**KUNIKO MAEDA**

Kuniko Maeda seeks to explore the connections between nature and humans through the use of specific materials and anthropomorphic forms. She works with paper, often recycled, because of its many common uses, its easy availability and its unappreciated nature. Paper also has an adaptability and elasticity when set within a variety of configurations.

Her practice is rooted in material processes, influenced and informed by her subject specialism in sustainable textile design and Japanese traditional woodcarving. By exploring the possibility of materials and their unique properties, Maeda allows the materials to speak and embraces natural formed abstraction. The idea of ‘life cycles’ in Japanese culture and religion are an inspiration, with further influences coming from Western models of explorations of materiality, consumerism and the everyday, such as the Arts and Crafts Movement.

**Born**  1982, Japan

**Education**

2016 – 17 MA Fine Art, Middlesex University

2015 – 16 MA Textiles Design, Chelsea College of Arts

2012 – 15 BA (Hons) Textiles Design, Chelsea College of Arts

2002 – 04 Traditional Arts College of Kyoto, Japan

**Awards**

2018 Finalist, Zealous Emerge Craft Prize, Zealous

2017 Panel Finalist, Lexus Design Award, Lexus

**Selected Exhibitions**

2018 New Member Showcase, Contemporary Applied Arts, London

Designer Crafts Summer Exhibition, Society of Designer Craftsmen, London

New Designers ‘One Year In’, London

Material Xperience 2018, Materia, Rotterdam

Artrooms, Melia White House, London

2017 Arts Thread, Design Junction, London

Tnedence, Messe Frankfurt

Lexus Design Award, Milano Design week, Milan

Emerging Artist #13, Layden Gallery, London

2016 Affordable Art Fair Hampstead, UAL, London

Xhibit 2016, UAL, London

2015 Designjunction, UAL, London

**Selected Publications**

2016 Inside Artists magazine, Issue 7

**Collections**

Lexus Lounge, Brussel Airport, Lexus, Brussel