Hands inspired by nature

WORKS

Syuhei Hasado
Syokuninnsya Syuhei-gumi
Syuhei Hasado was born in Takayama city in 1962. Takayama is located in a valley surrounded by mountains in the central area in Japan. He grew up in the beauty of nature before being trained as a plaster craftsman from the age of 18. He won first place in the plastering category of the National Skills Competition at the age of 21. Before and after this competition, he did a lot of commercial construction with modern materials.

In his mid-30s he had a dream of working with natural clay because he felt that the natural color and character was so beautiful. He realized that clay could be great healing for him while allowing him to work economically and efficiently in the contemporary world. Leaving the world of modern building, he returned to traditional Japanese plastering. Fortunately, he was able to obtain lovely clay from the mountain around Takayama and began to experiment making plasters with the addition of sand and rice straw.

Because traditional techniques take a lot of time and hard work, they are seldomly used in new Japanese buildings. Nonetheless, Syuhei found these traditional techniques irresistible. Instead of simply imitating them, he developed his own unique and contemporary style for creating walls of natural materials. Using nature as his inspiration, he spent a great deal of time making samples and trial pieces, that eventually evolved into what was to become his own signature style. Even though it was uncertain and somewhat of a risk for him, he founded his own company. People who saw his early experimental pieces were very surprised and impressed; his works eventually caused a great sensation. His work demonstrated the beauty and possibility of clay plaster.

Syuhei is an eloquent man with many talents. On one hand he is full of passion, brave and manly, but on the other side, he is a delicate, deliberate and romantic person. His work exhibits this complexity of character and seems to have no limit. More than anything, he is inspired by nature --- sunsets, the moon, snow, wind and trees. He is also moved by poetry. His walls often reflect his mental image, that which resides deeply in everyone's mind. Accordingly, his works can be found in public places like restaurants, shops, hotels, houses, tea rooms, TV and movie studio sets. Recently he held some exhibitions and got rave reviews. He also creates his own poems, essays, and stories, his talent seems to be infinite.

He says plaster works are "the tracks of water". He always feels the existence of water hidden inside the clay and air whenever he is creating his walls. Water runs everywhere on the earth; it engenders life, scenery, climate, all that we see in nature. He believes that the works and feelings of the plaster craftsman are very important for this present age. Clay and water are ubiquitous materials from a long long time ago for all human being. Unfortunately they seem so far removed from the lives of people in modern urban cities. To improve the quality of our lives we need to return to at least our origins. Syuhei's work is universal and will be accepted by people of many different backgrounds.
Earth Stage Wall for “hijisai”—Earth Art Festa 2009 in Mashiko
2009, Mashiko, Tochigi

A stage wall that was made for a new festival in Mashiko, famous for pottery production. The wall portrays the stratum from this area’s history. Made of local clay and worked with amateur participants.

photo: Koshi Baba
Snow and Ice Wall Below Freezing Forest
2009, Akigami Onsen Hot Spring, Gifu
Snow and Ice Wall plastered with a mix of snow, ice, cold water, hot water and glue.
Made for the ice festival held in Syuhei’s region, with an elevation of 1000 meters.
When lit up, it was beautiful like the heavens, then melted and disappeared with the arrival of spring.
The Earth Table
2008, Toyako Lake, Hokkaido

Syuhei was requested to make a two meter diameter round earth table for the "Zero Emission House" living room where the first ladies met at the Toyako Lake G8 Summit. The earth table expresses the hope for the world to be connected as one.
None of the materials were purchased at stores: trees, earth, water, bamboo, straw, and old roofing boards. Many volunteers gathered, and built this optimum masterpiece.
The Wall of Four Seasons
2003, Kakogawa, Hyogo

These panels were created for a young boy who became bed ridden from an accident. After plastering, they were left to dry on the floor of the arbor at a high mountain and hung on the wall as an encouraging message to get up. Pink for Spring, light green for Summer, amber for Fall, and white and light blue for Winter.

photo: Fukashi Setoyama
Ear of Rice Wall
2007, Tokyo

Mixed delicate earth, sand, and straw with a lot of water and embedded rice straw from the local paddy field.

Gradually as the clay dried the vertical stripes and the rice straw came to the surface naturally.

Introduced in the TBS TV Show----New Century Planet.

photo: Yuichi, Higurashi
Modern Otsu-migaki polished moon on a straw bale wall under the difficult dry climate in Arizona.

Syuhei was invited by Bill Steen, an expert of earth plaster and straw bale building, to teach Japanese plaster to Americans, and to show his remarkable techniques.

photo: Bill Steen
Wall of water

2010, Tokyu Bunkamura Gallery, Shibuya, Tokyo
Made for a commercial poster of “Hakusui” (white water), Japanese liquor, and showed at Syuhei’s solo exhibition. It expresses ripples of water.
Studio set for the news program called NEWS23 broadcasted by TBS TV.

After hearing the program’s theme music, Syuhei imagined magical plants and hoped for success for the show. For Syuhei, the design represents plants fluttering in the wind, and also like the part of the tail of the Phoenix flying away.

photo: Eiji Kitada
“Enku” Wall
2001, Kamitakara, Gifu

“Enku-butsu” is the wooden image of Buddha made by Enku, pilgrim in the 17th century. These images are so simple yet powerful, and very familiar with Gifu local people. Syuhei made Enku-butsu with clay for Kamitakara Village Commemoration Museum.
Wine Cellar Wall
2004, Tokyo

Constructed with sun-dried bricks made out of various earth for a Bistro. The pastel colors are all natural. Syuhei got his image from the photo of the ruins of Pompei.

photo: Isao Aihara
Rose Wall
2006, NEWS23 Studio, Tokyo
A redesigned studio set welcoming a new female news caster. Its theme was cheerful and flowery, so Syuhei created Shikkui roses and imbedded them in the earth wall with an image of soaring.

photo: Yuichi Higurashi
WAKO Window Display
2010, Ginza, Tokyo

WAKO is a high-class men's and women's jewelry, watch, and fashion shop. The shop is located at the center of Ginza a most famous meeting spot in Japan. Syuhei created a rainbow and colored dolls with plaster techniques.
Hakuza Hikari-Gura Storehouse
2003, Kanazawa, Ishikawa

100 year-old deteriorated earthen storehouse rejuvenated for a gold foil maker to look like the Kinkaku-ji golden temple.

The exterior wall was plastered with an earth-Shikkui finish and pasted on 24K gold foils.
The Peninsula Tokyo

Front wall of Ceremony Hall on the 5th floor.

The vermilion wooden frame is lacquered.

The earth is painted in a delicate rib design that achieves the transparent look of thin amber, ending in a haze of gold.
Front Desk's Wall of The Peninsula Tokyo
2007, Hibiya, tokyo

The Peninsula Tokyo is a new landmark hotel near the Imperial palace and Ginza. A lot of the interior was designed with Japanese materials. Syuhei worked on the important walls such as the ceremony hall's main wall, staircase walls and a suite room.
Ena Earthen Storehouse

This structure was built using traditional Japanese construction techniques. It's made entirely of earth, with walls that are more than 20cm thick. It was finished with the careful application of plaster (comprised of lime, seaweed paste and hemp fibers).
Korean Restaurant in Shibuya, Tokyo

This wall was inspired by the scene of a mountain village, with a design evoking the roofs of houses. Split boards of chestnut wood are embedded in the earthen wall.
G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit

Presentation of Japanese space of the near future

Inspired by the Shosoin repository at Todai-ji Temple, the earthen wall is painted with a mixture of vermilion and sumi ink.
Japanese-style Tea Room

Earthen wall in Japanese-style room

The walls were plastered with red earth, and plant fibers dyed with yellow earth were embedded just before the wall dried to create the image of falling blossoms.
Gero Hotel Lounge

The wave-like pattern on the fireplace is made of earth in two deep shades of brown. The background was created by mixing various amounts of yellow earth in with red earth.
SPIRAL, Tokyo (Haptic Exhibition)

The exhibition was primarily intended to thrill human antennae.

I exhibited geta (traditional Japanese clogs) because I felt that footwear understands the earth better than anyone.
Syuhei created his original fantastic story named “blue and amber”, and at this solo exhibition, he made these works express the image of it.
Works as Wall Art

Syuhei always makes a lot of samples prior to his finished work. By themselves these samples are already like art pieces. These were especially made for his solo exhibition as wall art.
Works as Wall Art
photo: Syuhei Hasado, Masayuki Fukuoka
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Job Samples
Samples made prior to the actual work.
Syuhei Hasado / Syokuninnsya Syuhei-gumi

1962 Born in Takayama city, Gifu Prefecture.
1983 Won first place in the plastering category of the National Skills Competition.
1984 Competed in the WorldSkills Competition.
2001 Established Syokuninnsya Syuhei-gumi Company.
Currently employing 14 plasterers.
2002 Started a special project, as it were utopia, recreating and relocating 100 year old buildings and creating new forest landscapes using craftsman’s techniques.
This dream of his is still continuing and expanding.
2004 Taught at a course on Traditional Japanese Clay and Lime Plasters and Floors by Canelo Project (Athena & Bill Steen) Canelo, Arizona, USA.
2008 Demonstrated making the clay ball to first ladies at the Toyako Lake G8 Summit.
2009 Solo exhibition “Earth, Water and Sun” Kachidoki, Tokyo
2010 Solo exhibition “Image of Clay” Ginza, Tokyo
Solo exhibition “Earth, Water and Sun” Shibuya, Tokyo

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