

**I ALWAYS PUT MOVEMENT INTO MY WORK.**

Humans are naturally interested in movement—looking at a fire or at the waves breaking.

In many cases, Japanese ceramics try to create movement by making something look like it is in the process of cracking, so it looks like it might crack more. Many old ceramics have that, but I'm not very interested in copying something else that has already been done, so I created this kind of new movement. I put feet on my work, so it seems like it might start walking around. That brings more strength. Instead of it being just a thing it becomes more like a creature. I feel like it has more soul by putting on feet.

This is a cup and a sculpture. I like to have more than one purpose in one work. And many times it's been sculpture and been something functional. Many times I put a little hole where you can put a flower into it, which becomes functional. I've been working really between craft and art, and I'm always in the middle.



[ Editor's Note: Yes, this is a teapot. ]

**THERE IS A TEAPOT CULTURE** in American ceramics that we don't have in Japan. And it really got me interested in ceramics.

This teapot was inspired one day when I was making flower vases out of small pipes. It gave me the idea to make a teapot in this way.

This teapot is made from one continuous length of clay pipe. I really like this kind of fluidity.

I look for inspiration in everything. Every day I'm thinking about what to make, what's fun to create, how can I make people happy. Whatever I'm thinking becomes my creation.

