

Artist Statement

“Art is merely an extension of nature. I hope we can look at our weaknesses to create a bond which is relational.”
- *Junichiro Iwase*

In Iwase's sculpture and paintings, the use of eggshells has been a central and enduring aspect of his work to foreground the notion of vulnerability, fragility and uniqueness to all living things. The artist is drawn to the material's natural representation as well as the concept of inside and outside spaces, which can offer alternate views on contemporary society. When starting a new project, Iwase begins by donating eggs to local food shelters. He then gathers and cleans the shells before utilizing them in his sculptures and paintings. He says, “This give and take process keeps me in touch with the community and gives me a purpose to create.”

In his latest exhibition of sculptures, Jun is exploring the Buddhist concept of 'mu'. Written in collaboration with Maki Iwase, the artist's twin sister, they offer the following statement:

In the contemporary era of divisive politics and fake news, going beyond binary positions is more important than ever. The Buddhist concept of 'mu' is a useful reminder here. Mu recognizes that there is no definitive right or wrong, true or false, or good or bad. These are positions of polarity dependent on both time and space, history and contexts. These sculptures can be tools for meditation to strive for what Zen Buddhists call, nothingness- arriving at a point of transcendence.

Junichiro Iwase is a Canadian artist of Japanese ancestry whose work spans over 20 years. His work has been featured in international and local exhibitions: 10th Liverpool Biennial; Art Fair Tokyo; Korea International Art Fair: 1st Pocheon Biennial; Seoul International Print, Photo, and Edition Art Fair; Shanghai Art Fair; Nikkei National Museum. Other special projects include: digital screening for Vancouver Asian Film Festival; animated prints and paintings in Tokyo; HIV/AIDS sculpture in New York; Nikkei Fishermen's Memorial.

Currently, Iwase lives and works in British Columbia with his family. He continues to find new approaches to his egg theme by presenting his work to audiences at local and international venues.

www.junichiroiwase.com