



Adams and Ollman

Nao Kikuchi: *Spur* [ʃpuːɹ] May 1–30, 2026

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Adams and Ollman is pleased to announce the opening of Nao Kikuchi's solo exhibition, *Spur* [ʃpuːɹ], her first in the United States. Composed of wall-based ceramic sculptures, the exhibition continues the artist's ongoing investigation into the experience of place and belonging through the language of architecture.

Kikuchi's work emerges from an examination of the ways our built environment reflects shared values, customs, and history, while also holding personal memory. Of particular interest to the artist is the way objects change with human touch and with time, evoking a sense of longing for past moments and forms. Drawing on her experience of life in both her native Japan and her adopted home of Germany, Kikuchi references architectural details of each place—a tile floor, a staircase, the shape of a room, a cluster of windows. In her painterly, hand-built ceramic works, one feels the pull of the distant places and objects they represent, as well as a sense of possibility in the new forms they've become. Together, the works extend the vocabulary of both painting and sculpture, abstraction and representation.

Kikuchi's architectural glyphs—and the interactions among them as installed—suggest spaces that are at once intimate and elusive, inside and out, private and public. The title *Spur* [ʃpuːɹ], a German word meaning trace, lane, or trail, speaks both to the spatial logic of the installation—Kikuchi's ceramics are often arranged in a straight line, tracing a path through the gallery—and to the sculptures as

a notational system. As Kikuchi has described it, her practice “is a way of marking my physical presence, as if pinning my footsteps onto a map.”

Nao Kikuchi (b. 1988, Tochigi, Japan; lives and works in Karlsruhe, Germany) received her BFA and MFA from Tama Art University, Tokyo, before relocating to Germany, where she undertook further study at the Academy of Fine Arts, Karlsruhe, which awarded her the Academy Prize in 2021. Her work has been supported by grants from the Pola Art Foundation and the Yoshino Gypsum Art Foundation. Kikuchi has exhibited widely across Europe and Japan, with recent solo presentations at Tatsuro Kishimoto, Tokyo (2025), Galerie Clemens Thimme, Karlsruhe (2025), and Trust, Vienna (2023). Her work has been included in group exhibitions at institutions and galleries including Galerie Crone, Vienna; Kunsthalle Mulhouse; POLA Museum Annex, Tokyo; and Adams and Ollman, Portland, among others. *Spur* [ʃpuːɹ] is her first solo exhibition in the United States.



Installation view: Nao Kikuchi: *Spur* [\[\[pt:pt\]\]](#)



Installation view: Nao Kikuchi: *Spur [//pu:ɜ/]*

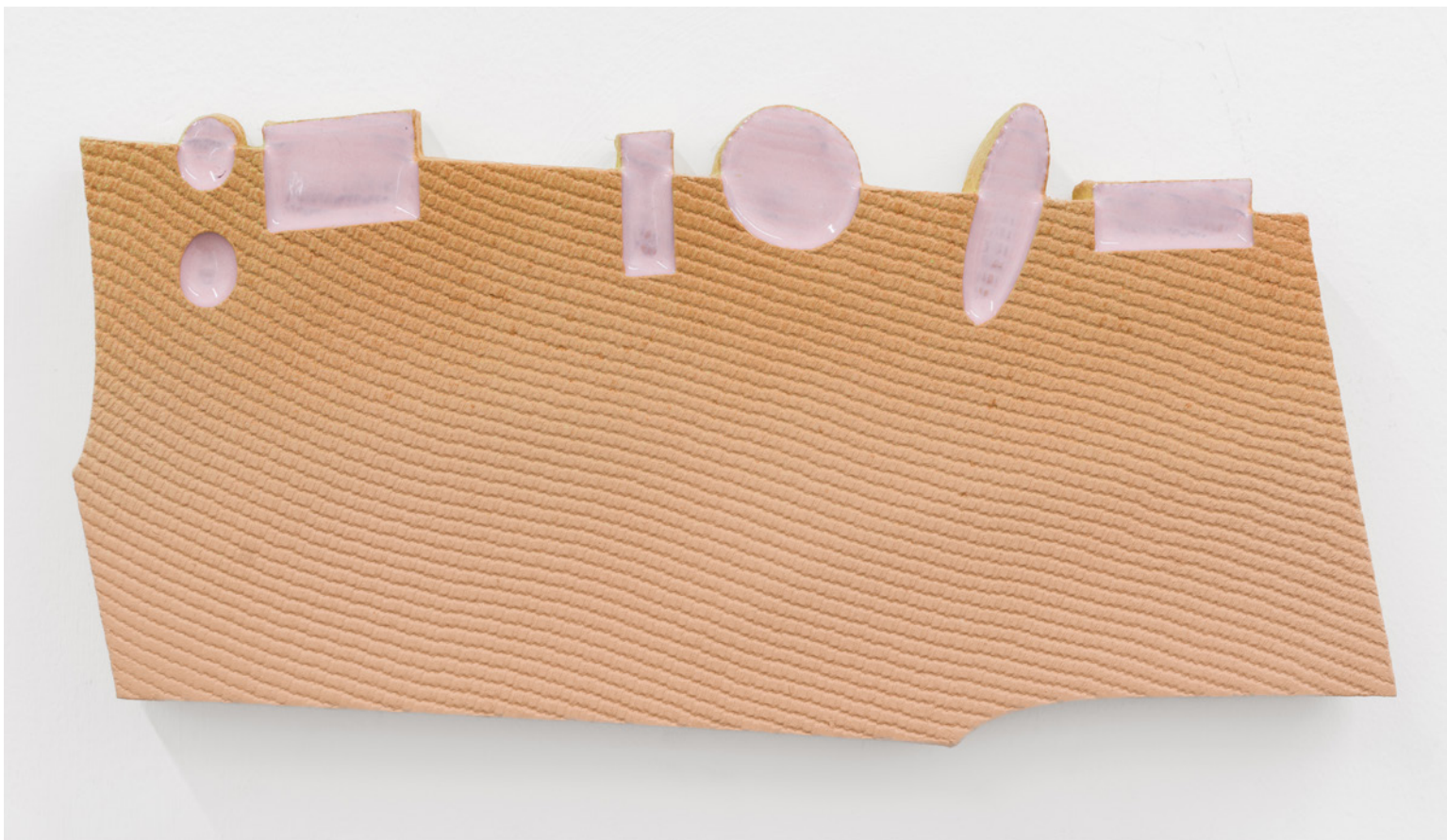


Nao Kikuchi
Fortunastraße (E/M/Z), 2026
ceramic, spray paint
9 3/16h x 14 1/2w x 1 3/8d in
23.34h x 36.83w x 3.49d cm
NK-2026-01









Nao Kikuchi
BW (Akashirotsurubami), 2025
ceramic, spray paint
7 1/16h x 13 1/2w x 1 1/8d in
17.94h x 34.29w x 2.86d cm
NK-2025-62





Nao Kikuchi
Kreuz #10, 2025
stoneware
8 1/4h x 10 1/8w x 1d in
20.95h x 25.72w x 2.54d cm
NK-2025-65



Detail: Nao Kikuchi, *Kreuz* #10, 2025



Nao Kikuchi
4th Arr., 2026
ceramic, spray paint
7 3/8h x 10 3/8w x 1 3/8d in
18.73h x 26.35w x 3.49d cm
NK-2026-03



Detail: Nao Kikuchi, *4th Arr.*, 2026



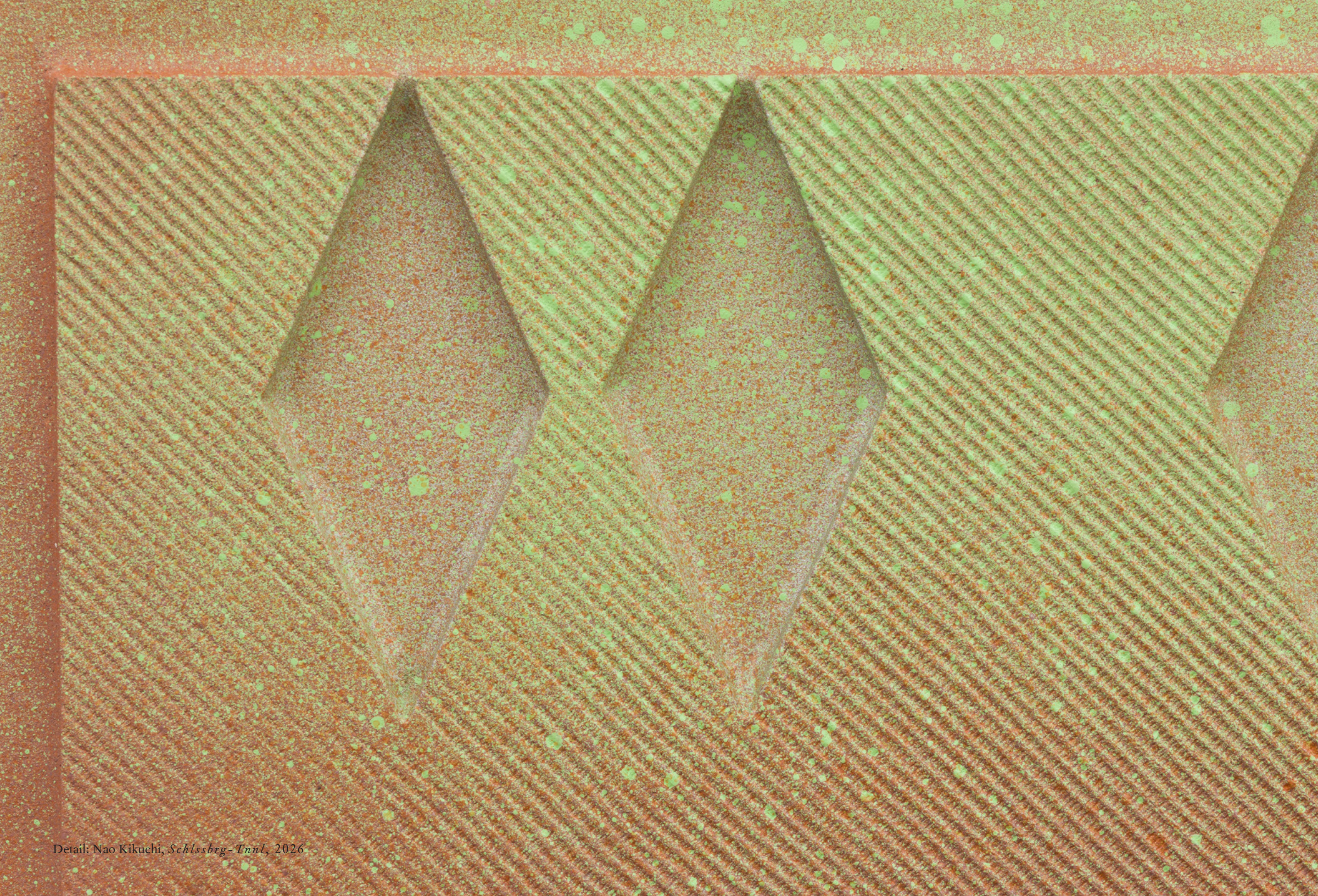
Installation view: Nao Kikuchi: *Spur [ʃpuːɹ]*







Nao Kikuchi
Schlssbrg-Tnnl, 2026
ceramic, spray paint
7 5/8h x 9 7/8w x 1 9/16d in
19.37h x 25.08w x 3.97d cm
NK-2026-05





Nao Kikuchi
Schillerstraße (marble), 2025
ceramic
11 5/16h x 11 3/4w x 1 3/16d in
28.73h x 29.84w x 3.02d cm
NK-2025-77



Installation view: Nao Kikuchi: *Spur* *[/pʊ:ɹ/]*



Installation view: Nao Kikuchi: *Spur [ʃpuːɹ]*





Nao Kikuchi
p.s.k. (lightness), 2026
ceramic, spray paint
8 1/16h x 10 1/2w x 1 11/16d in
20.48h x 26.67w x 4.29d cm
NK-2026-04













NAO KIKUCHI

大野 晶

Born 1988, Tochigi, Japan; lives and works in Karlsruhe, Germany

SELECT SOLO AND TWO-PERSON EXHIBITIONS

- 2026 *Spur* *[[pu:ɸ]]*, Adams and Ollman, Portland, OR
- 2025 *Drop a Pin*, Galerie Clemens Thimme, Karlsruhe, Germany
1897, Tatsuro Kishimoto, Tokyo, Japan
- 2023 *Game*, Trust, Vienna, Austria
- 2017 *Tail... be shot*, Hanakoma, Tokyo, Japan
- 2011 *Silhouette of Perception*, Kcucha Rismo, Tochigi, Japan

SELECT GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2026 *U-Bahn*, Gallery Ann Mazzotti, Basel, Switzerland
Not Yet, Not Gone — Between Here and There, CAVE-AYUMI GALLERY, Tokyo, Japan
- 2025 *COMMAND*, Goya Curtain, Tokyo, Japan
Find a Spot Zwischen Räumen, t.a.s., Vienna, Austria
On a very quiet morning, on the same piece of toast, Adams and Ollman, Portland, OR
What else?, Gallery Ann Mazzotti, Basel CH
Bitter Arcadia, Galerie Crone, Vienna, Austria
Über uns, unter uns, Kaiserwache, Freiburg, Germany
- 2024 *Regionale 25*, Kunsthalle Mulhouse, Mulhouse, France
Beau Travail, Vienna, Austria
The 83. Exhibition, foryouandyourcustomers, Stuttgart, Germany
Die Kunst und der Raum, Galerie Metzger, Johannesburg, Germany
Commendation and Intention, POLAMuseum Annex, Tokyo, Japan
Art Fair Tokyo 2024, Tokyo International Forum, Tokyo, Japan
- 2023 *Man wirft einen kleinen Stein*, V8, Karlsruhe, Germany
RSVP, Luis Leu, Karlsruhe, Germany
SCHLAG AUF BAU EIN, Architekturschaufenster, Karlsruhe, Germany
Klick Blick, Orgelfabrik Kultur in Durlach, Karlsruhe, Germany
- 2022 *HOME -ie-*, Orgelfabrik Kultur in Durlach, Karlsruhe, Germany
Regionale 23, Kunstverein FABRIKculture, Hégenheim, France

This space exists without me, Laube, Karlsruhe, Germany
Enclosure, Stella, Berlin, Germany
Escape from New York, Kunstverein Kandel, Kandel, Germany
Labyrinth/ Strassen Kunst Festival, Stuttgart, Germany
A Room with a Cue, Karlsruhe, Germany

- 2021 *Candle Lights*, Laube, Karlsruhe, Germany
Regionale 22, Kunst Raum Riehen, Riehen, Switzerland
pingo ergo sum, Galerie Altes Schloss, Wehr, Germany
Zoom, Academy of Fine Arts, Karlsruhe, Germany
Hotel Simplon, Giulietta, Basel, Switzerland
Firststep Katharsis, wieoftnoch, Karlsruhe, Germany
- 2019 *When Karl Met Trixie*, TRIXIE, The Hague, Netherlands
Different faces of sharing, Hotel cappuccino /Seoul, South Korea
- 2017 *The Abstract*, TANA Studio, Kanagawa, Japan
- 2016 *HANA-Re in WATARASE Art Project*, Ashikaga residence, Tochigi, Japan
SUPER OPEN STUDIO 2016, TANA Studio, Kanagawa, Japan
- 2015 *SUPER OPEN STUDIO 2015*, TANA Studio, Kanagawa, Japan
- 2014 *Hopping Soil*, HIGURE 17-15cas, Tokyo, Japan

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

- 2025 Graduate Scholarship, Academy of Fine Arts Karlsruhe
- 2023 Grant for Overseas Research, Yoshino Gypsum Art Foundation
- 2021 Grant for Overseas Research, Pola Art Foundation
Academy Prize, Academy of Fine Arts, Karlsruhe

EDUCATION

- 2020-2023 Further education, Academy of Fine Arts, Karlsruhe, Germany
- 2019-2020 Guest study, Academy of Fine Arts, Karlsruhe, Germany
- 2011-2013 Master of Fine Arts, Tama Art University, Tokyo, Japan
- 2007-2011 Bachelor of Fine Arts, Tama Art University, Tokyo, Japan