

oku

kathleen reilly

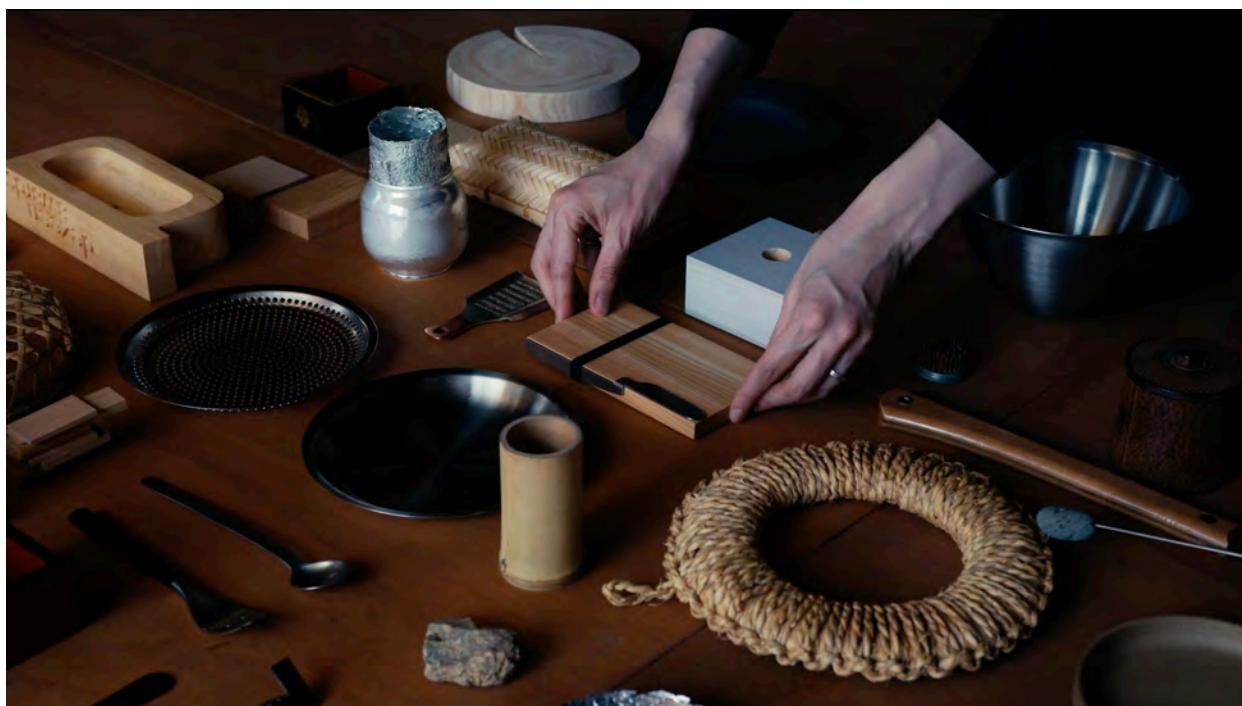
Press Release | Oku by Kathleen Reilly | London Design Festival 2024

Exhibition: Galleria Objects, 92 Brick Ln, London E1 6RL, United Kingdom

Date: 14th - 22nd September 2024 | 12pm-6pm

Private View: 14th September 6-9pm

Shoreditch Design Triangle Event: 17th September 6-9pm



Oku Video Still ©Riyo Nemeth & Paz Castro

‘Oku has a certain humour to it while being beautiful and innovative. The design has an elegant integration of form and function. It is a beautiful, honest and delicate design – the way the knife and the block work together has a kind of unified function that is expressed through the form of each.’

Dezeen Awards Judges

*'A playfully subversive knife from a rising Scottish design star.
The Scottish artist fuses East and West in a new knife design crafted in and inspired by
Niigata Prefecture's Tsubame-Sanjo.'*

The Japan Times

<https://londondesignfestival.com/activities/oku>

Discover a new knife design made in Japan, celebrating the fusion of Eastern and Western cultures

<https://www.shoreditchdesigntriangle.com/events/oku/>

Kathleen Reilly presents her first solo exhibition of her Dezeen Award-winning design Oku, a new knife with a unique folded handle crafted in collaboration with highly skilled artisans in Tsubame-Sanjo, an area in Niigata Prefecture, Japan, renowned for its metalworking history for over 400 years.

The exhibition showcases the completed design with wood produced in collaboration with Karimoku Furniture, Japan's leading wooden furniture manufacturer. An installation presented alongside Oku comprises a collection of objects from the UK and Japan that inspired the design, a self-written poem printed on Japanese washi paper, her studio scene recreated in the corner of the gallery and a film celebrating the fusion of Eastern and Western cultures.



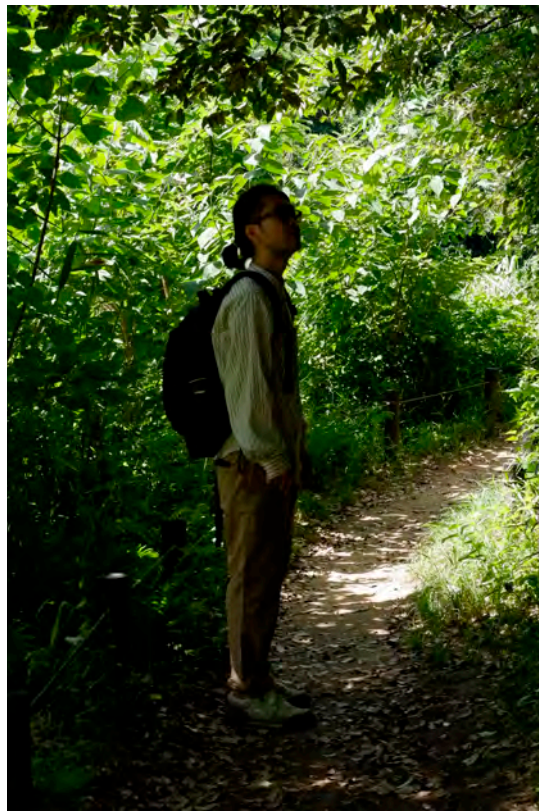
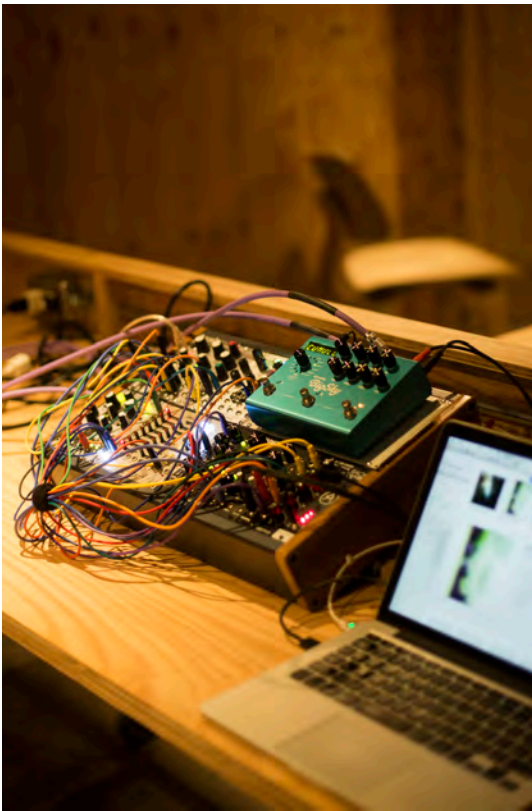
©Kakeru Ooka



©Masaaki Inoue

Shoreditch Design Triangle Event: 17th September 6-9pm

<https://www.shoreditchdesigntriangle.com/events/virtual-performance-by-hiroki-saitoh-talk-event/>



©Hiroki Saitoh

Join artist Kathleen Reilly and exhibition director Paz Castro in the gallery for a performance by composer and soundscape designer Hiroki Saitoh, streamed from Japan, followed by a talk event.

Hiroki Saitoh takes sound inspiration from nature, city areas and memories of landscapes, combining piano improvisations with field recordings from various locations to create a rich, multilayered soundscape. An ode to the Japanese countryside will be created in the heart of Shoreditch, London through a sensory and auditory experience mixing environmental sounds.

A talk event will follow the performance, providing viewers with an opportunity to find out more about the exhibition and the British and Japanese designers and artists we have collaborated with.

Biography

Hiroki Saitoh was born in Tokyo and began playing classical guitar at 10. He attended Nihon University's College of Art, majoring in the Music Information Course, where he studied psychoacoustics and acoustic analysis, leading him to compose music for experimental works and orchestral pieces. He has notably produced music for Salone del Mobile Milano and Japan House London. In 2016, he founded SoundscapeDesignLab, a sound branding agency focusing on the concept of soundscapes.

<https://hirokisaitoh.com/>

Hiroki's album 'into my soundscape' will be available to purchase at the gallery.

[Listen to 'into my soundscape' 2018](#)

Oku Pop-Up Shop & Cafe: 14th September - 22nd September 2024 | 12pm-6pm

<https://www.shoreditchdesigntriangle.com/events/oku-pop-up-shop-cafe/>



Oku Video Still ©Riyo Nemeth & Paz Castro

Oku Pop-Up Shop & Cafe will run in the front space of Galleria Objets in tandem with the main exhibition, offering a carefully curated selection of items from Tsubame-Sanjo and beyond, available to purchase. Visitors can learn about acclaimed craftspeople's techniques while enjoying drinks and snacks in a relaxed space.



Oku is a new knife design carefully and sustainably produced with Tsubame-Sanjo and Karimoku Furniture's skilled artisans.

<https://www.kathleenreilly.co.uk/store/oku>



Tsuboe is a specialist manufacturer of metal graters with a history of over 110 years, founded in 1907 as a file manufacturer.

<https://en.tsuboe.co.jp/>



Conte is a brand located in Tsubame City, using high technology to make tools that are indispensable for daily cooking.

https://conte-tsubame.jp/catalogue_en/



Yoshita Handi-Design Studio was established in 2011 by Moritaka Yoshita who previously worked with Sori Yanagi at Yanagi Industrial Design Research Society.

<https://yoshitadesign.com/>



Gyokusendo has been dedicated to crafting hammered copperware, one of Niigata Prefecture's most famous traditional crafts for over 200 years.

<https://www.gyokusendo.com/en/>



Relax on benches by **Mentsen** a London-based design practice and partnership between Yasuyuki Sakurai and Risa Sano.

<https://www.mentsen.co.uk/>



Taste flavours developed by **Toge** a food, education, and housing project in Japan. Their new 'Kamoshika Syrup' is made from trees from the forest of Karuizawa, Nagano.

<https://www.toge.art/>



Try cocktails by London-based producer **Black Lines**. Their ready-to-serve bottled cocktails proving that beautiful cocktails don't need to be restricted to an expensive, once-a-month treats.

<https://blacklinesdrinks.com/>



Enjoy snacks on plates by **Wasara** created from bamboo and bagasse, instilled with Japanese values, and the spirit of traditional Japanese craftsmanship.

<https://wasara.jp/e/>



Listen to music by composer **Hiroki Saitoh**, who combines piano improvisations with field recordings from various locations to create a rich, multilayered soundscape.

<https://hirokisaitoh.com/>

A project by Kathleen Reilly
Direction & Curation by Paz Castro

Oku Pop-Up Shop & Cafe supported by Ritsu Yamada

Kathleen Reilly Bio

Scottish artist and metalworker with over ten years of experience whilst living in the UK and Japan. She graduated from The Glasgow School of Art Silversmithing & Jewellery department in 2015 and completed her Masters in Jewellery & Metal at the Royal College of Art in 2018.

Her journey creating Oku began in 2018 when she visited the 'Biology of Metal: Metal Craftsmanship in Tsubame-Sanjo' exhibition at Japan House London and discovered the skills of their craftspeople. In 2019, she moved to Japan on the Daiwa Scholarship. From 2020-2022, she trained with artisans in Tsubame-Sanjo and developed Oku.



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Instagram [@kathleenleen](https://www.instagram.com/kathleenleen)