

Exhibition: *Mineo Mizuno: Harmony*
On View: August 10–November 11, 2019
Location: Resnick Lawn



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The Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) presents a new outdoor installation, *Mineo Mizuno: Harmony*. For several years, Mineo Mizuno has lived on Fort Mountain Ranch in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. The intense beauty of the idyllic forest has inspired the artist's latest body of work, which includes interventions across the property using ceramics, fallen trees, and manzanita shrubs removed to avert fires. For the LACMA installation, Mizuno transplants elements of this immersive environment to Los Angeles. *Tea House*, like an earlier one he built on the ranch, is his interpretation of the traditional Japanese structure. Its open, organic form balances the seclusion needed to experience the tea ceremony with the powerful presence of the natural surroundings.

Around the tea house, Mizuno places a series of sculptures. Embedded in wood and on the ground, his ceramic water drops and tea bowls are painted with meditative repetitions of Japanese *kanji* such as *yui* (connect) and *wa* (harmony). These concepts reflect his ongoing interest in the communicative properties of trees and water.

On view in the museum's Resnick Lawn, *Mineo Mizuno: Harmony* will be brought together in conversation with LACMA's outdoor exhibition *The Invisible Man and the Masque of Blackness*, located in the B. Gerald Cantor Sculpture Garden (July 27–November 3, 2019), alongside 12 works by the French sculptor Auguste Rodin, which have been on display at LACMA since 2009. The exhibition joins other permanent outdoor installations on LACMA's campus, including Chris Burden's *Urban Light* (2008), Robert Irwin's *Primal Palm Garden* (2008), and Michael Heizer's

Levitated Mass (2012). These outdoor sculptures and installation are an extension of the museum's gallery space beyond its walls, enriching the visitor's experience.

Mineo Mizuno: Harmony is curated by Staci Steinberger, Associate Curator, Decorative Arts and Design at LACMA.

About Mineo Mizuno

Mineo Mizuno was born in the Gifu Prefecture of Japan, and has lived in California since 1964. He studied at the California Institute of the Arts, Chouinard Art School in Los Angeles, and has had numerous solo exhibitions in Southern California and Japan. In 2005-06, the Long Beach Museum of Art organized a survey and catalogue of his work, *Crossing Boundaries, The Ceramic Sculpture of Mineo Mizuno*. Mizuno's sculptures have been included in notable group exhibitions including *Facing the Sublime in Water, CA* at the Armory Center for the Arts in Pasadena (2012), *Common Ground: Ceramics in Southern California 1945-1975* at the American Museum of Ceramic Art in Pomona, CA (2011), and *Color and Fire: Defining Moments in Studio Ceramics 1950-2000* (2000) at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. He has received fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the California Community Foundation. His work is included in the collections of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Long Beach Museum of Art, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Smithsonian Institution, the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, The Museum of Contemporary Ceramic Art in Shigaraki Japan, the Hara Museum of Contemporary Art in Tokyo, and many others. He currently resides in Northern California.

Credit: This installation is organized by the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

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About LACMA

Located on the Pacific Rim, LACMA is the largest art museum in the western United States, with a collection of nearly 140,000 objects that illuminate 6,000 years of artistic expression across the globe. Committed to showcasing a multitude of art histories, LACMA exhibits and interprets works of art from new and unexpected

points of view that are informed by the region's rich cultural heritage and diverse population. LACMA's spirit of experimentation is reflected in its work with artists, technologists, and thought leaders as well as in its regional, national, and global partnerships to share collections and programs, create pioneering initiatives, and engage new audiences.

Location: 5905 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA, 90036. lacma.org

Images caption: Mineo Mizuno, *Kelly's Tea House* (detail), 2018, Fort Mountain Ranch, California, courtesy of the artist, © Mineo Mizuno and Friends

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