

PORTFOLIO

TomotsugaNakamura

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Tomotsuga Nakamura



Plants have existed long before humans appeared on Earth, and we often overlook their crucial role in sustaining life. We are fundamentally connected to nature, relying on it for our survival in ways that are easy to forget. The stability and well-being of human life depend on countless organisms flourishing in the natural environment. Many of the essentials we use daily—such as food, medicine, clothing, building materials, and livestock feed—are derived directly from plants. This understanding fosters a deep respect within me for the vitality and importance of the plant kingdom. I believe that even after plants wither, their beauty and significance deserve to be honored and preserved. Motivated by this conviction, I have developed a personal passion for plants and have sought to express this love through various artistic outlets, including painting, sculpture, and photography. My goal is to create works that highlight the splendor of plants and forge a stronger connection between people and the natural world. By doing so, I hope to raise awareness about the vital role plants play in our daily lives and inspire others to appreciate and protect the Earth's botanical treasures.

<solo>

2022 Tom29 gallery solo exhibition @ Tokyo,Japan

2021 Tom29 gallery solo exhibition @ Tokyo,Japan

2021 ART INNSBRUCK @ Innsbruck,Austria

2020 Tom29 gallery solo exhibition @ Tokyo,Japan

2010 hazuki gallery @ Hyogo ,Japan

<group>

2023 JOYA@Vélez Blanco,spain

2023 amazonica@Iquitos,Peru

2023 kamishihoro air @hokkaido,japan

2022 Red Dot miami @ art basal week Miami,USA

2022 arteles@Tampere,Finland

2022 ART SANTA FE@SANTAFE,USA

2022 ART EXPO@NY,USA

2021 Tom29 gallery solo exhibition @ Tokyo,Japan

2021 Red Dot miami @ art basal week Miami,USA

2021 Live Kobe@ANA KOBE,Hyogo,Japan

2021 nika @The National Art Center, Tokyo,Japan

2021 Salon des indépendants@21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa,Japan

2020 MODERNART ENERGY EXHIBITION @ Paris,France

2020 Dimension @ Tokyo,Japan

2020 Contemporary Art Salon @ Taipei、 Taiwan

2018 independent tokyo @ Tokyo,Japan

2017 Oku Noto International Art Festival @ Ishikawa ,Japan

2016 ART AWARD @ Tokyo,Japan

2015 Kagurazaka ART FESTA @ Tokyo,Japan

2015 ART AWARD @ Tokyo,Japan

<artist in residence>

2023 JOYA@Vélez Blanco,spain

2023 amazonica@Iquitos,Peru

2022 arteles@Tampere,Finland

<place of delivery>

A BATHING APE,Kirin Engineering, Shizuoka Electric Railway, Dentsu, ToyotaMotor, nepenthes, TBS,THE NORTH FACE, Bandai Namco Sevens ...etc

forest bathing
2025
7m×25m

Do you know the term “forest bathing”? At the time, social problems such as stress, anxiety, and death from overwork were becoming more serious, and contact with the forests became the focus of attention as a means of coping with these problems.

Forest bathing is not just about walking through the trees; it is also about refreshing the body and mind through contact with the sounds, scents, and sights of nature. Today, young people in particular are under a lot of stress due to economic insecurity and concerns about the future. The combination of pressures at school and at work, social expectations, and other factors often lead to mental health problems. The problem is becoming more serious as more and more young people are making the tragic choice to commit suicide.

In this situation, forest bathing can be one solution. Many studies have shown that spending time in nature can relax the body and mind and reduce stress. For example, seeing the greenery of a forest can be relaxing, and the fragrance of the plants can be calming. The sounds of nature, such as birds chirping and the wind, are also known stress-relieving factors! A large part of the stress we experience in our daily lives comes from our environment. The hustle and bustle of city life and the overstimulation of technology are factors that can tire the mind. That is why we can find mental peace of mind by being in nature. Especially for today's youth who are busy with work and studies, time in the forest can be a precious moment to face oneself.



Plant People

2021

Cycad

Iron

Paint

350cm x 270m x 350cm

People are inherently imperfect, yet we often demand perfection from those around us. Just as plants grow and flourish in their own unique ways, so do individuals, shaped by their experiences and relationships. The decorations we accumulate—whether they be memories, ties, or information—reflect our shared journeys and connections. Instead of striving for an unattainable ideal, we should embrace the beauty of imperfection and the richness it brings to our lives. Choosing to share our vulnerabilities and experiences fosters deeper connections and understanding, allowing us to appreciate the unique tapestry of human existence rather than chasing an illusion of perfection.



Woman
2023
photo

The role of women in ancient Peruvian society went beyond mere everyday roles and occupied a very important place in the cultural framework of religion, rituals, and community. The fact that women played a central role in rituals and celebrations related to fertility and harvest, and were worshipped as sacred symbols, speaks to the depth of respect and belief in women in society at that time. This emphasizes women's role in living in harmony with nature and as spiritual pillars of society, which would have been an essential element for the continuation of culture and tradition. This perspective is very interesting for understanding the role of gender and religion in ancient societies and reminds us of the importance of cultural context and history even today.



Sun
2023
photo

This work explores the deep symbolism of the sun in Inca civilization and its cultural ties. The sun is not just a natural phenomenon, but a rich expression of historical context and religious beliefs that convey how the sun is positioned as a sacred entity at the heart of civilization. It reflects the spiritual world of the Incas, for whom the sun was connected to the universe and became the object of worship as the center of their culture and religion. Its significance reaffirms the role of the sun as a religious and cultural symbol that transcends natural phenomena and expresses the depth of the Inca civilization, where history and faith intersect.



sign
2023
Bush
20m×20m

This design represents T-O-M



We are given 24 hours in a day. If we were to live 85 years, we would have 744,600 hours. However, how we use and experience this time is unique to each of us, and it is difficult to feel the same way about the same time. For example, a person living in a place rich in nature will have a different sense of time and values than a person living in a bustling city. Each environment has its own flavor, and the experiences gained in time are different. We must always consider and choose how to live with the time we are given. The meaning and value of life depends on our own choices and experiences.



premonition

2023

Leaf: *mauritia flexuosa*

This tree is said to be “the tree of life“

6m×12m×4m



While we are always the main actors in our own lives, those around us also play an important role. Within our families, friends, colleagues, and the broader community, we live our lives while interacting with and influencing others. Within these communities, we weave our own stories as we seek to be who we are, sometimes bound by the expectations and norms of those around us. In social settings, we play roles, and in some environments, these roles can feel constricting. We may feel the urge to “run amok,” especially when our identity becomes ambiguous and we lose confidence. The runaway can be a catalyst for our own growth and change. It can be a chance to question our own identity and reconstruct our life story. The key is how we take that energy and direct it in a positive direction. The journey of finding our identity in harmony with our surroundings always requires a little courage and self-reflection.



Seppuku

2022

Wood

Paint

Φ200cm

It deeply expresses the human spirit and destiny through the vitality and way of life of plants. Plants, in the face of adversity and harsh environments, firmly root themselves and continue to grow quietly, preparing for regeneration. Even when they are damaged or on the verge of decay, their remains undiminished, possessing the resilience to sprout new shoots. On the other hand, individuals facing seppuku share a commonality with the quiet vitality of plants. They accept their fate peacefully and make the decision to face their end for the sake of ideals or duty. This act, much like withering leaves or dying branches, embodies self-sacrifice and purity, while also demonstrating a new sense of resolve and spiritual maturity. Furthermore, the transition from intense conflict to calm resolution resonates with the cycles of nature. Finding inner peace and enlightenment amidst fierce battles, and preparing for the next stage of growth, reflect the strength and acceptance within the human psyche. Through this, the work masterfully aligns the natural world with the human spirit, symbolically illustrating the resilience to overcome adversity and the beauty of acceptance.



The Wall

2022

Wood

500cm x 800m x 100cm

The time I spent in the forests of Finland was very special to me. I enjoyed the peacefulness of the forest without feeling lonely or afraid. Finland's cool climate provides an easy walking environment with low plant density and spreading short plants such as blueberries and mosses. On the other hand, Japan's warmer climate has a higher density of forests, making it difficult to go deep into nature. The theme of the work I created using fallen trees collected in these forests is "WALL. Through discussions with various people I met in Finland, I realized that everyone has different barriers. These barriers vary depending on the situation and the problem, but there are ways to overcome or break through them, or even options to give up. Through my interactions with people, I have come to believe in the strength and flexibility of the human spirit. I felt that how we handle each wall is a personal choice and that it is part of life. We have the ability to overcome difficulties somehow, and we grow as we gain new knowledge and experience. This insight gained through quiet contemplation in the forest became an invaluable treasure for me. The forest is not just nature, but also an important stage for life, relationships, and self-understanding.



Sauna
2022
Acryl
tree
1200cm x 1000m

In Finland, there is a culture of using birch branches to wipe away sweat when entering the sauna. Birch trees also exist in Japan, and even though they are found in different places, nature has a beauty of coexistence. Trees grow in harmony with the sun and water, interacting with other plants in their underground roots, living together without entanglement. This is complex and difficult to understand from a mathematical or scientific point of view, but I see the beauty that lies within. The situation of plants competing with and helping each other is a symbol of friendly competition and the richness of the natural world. Thus, growth within the roots is not merely a physical phenomenon, but an invisible interaction. This series of processes strikes me as simultaneously powerful and delicate in nature. It is through this beauty and harmony of nature that we can learn and deepen our appreciation.



Plant People

2021

Cycad

Iron

Paint

350cm x 270m x 350cm

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Social Distance

2021

azalea tree

Paint

450cm x 270cm x 120cm

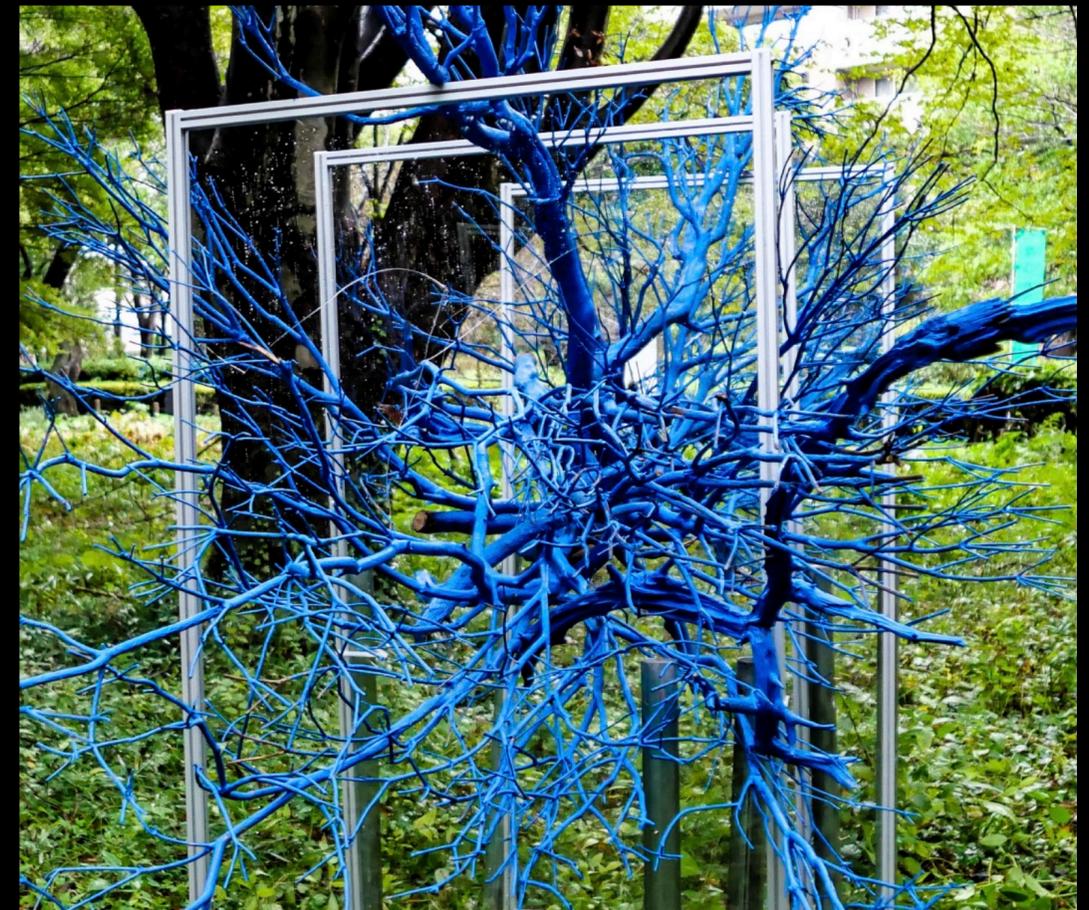
We live in a world where we are always facing uncertain events.

Especially now, with covid-19, the world is in turmoil and we don't know what will happen every day.

At such times, we may get angry or sad. In the future, with various turns of events, we will be able to clarify the meaning of our lives, and we can be happy and joyful again.

We should not only have the right answers in our lives.

We can be enriched by our ability to believe.

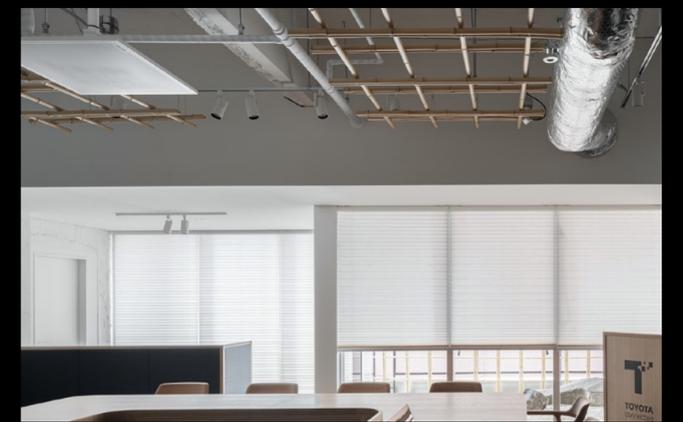


Spiral
2020
kapok
Bamboo
Iron
350cm x 220cm x 600cm

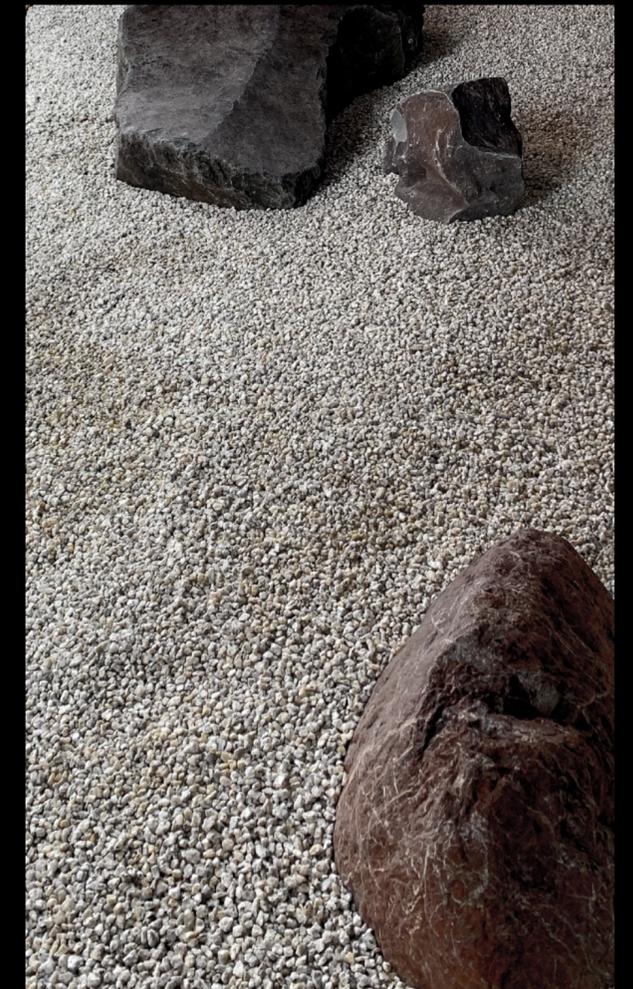
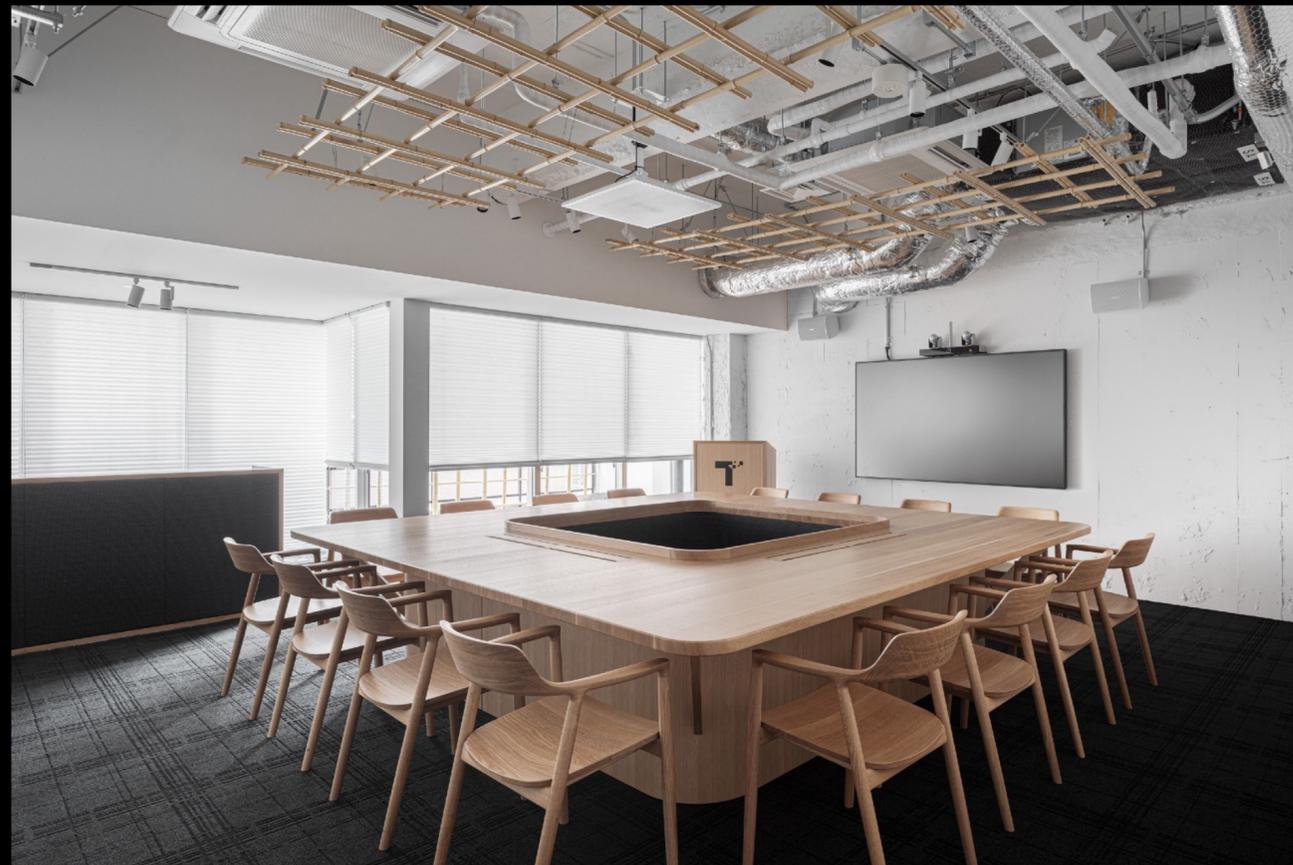
Shibuya, one of Tokyo's most vibrant districts, is more than just a bustling hub of fashion, technology, and culture; it is a microcosm of the intricate economic dynamics that define urban life in modern Japan. This district, known for its iconic scramble crossing, pulsates with the energy of countless individuals moving through its streets daily. Each person contributes to a complex cycle of rising prices, costs, wages, and profits, reflecting the interplay between supply and demand, consumer behavior, and the broader economic landscape. As people come and go, they engage in a cycle that resonates with the rhythm of the city, creating a fascinating narrative about urban economics and social dynamics.



Connect
2021
Bamboo
(Same bamboo as the bamboo fence of Kinkakuji Temple)
90m x 600cm,90m x 600cm
Stone: Granite
500cmx200cm



In the bustling world of the automobile industry, where precision, efficiency, and innovation reign supreme, the essence of beauty often lies in the simplest of things. The Toyota Automobile Conference Room serves as a remarkable setting where the principles of Japanese aesthetics come alive, showcasing the profound connection between design, nature, and human emotion. By creating a blank space, we invite a deeper appreciation for the ephemeral beauty found in the changing seasons of Japan. This philosophy teaches us to find beauty, taste, and emotion in simplicity and emptiness, reflecting a unique cultural perspective that can influence not only design but also our everyday lives.



Immortal Plant
2021
Dried palm flowers
driftwood
Acrylic paint
200cm×120cm

There are thousands of years of human philosophy, science, art, and civilization. But It's all wrong.
They're all built on the premise that we're going to die, philosophy, art, and science. By embodying the five senses.
Even if the body perishes, the senses will always remain.
Maybe that's what it means to never die.



Global
2020
Acrylic paint
Brush: Dahlia
146cm x 112cm

In a world that often emphasizes the importance of having the right answers, it is easy to overlook the profound significance of asking the right questions. Our society tends to reward those who can provide definitive solutions, quick fixes, and concrete outcomes. However, life is rarely black and white, and the complexity of human experience often requires us to delve deeper, to explore the nuances, and to engage with the unknown. It is in this engagement that we find the true essence of growth, understanding, and connection.



Flower of Sea
2019
flowers
Photography

In the grand tapestry of nature, flowers serve as vibrant threads that weave together the intricate relationships between plants, animals, and the ecosystems around them. The sight of flowers transforming into vivid colors, their petals unfurling to reveal the beauty within, is a reminder of the delicate balance and interconnectedness of life. In this exploration, we will delve into the remarkable processes through which plants nourish flowers and the potential for a world where flowers could send their pollen into the sea, allowing for a flourishing marine landscape filled with plants and colors.



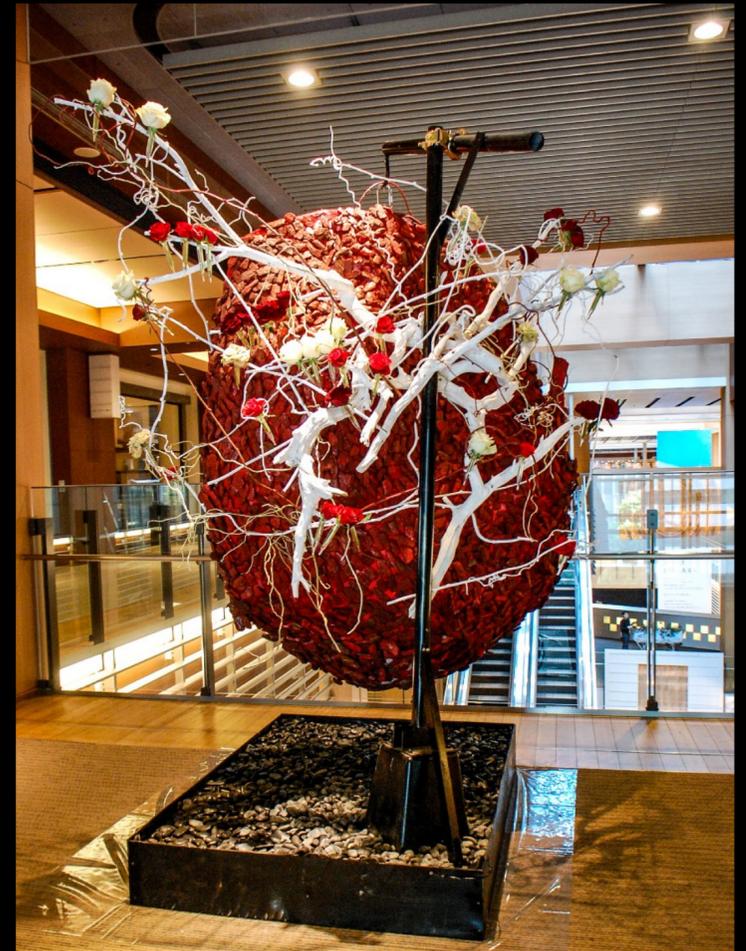
ROAD
2018
acrylic plate
rose petals
182cmx91cmx3cm

Life is indeed a strange thing. It is a tapestry woven from moments, decisions, and encounters that often feel random yet profound. As we navigate through our existence, we meet people who seem to enter our lives by fate, forging connections that can feel inexplicably strong. These relationships often challenge our understanding of chance and destiny, making us wonder if everything that happens in life carries a deeper meaning.



Interstellar
2016
wood,rose,stone,iron
2m×2m×3m

The ability to believe in others is a very important element in our lives. Belief is not merely accepting the words or actions of another person, but also having expectations about that person's potential and future. This trust gives us the power to make possible what sometimes seems impossible. However, it is not easy to actually keep believing in someone. It requires a great deal of commitment to continue to trust. Choosing to believe anew, even if the other person has betrayed you in the past, requires courage and strength. It is also important to have an unbreakable heart in the process. In our daily lives, we may face many trials and difficulties. It takes a strong will to maintain trust in others in such difficult situations.



Boundaries

2007

Photo

Boundaries spread out before our eyes, and the future seems to be right there, but in reality, it feels far away.

Happiness is probably something that dwells in our daily lives at a moment in time. It may be a sign of clumsiness to be strong in such moments. Also, we just keep looking forward without having the time to reflect on those moments. Without the opportunity to lean on peace, we continue to struggle in our hearts, always seeking the strength to live. Still, there is a desire to stay here just a little while longer. Some things can be gained by facing reality, but sometimes it is important to stop and listen to one's heart. While looking beyond the boundaries, we want to talk with our inner self and hold on to the moment tightly. To move forward, little by little, with a strong will for the future.

