

Tristan Hoare

Ensō

Ursula Schulz-Dornburg | Taizo Kuroda

16th September – 21st October 2016

Private View: Thursday 15th September, 6 – 9 pm

Press Preview: Thursday 15th September, 5 – 6 pm



Ursula Schulz-Dornburg, *Ararat 01* (2006) silver gelatin print, 20.4 x 19.8 cm



Taizo Kuroda, *Untitled* (2015) Yakishimi porcelain, 30.7 cm x 52 cm

'Ensō: a hand-drawn circle executed in one or two brushstrokes to express a moment when the mind is free to let the body create.'

Tristan Hoare is delighted to be opening its new London space with *Ensō*, an exhibition that brings together works by the German photographer Ursula Schulz-Dornburg and the Japanese ceramicist Taizo Kuroda.

Schulz-Dornburg is best-known for her starkly poetic black and white photographs, which she presents in series, uniting conceptual and documentary practices. Her images are an exercise in restrained, formal objectivity and often feature architectural structures and desolate landscapes. Through the careful consideration of repeated, external forms, she hints at narratives of transition, mediation, exile and displacement.

Taizo Kuroda is one of the most important artists in contemporary Japanese ceramics. Adventuring far beyond the norms of conventional pottery, his work is characterised by its refined form and immaculate surfaces, elements that echo his own pursuit of universal beauty. Working in unglazed, rough white porcelain, he creates sculptures that resemble vases and bowls, examining the limit between the physical object and its latent meaning.

Gallery director Tristan Hoare says: *'The Buddhist concept of Ensō proposes that perfection can be achieved through the repetition of a single act, and this philosophy is evident in the practices of these two artists. Both are seeking to reveal something beyond physical representation, and both are absolutely uncompromising in their quest for aesthetic perfection.'*

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Notes to Editors:

About Ursula Schulz-Dornburg (b. 1938):

'I was always moving towards two points of tension: concentrating on the inner dimension and feeling towards the external viewpoint.' Ursula Schulz-Dornburg

Schulz-Dornburg is known for her interest in architecture and signature topographical style, focusing on a single form and cataloging its variants. Using mainly black and white photography she builds a picture of a place using a process that is both formal and intuitive.

Tristan Hoare has worked with Schulz-Dornburg for many years; indeed, he opened his first gallery with a presentation of her photographs in 2009. Her work has been exhibited in museums worldwide including Tate Modern, London, in its recent exhibition *Conflict. Time. Photography*, as well as Kunstparterre Munich; Musee d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris; Museum Ludwig, Cologne; the Art Institute of Chicago; Corcoran Gallery, Washington; Centro Fotografico Alvaraes Bravo, Mexico City; IVAM Valencia; 21er Haus, Museum of 20th Century Art, Vienna.

About Taizo Kuroda (b.1946):

'What I am ultimately looking for is a perfect space. I am not ready yet to make such a form however. With a wheel, it is possible to make a piece that is almost perfect, but I cannot allow myself to do that yet.' – Taizo Kuroda

Kuroda began his training in Canada in the 1970s, and returned to Japan in 1981 where he completed his apprenticeship under the master ceramicist Tatsuzo Shimaoka, who became a Living National Treasure of Japan. In 1991, Kuroda built his home and studio in Futo, Izu Peninsula in Japan, and a year later began making his signature high-fired, unglazed 'yakishime' white porcelain. For Kuroda, once the glaze is removed the form and texture of his pieces are accentuated. His works include bowls and stands of all sizes, high-shouldered cylindrical vases and occasionally urn-shaped vases with full, rounded shoulders. Some of Kuroda's most distinctive works feature breaks in the surface, jagged apertures that emphasise the irregular lines of his vessels. Pure white porcelain clay is notoriously difficult to produce by hand and the fine lines and thinness of the porcelain in places demonstrates Kuroda's mastery of his craft.

Kuroda has exhibited internationally, and his works are in the permanent collections of the Victoria and Albert Museum; The Tokyo National Museum of Modern Art; the Cleveland Museum of Art; the Brooklyn Museum of Art, New York; the Byrd Hoffman

Water Mill Foundation, New York; and the Ruth & Sherman Lee Institute for Japanese Art, California. This is his first exhibition in the UK.

About Tristan Hoare:

Tristan Hoare was formerly based in Notting Hill at the Lichfield Studios between 2009 and 2014. The gallery regularly participates in art fairs, most recently Art International Istanbul, Paris Photo Los Angeles and Photo London. In Spring 2016 the gallery relocated to 6 Fitzroy Square, a Grade 1 Listed Georgian townhouse.

Opening times:

For the duration of the exhibition, the gallery will be open Tuesday – Saturday,
11am – 6pm