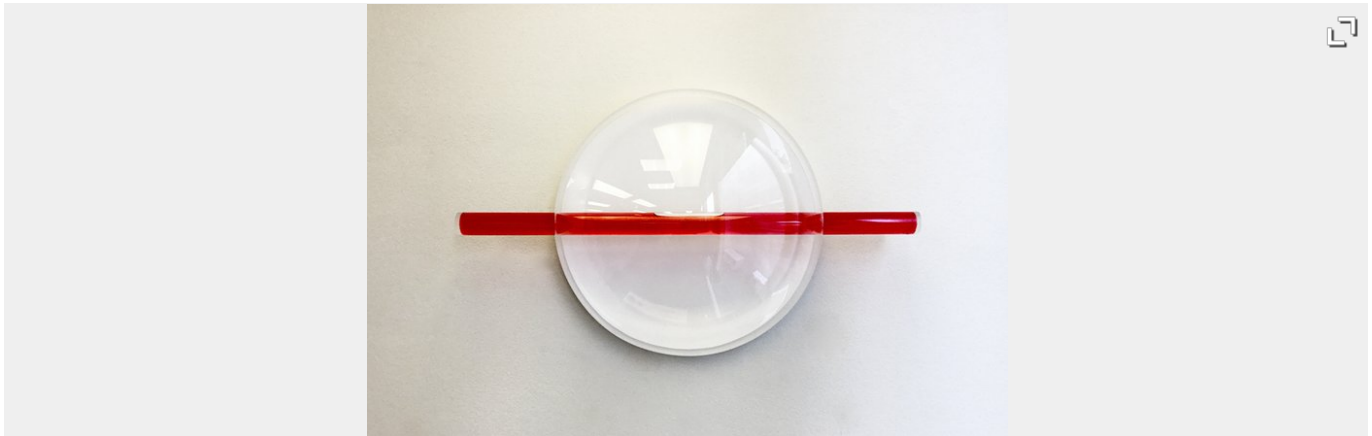
by [Portia Priegert](#)

Like 24 people like this. [Sign Up](#) to see what your friends like.

33  
Shares



[RSS](#) [Print](#)

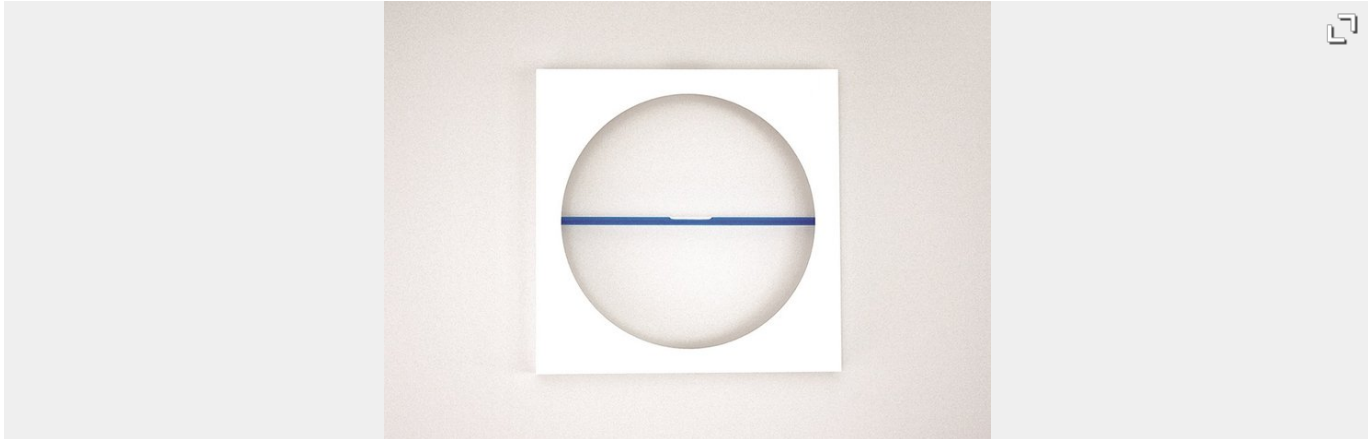


Junichiro Iwase, "Red Clock," 2017, acrylic plastic, coloured water and metal swivel plate, 12" x 20.5" x 6.5" (photo by Junichiro Iwase)

Junichiro Iwase became fascinated by the Zen Buddhist idea of nothingness – the point of transcendence – and wondered how to represent it in art. He settled on the idea of creating an air bubble within a plastic cylinder filled with coloured water. Everything except the bubble, he says, is part of the work’s support structure, not the actual art.

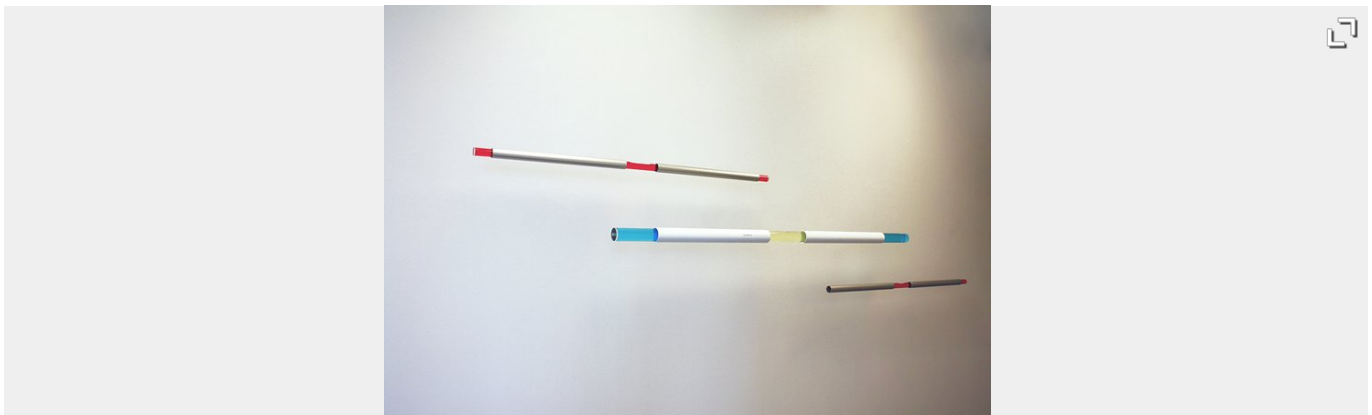
Iwase’s show, *Mu: Beyond Duality*, is on view at Art Beatus in Vancouver until Nov. 10. As Iwase understands it, mu reflects the artificiality inherent in the binary opposites we use to understand our world and recognizes there is no

absolute right or wrong, good or bad. Both polarities depend on context, where and when something happened, for instance, as well as the histories involved.



Junichiro Iwase, "Level 1," 2017, acrylic plastic and coloured water 24" x 24" x 1.8" (photo by Junichiro Iwase)

Some of Iwase's works are built using a plastic frame that resembles a wall-mounted clock. The clocks don't tell time, of course – they always reflect the present moment. Other works are made with long tubes, sometimes covered with coloured bands. He often suspends these with fishing line so they appear to float in mid-air. Iwase tries to centre the air bubble in the middle of each tube as it represents the place of greatest stability. His work is minimal and precise. It looks almost futuristic but also bring to mind ideas of telescopes, carpenter's levels and martial arts weaponry.



Junichiro Iwase, "Mu: Beyond Duality," 2017, installation view at Art Beatus, Vancouver, showing (from top) "Shi-nai" (Not death), "Sora" (Sky) and "Shi-nai 2" (Not death) photo by Junichiro Iwase

Iwase, who was born in Japan but came to Canada with his family as an infant, is not a Buddhist. But he comes from a creative family, including his mother, a fashion designer, and his father, a traditional cabinetmaker. Iwase apprenticed with his father, but says he prefers to explore ideas. "I wasn't really interested in things that were useful, like furniture," he says. "I was more interested in useless things." He has spent time in the United States, where he studied metal casting and hung out with sculptors, and in Japan, where he was exposed to that country's avant-garde artists.



Junichiro Iwase, "Mu: Beyond Duality," 2017, installation view at Art Beatus, Vancouver (photo by Junichiro Iwase)

Iwase, who has exhibited at art fairs in Japan, Korea and China, also creates work with eggshells, using them to explore notions of vulnerability and fragility, as well as interior and exterior spaces. He begins by donating eggs to food shelters and then collects and cleans the shells. He has used the shells in many ways, including encrusting them on tree branches, much like barnacles, and even fashioning them into women's dresses.

108-808 Nelson St, Vancouver, British Columbia V6Z 2H2 [View Map](#)

PHONE 604-688-2633

FAX 604-688-2685

[Visit Website](#)

HOURS Open Mon to Fri 10 am - 6 pm.



10 October 2017 issue

Junichiro Iwase

Art Beatus

by [Portia Priegert](#)

Type subject here...

[BLOGS & BUZZ](#) [ARTISTS](#) [ART REVIEWS](#) [ART EVENTS](#) [GALLERY GUIDE](#) [SERVICES](#) [THE MAGAZINE](#)

[About Us](#) [Contact Us](#) [Contributors](#) [Advertise](#)

Copyright © 1999 - 2018 T2 Media Inc. All rights reserved.

Built with Metro Publisher™