

Opening on March 20, 2022 in the gallery of The Japanese American Cultural and Community Center (JACCC) in the Little Tokyo neighborhood of Los Angeles, will be an exhibition of a collaboration between the Los Angeles branch of the Sogetsu Ikebana School and Adam Silverman's *Common Ground* project. The exhibition will include 56 individual ikebana arrangements made by 56 of the Sogetsu instructors and advanced students, and will be on view until April 10, 2022. There will be an opening reception from 4:00-6:00pm.

Common Ground www.commongroundus.net is a project that Silverman has been working on since the fall of 2019 and involves a body of work he created from clay (the earth), wood ash (trees and plants) and water (oceans, rivers, streams, wells, taps, melted snow) collected from all 56 US states and territories.

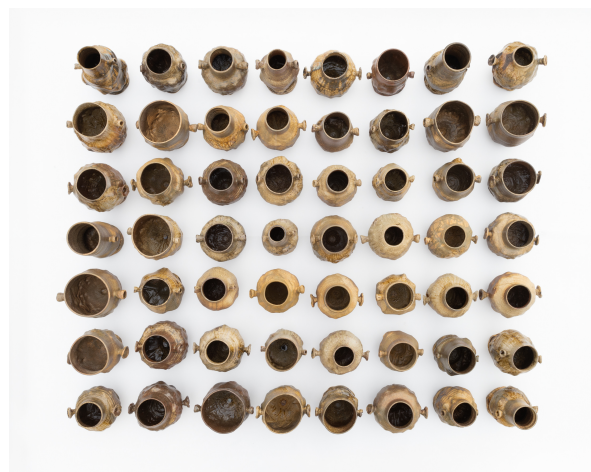
The materials were mixed together, erasing the arbitrary borders of statehood, to create a single new material which was used to make the project. *Common Ground* reflects on the divisiveness of the current state of the country, while also celebrating the richness found in its diversity and the idea of total and equal inclusion.



There are two formal parts of the project. One is a set of 56 plates, 56 bowls and 56 cups. The second is a group of 56 ceremonial pots.

The dishes (plates, bowls, cups) will be used to bring together 56 people at a time around food. One of the most effective and familiar ways to come together, talk and find common ground is through sharing a meal. The meals will begin in Los Angeles in March 2022 and then move around the country from there. The ceremonial pots will be used in different projects around the country to similarly activate them and add additional layers of meaning to each pot.

The first of these projects will be the collaboration with Sogetsu LA and JACCC.



About Sogetsu

www.sogetsula.com

Sogetsu Ikebana Los Angeles Branch, the local chapter of the international ikebana school based in Tokyo will be collaborating with Adam Silverman for this iteration of the Common Ground project. The school, approaching its 100th anniversary in 2027, has a long history of collaborating with contemporary artists both in Japan and abroad. Locally, the Los Angeles branch (in its 30th year) has presented ikebana works in vessels by local potters for many decades. In 2008, Sogetsu Los Angeles participated in a major exhibition at the Japanese American National Museum titled Living Flowers: Ikebana and Contemporary Art, juxtaposing ikebana and major works of contemporary art, with dozens of new arrangements presented on rotation for the duration of a 10-week schedule. In Spring 2021, Sogetsu participated in Bamboo and Petals at JACCC, presenting ikebana works in historic Japanese baskets from the Price Collection. Similarly, for Common Ground, Sogetsu artists will add the ephemeral element of living plant material to the collection of ceremonial pots created by Adam Silverman.

About JACCC

www.jaccc.org

Founded in 1971, Japanese American Cultural & Community Center is one of the largest ethnic arts and cultural centers of its kind in the United States.

The Japanese American Cultural & Community Center weaves Japanese and Japanese American arts and culture into the fabric of our communities. JACCC remains firmly rooted in Little Tokyo, providing a vital place to build connections between people and cultures, locally and internationally. Through inclusive programs and authentic experiences, we continue our traditions and nurture the next generation of innovative artists, culture-bearers, and thinkers.

About Adam Silverman

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Adam Silverman is a Los Angeles based potter. Over the last 20 years Silverman has exhibited his work extensively throughout the US, Japan and Europe. Silverman's work is included in the permanent collections of the Yale Art Gallery, New Haven, CT; the Israel Museum, Jerusalem; Los Angeles County Museum of Art, CA; Museum of Contemporary Craft, Portland, OR; Nasher Sculpture Center, Dallas, TX; Palm Springs Art Museum, CA; Rhode Island School of Design Museum, Providence, RI; and the Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, NV.

