

# Jun Kaneko

## Biography

1942 Born in Nagoya, Japan

Jun Kaneko was born in Nagoya, Japan, in 1942. He studied painting with Satoshi Ogawa during his adolescence. In 1963, he came to the United States to continue his studies at Chouinard Art Institute when his introduction to Fred Marer drew him to sculptural ceramics. Kaneko proceeded to study with Peter Voulkos, Paul Soldner, and Jerry Rothman in California during the time now defined as The Contemporary Ceramics Movement in America. The following decade, Kaneko taught at some of the nation's leading art schools, including Scripps College, Rhode Island School of Design, and Cranbrook Academy of Art.

Based in Omaha since 1986, Jun Kaneko has worked at several experimental studios, including European Ceramic Work Center in The Netherlands, Otsuka Ohmi Ceramic Company in Japan; Fabric Workshop in Philadelphia, PA; Bullseye Glass in Portland, OR; Acadia Summer Arts Program in Bar Harbor, ME; Derix Glasstudios in Taunusstein, Germany, and Aguacate in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. Over the course of his career, he has partnered with industrial facilities to realize large-scale, hand-built sculptures. The first of these projects was his 1982-1983 Omaha Project at Omaha Brickworks. Later endeavors include his Fremont Project, completed in 1992-1994, and his Pittsburg Project completed in 2004-2007. Most recently, Jun has been working at Trate Arte ceramics studio in Cuernavaca, experimenting with new glazes and unprecedented scale with the unpredictable raku process.

Kaneko is increasingly drawn to installations that promote civic interaction, realizing over seventy public art commissions from 1985 to present. Many are large-scale permanent installations that can be seen across the United States and internationally in Toronto, Canada, Shanghai, China, Jakarta, Indonesia, and multiple cities in Japan.

His artwork appears in numerous international and national solo and group exhibitions annually and is included in more than seventy museum collections. Kaneko received Commendation from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan, Master of the Media from the James Renwick Alliance, Gold Medal for Consummate Craftsmanship from the American Craft Council, Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Sculpture Center, and holds honorary doctorates from the University of Nebraska, the Massachusetts College of Art & Design, the Royal College of Art in London, and the University of Pécs in Hungary.

Jun Kaneko has designed three opera productions; Puccini's *Madame Butterfly* (2006), Beethoven's *Fidelio* (2008), and Mozart's *The Magic Flute* (2012) which have toured throughout the United States.

## Education

- 1971 Claremont Graduate School, Claremont, CA, studied under Paul Soldner
- 1966 University of California, Berkeley, CA, studied under Peter Voulkos
- 1964 Chouinard Art Institute, Los Angeles, CA, & California Institute of Art, Los Angeles, CA

Studied ceramics at Jerry Rothman's studio, Paramount, CA

## Teaching Experience

- 1979-86 Cranbrook Academy of Art
- 1973-75 Rhode Island School of Design
- 1974 Scripps College
- 1972-73 University of New Hampshire

## Foundations

- 2000 Founder, KANEKO: Open Space for Your Mind, Omaha, NE
- 1985 Co-Founder, Bemis Center for Contemporary Art, Omaha, NE

## Grants & Honors Since 2005

- 2021 International Sculpture Center Lifetime Achievement Award
- 2018 Commendation from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan  
Honorary Doctorate, University of Pécs, Pécs, Hungary  
Gold Medal for Consummate Craftsmanship, American Craft Council
- 2011 Master of the Media, James Renwick Alliance, Washington, DC
- 2010 Artist Advisory Board, The Fabric Workshop and Museum, Philadelphia, PA
- 2008 Honorary Doctorate, Massachusetts College of Art & Design, Boston, MA
- 2006 Honorary Doctorate, University of Nebraska at Omaha, Omaha, NE
- 2005 Honorary Doctorate, Royal College of Art, London, England

## Select Public Art / Corporate Commissions Since 2005

- 2021      LinkedIn Midwest Headquarters, Omaha, NE
- 2020      The Space Between: Frank Lloyd Wright | Jun Kaneko, Albright-Knox Gallery at  
the Darwin D. Martin House Complex, Buffalo, NY
- 2019      The Ritz-Carlton, Nanjing, Jiangsu, China  
Origin, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE
- 2018      Jordan Schnitzer Japanese Arts Learning Center, Portland Japanese Gardens,  
Portland, OR
- 2017      Westfield Century City, Los Angeles, CA  
Three Columns, Yanney Heritage Park, Kearney, NE  
Passion, Bisha Hotel & Residencies, Toronto, Canada  
Railside Plaza, Grand Island, NE  
Search, Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center, University of Nebraska Medical  
Center, Omaha, NE
- 2016      Number 1 Capitol Building, Hawaii State Art Museum, Honolulu, HI  
Otemachi Springs, Shimizu Art Office, Otemachi, Tokyo, Japan
- 2015      Richmond Center for Visual Arts, University of Michigan, Kalamazoo, MI  
Nihondaira Zoo, Omaha Sister City Association, Shizuoka, Japan
- 2014      Ascent, Tower Square, Lincoln, NE  
Garden of the Tanuki, Henry Doorley Zoo, Omaha, NE  
University of Michigan, College of Engineering, Ann Arbor, MI
- 2013      Expansion, Pump House, Des Moines, IA  
Legends, Myths and Truths: Jun Kaneko, Millennium Park, Boeing Galleries,  
Chicago, IL  
San Diego Country Operations Center, San Diego, CA  
Impressions, School of Music, Theater, and Dance, University of Michigan, Ann  
Arbor, MI  
Passages, Eli Whitney Technical School, Hamden CT
- 2012      5 Dangos, Principal River Walk, Greater Des Moines Public Art Foundation, Des  
Moines, IA  
Conversation, International Financial Center, Shanghai, ChinaCurrent, 1000

- Connecticut, Washington, DC.
- 2011 Grand Hyatt Tokyo, Roppongi Tower, Tokyo, Japan
- 2010 Great Path Academy, Manchester, CT
- 2009 Mammel Hall, College of Business Administration, University of Nebraska at Omaha, Omaha, NE
- 12 West, Gerding Edlen, Twelfth & Washington Project, Portland, OR
- University of Nebraska Medical Center Michael F. Sorrell Center for Health Science Education, Omaha, NE
- 2008 Kaneko on Park Avenue (06/08–11/08), New York City Parks Public Art Program, New York, NY
- 2007 Temple Har Shalom, Park City, UT
- Rhythm, Mid-America Center, Iowa West Public Art, Council Bluffs, IA
- Four Seasons Resort Maui, Wailea, HI
- 2006 Colorbox, Phoenix Art Museum, Phoenix, AZ
- Water Plaza, Bartle Hall/Convention Center, Kansas City, MO
- Frontline, University of Connecticut, Burton Family Complex, Storrs, CT
- 2005 Passages, City of Omaha, Hilton Omaha (Project 2), Omaha, NE
- Grand Hyatt Hotel, Rippongi Tower (Project 2), Tokyo, Japan

## Opera Production Design

### The Magic Flute

San Francisco Opera, San Francisco, CA (2015); Kennedy Center, Washington D.C (2014); Opera Carolina, Charlotte, NC (2013); Kansas City Lyric Opera, MO (2013); Opera Omaha, Omaha, NE (2013); San Francisco Opera, San Francisco, CA (2012)

### Fidelio

Opera Omaha, Omaha, NE (2015); Opera Company of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA (2008)

### Madame Butterfly

Opera Omaha, Omaha, NE (2019); Washington National Opera, Kennedy Center, Washington D.C. (2017); San Francisco Opera, San Francisco, CA (2016); San Francisco Opera, San Francisco, CA (2014); Opera Omaha, Omaha, NE (2011); Opera Memphis, Memphis, TN (2010); Vancouver Opera, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada (2010); Opera Company of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA (2009); Madison Opera, Madison,

WI (2008); Atlanta Opera, Atlanta, GA (2008); Hawaii Opera Theater, Maui, HI (2007); Hawaii Opera Theater, Honolulu, HI (2007); Dayton Opera, Dayton, OH (2006); Opera Omaha, Omaha, NE (2006)

## Public Collections

### United States of America

Arizona State University Art Museum, Tempe, AZ  
Arkansas Arts Center, Little Rock, AR  
Boise Art Museum, Boise, ID  
California State University, Sacramento, CA  
City of Lincoln, Lincoln, NE  
CityCenter Fine Art Collection, Las Vegas, NV  
Chrysler Museum of Art, Norfolk, VA  
The Contemporary Museum, Honolulu, HI  
Cornell Museum of Fine Art, Winter Park, FL  
Corning Museum of Glass, Corning, NY  
Cranbrook Art Museum, Cranbrook Academy of Art, Bloomfield Hills, MI  
Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, MI  
Everson Museum of Art, Syracuse, NY  
Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, de Young Museum, San Francisco, CA  
Flint Institute of Arts, Flint, MI  
Frederick R. Weisman Art Museum, Minneapolis, MN  
Grand Rapids Art Museum, Grand Rapids, MI  
Hawaii State Foundation on Culture & the Arts, Honolulu, HI  
Honolulu Academy of Arts, Honolulu, HI  
Incheon World Ceramic Center, Seoul, South Korea  
Joslyn Art Museum, Omaha, NE  
Lauritzen Gardens, Omaha, NE  
LongHouse Reserve, East Hampton, NY

Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA  
Lowe Art Museum, University of Miami, Coral Gables, FL  
The Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, Montgomery, AL  
The Museum of Arts & Design, New York, NY  
The Museum of Nebraska Art, Kearney, NE  
The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, MO  
Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, Overland Park, KS  
Northern Arizona University Art Museum, Flagstaff, AZ  
Oakland Museum of California, Oakland, CA  
Palm Springs Art Museum, Palm Springs, CA  
Pew Charitable Trusts, Philadelphia, PA  
Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, PA  
Phoenix Art Museum, Phoenix, AZ  
Portland Art Museum, Portland, OR  
Racine Art Museum, Racine, WI  
Reading Public Museum, Reading, PA  
Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL  
Scripps College, Claremont, CA, (The Marer Collection)  
Sheldon Museum of Art, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE  
Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, DC  
Tweed Museum of Art, University of Minnesota Duluth, MN  
Tyler Museum of Art, Tyler, TX  
University of Iowa Museum of Art, Iowa City, IA  
University of Kansas Hospital, Kansas City, KS  
University of Missouri Columbia: Museum of Art and Archaeology, Columbia, MO  
University of Nebraska Omaha, Omaha, NE  
University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA  
University of Wyoming Art Museum, Laramie, WY  
Weber State University, Dept. of Visual Art, Ogden, UT

## Australia

The National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, ACT

Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art, South Brisbane, Queensland

## Canada

The Banff Centre, Walter Phillips Gallery, Banff, Alberta

Gardiner Museum, Toronto, Ontario

## Europe

Arabia Museum, Helsinki, Finland

Europees Keramisch Werkcentrum, s'Hertogenbosch, Netherlands

The Museum Het Kruithuis, s'Hertogenbosch, Netherlands

V & A South Kensington, London, England

## Greece

Olympic Museum of Ceramic Sculpture, Athens

## Japan

Aichi Prefectural Ceramic Museum, Nagoya

Gifu-Ken Museum, Gifu

Japan Foundation, Tokyo

Nagoya City Museum, Nagoya

Takamatsu City Museum of Art, Takamatsu

The Museum of Ceramic Art, Hyogo

The Museum of Contemporary Ceramic Art

The Museum of Modern Art, Wakayama

The National Museum of Art, Osaka

Yamaguchi Prefectural Museum, Yamaguchi