

## Japanese Sculptor Teppei Kaneuji Brings Towers to China

by Darryl Wee 25/06/13 10:07 PM EDT



Japanese sculptor Teppei Kaneuji opens his first solo show in China on June 28 at the Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA) in Beijing, entitled “Towering Something.” On display will be a series of new works that Kaneuji produced during a residency at UCCA last summer.

Born in 1978, Kaneuji has steadily refined an approach to sculpture that has now become readily recognizable, evoking in the viewer “a sense of encountering things that seem familiar, but that we do not really understand.” His signature “White Discharge” series, apparently inspired by the leveling effect that a blanket of snow had on a Mercedes Benz and an adjacent pile of dog excrement, explores how readymade objects and throwaway plastic goods suddenly take on a different gravity — or horrifying vacuity — when slathered with a thick coat of white plastic resin. Also on display are works from the “Games, Dance & the Constructions” and “Ghost Building” series, made from scraps of images cut out from manga comics, found photos, mirrored surfaces, and sticker sheets.

In making his sculptures, Kaneuji virtually ignores all the symbolic meanings and values associated with each object, choosing only materials that can be easily stacked and piled on top of each other, or those that promise to serve as a solid “pillar” or “beam.” For Kaneuji, his sculptures seem to originate from “the random encounter between a post and a beam, a horizontal and a vertical, with the adjoining structures taking shape by pure chance as the work gets stacked higher and higher.”

Shorn of their original function and meaning, the components of his sculptures exist as “pure” supports and props — a feature that is further accentuated by the resin coat that he subsequently pours over their surface, turning these disparate, unrelated objects into a single, new, and often monstrous form.

Teppei Kaneuji’s “Towering Something” is on display at the UCCA Central Gallery & Nave from June 28—August 25, 2013. Concurrently showing is veteran Taiwanese performance artist Tehching Hsieh’s “One Year Performance 1980-1981” at the UCCA Long Gallery.