

Curriculum vitae



Ken'ichiro Taniguchi

1976 Born in Sapporo, Japan

Currently live and work in Berlin, Germany

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Education

2000 Hokkaido University of Education, Bachelor of Fine Arts

Awards and Grants

- 2021 Projektförderung aus Mitteln des BESD-Programm, Berlin, Germany
- 2020 Grant, Nomura Foundation, JP
Grant, Pola Art Foundation, JP
- 2017 Grant, *The Pollock-Krasner Foundation*
- 2014 First prize, *The 1st Hongo Shin Memorial Sculpture Award*, Sapporo, Japan
Nominated, *The 26th UBE Biennale*, Japan
- 2009 Finalist, *Thieme Art Award*, Amsterdam, the Netherlands
- 2008-2010 Grant, *Agency for Cultural Affairs Government of Japan*
- 2008 Finalist, *The 11th Taro Okamoto Award for Contemporary Art*
Taro Okamoto Museum, Kawasaki, Japan

Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2021 *Hecomi & City Study #43*, Galerie PHOEBUS, Rotterdam, the Netherlands
- 2020 *Hecomi & City Study #42*, Sebastian Fath Contemporary, Mannheim, Germany
- 2019 *Hecomi & City Study #41*, A4 Museum, Chengdu, China
Hecomi & City Study #40, Mikiko Sato Gallery, Hamburg, Germany
- 2018 *Hecomi & City Study #39*, N2 GALERIA, Barcelona, Spain
- 2017 *Hecomi Study - Taipei and Mine city*, Akiyoshidai International Art Village
Yamaguchi, Japan
- 2015 *Hecomi Study #31*, Hongo Shin Memorial Sculpture Museum, Sapporo, Japan

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2020 *The Bomb. 75 years after Nagasaki and Hiroshima*,
JAPANMUSEUM Siebold Huis, Leiden, the Netherlands
Stadtgalerie Kiel, Linking Transformations, Kiel, Germany
- 2018 Rijks Museum, Asian Pavilion, Amsterdam, the Netherlands
- 2017 *What Remains*, CODA Museum, Apeldoorn, the Netherlands

- 2016 *THE SPRING EXHIBITION 2016*, Kunsthal Charlottenborg
Copenhagen, Denmark
- 2015 *The 26th UBE Biennale*, Yamaguchi, Japan
- 2014 *Sapporo International Art Festival 2014*, Sapporo, Japan
- 2013 *Mapping*, NIU Art Museum, DeKalb, Illinois, USA

Residencies

- 2019 *A4 Museum*, Chengdu, China
- 2016 *Taipei Artist Village*, Taiwan
- 2014 *Hangar*, Barcelona, Spain - Barcelona Hecomi Map Project
- 2013 *MIET Air*, Beers, the Netherlands - Hecomi Casting Project
- 2010 *Stichting KiK Art Program*, Kolderveen, the Netherlands
- Milk Factory Hecomi Map Project
- 2008 *Duende*, Rotterdam, the Netherlands - Rotterdam Hecomi Map Project

Commissions

- 2018 Sculpture *Hecomi Study for Sapporo city*,
Sapporo community plaza, Japan
- 2012 Sculpture *Hecomi Study for Rotta Nova*, Museum Rotterdam
Rotterdam, the Netherlands
Sculpture *Hecomi Study for CJIB* (Ministry of Justice)
Wester State, Leeuwarden, the Netherlands

Collections

- Stadtgalerie Kiel* (Germany), *Stedelijk Museum Schiedam* (the Netherlands),
Maeght Foundation (France), *Miniature Museum of Contemporary Art*
(the Netherlands), *Museum Rotterdam* (the Netherlands), *Bijzondere Collecties*
(the Netherlands), *Javier Marin Foundation* (Mexico), *DKV Foundation* (Spain)
olor VISUAL collection (Spain), *Krankenhaus Hedwigshoehe* (Germany)



Works

Ken'ichiro Taniguchi Sculpture Studio



What is *hecomi* ? – The motif of the work –

Hecomi is a Japanese term I adopted to describe cracks and fissures or broken off and damaged areas, created by natural forces, on man-made surfaces such as roads or walls. By looking only at their shape one can see that even hecomi, which have a bad image of being old and dirty, have various attractive characteristics such as surprising novelty, heartwarming charm and overwhelming power. This may be because the voice that arose right at the boundary between humans and nature was given a visible form. Also, they are reminiscent of shapes seen on maps or remind us of creatures. Sometimes one may feel a sense of familiarity towards them.

Being intrigued by hecomi, I have used them as a motif for my work since 2000.

Hecomi Study

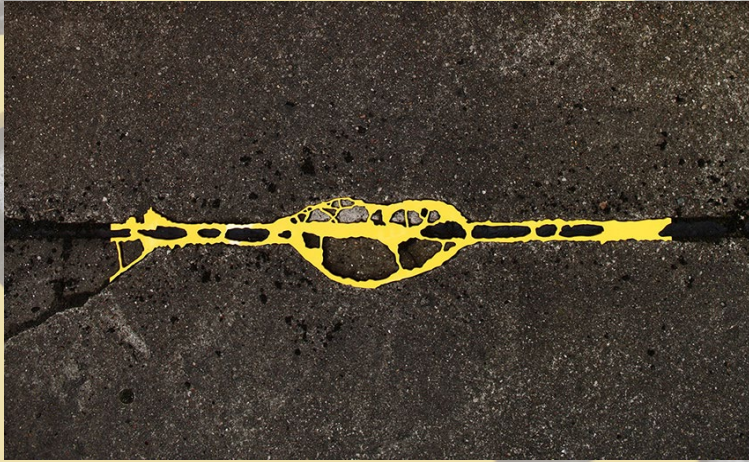
Hecomi fitting,

which is the act of laying a shiny yellow piece of PVC with an inorganic texture right into the crack, represents the attempt to change its negative being to something light, pop, and positive.

Why compressed PVC ? Why Yellow ?

The reason for the use of compressed PVC plates is that by using material that symbolically represents pros and cons of our modern society, its inorganic and synthetic texture starkly contrasts the organic shapes of cracks. Simultaneously, it dispels the obscure and rather heavy impressions of cracks, whilst the striking color of compressed PVC plates adds to them a light and uplifting feel, as the glowing yellow stands out of the often dark and gloomy surroundings. The PVC plates we use are made from recycled materials.





Hecomi Fitting - Burchardstr. 6, Hamburg, DE, 14.5 x 89.3 cm, 2019



Burchardstr. 6, Hamburg, DE, 30 x 57 x 10 cm, 2020



Sculpture - Folding Hecomi Shape -

I regard these two-dimensional shapes as a challenge specifically assigned to me. So, instead of using conventional sculpting techniques such as modeling and carving, I research three-dimensional sculpture using a technique I refer to as “folding the plane”.

*The title of each work corresponds to the address of the crack's original location



Hecomi Fitting, Grensweg 6, NL, 42 x 93 cm, 2013



Grensweg 6, NL, #1, State III, 17 x 22 x 11 cm, 2017



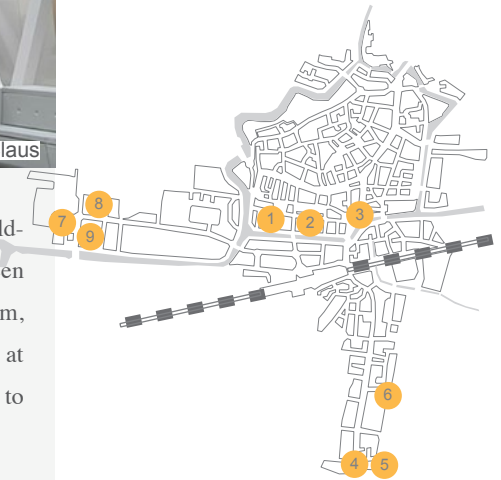
Architect: Felix Claus

Hecomi Study for CJIB
Dutch Ministry of Justice, Leeuwarden, NL

Aluminum
 930 x 660 x 645 cm
 2012

Commission work

One of my sculptures was permanently installed in the interior atrium of the new building of the CJIB. The Netherlands Department of Justice Tax Bureau (CJIB) has been relocated repeatedly since its establishment in 1990. In order to create a work for them, I visited the ten places where their offices had previously been and collected hecomi at each location. They were then arranged in chronological order on a singular axis so as to visualize the history of CJIB in form of a sculpture.



Oorsprongpark 6
 Utrecht
 1990



1. Willemskade 14
 1991



Gerechtsgebouw
 2. Zaailand 102
 1994 -



3. Amicitia
 Nieuweweg 1a
 1997 -



4. Zuiderstate, Badweg 4
 1998 -



5. Oosterstate, Badweg 4a
 1998 -



6. Oostergoweg 2
 1999 -



7. Heliconstate, Heliconweg 6
 1999 -



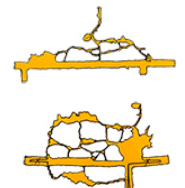
8. Oorsprongpark 6, Marnixstate
 2002 -



9. Nieuwlandstate
 2002 -



Shape of hecomi



**Hecomi Study for Rotta Nova, Rotterdam, NL
- Shape from 10th century**

Compressed PVC, Steel, Hinges
142 x 108 x 111 cm
2012

Commission and Collection of Museum Rotterdam
Cooperation: BOOR (Archaeological Team of Rotterdam)

With the cooperation of the Archaeological Team of Rotterdam (BOOR), we visited an archaeological site in Rotta, which is the birthplace of Rotterdam and was a residential area around the 10th century. At that time, I was fascinated by a structure of willow branches that appeared 10 m underground and was used to reinforce the clay walls of a farmhouse. A sculpture created with that very shape as its motif is housed in the Museum Rotterdam as a symbol of the 1000 years of history from that point in time to the present.



The excavation site



Tracing view

The wall of woven willow twigs



Hecomi Study for Kotoni River
- W20 N12, Chuo-ku, Sapporo, JP
enlargement 1 : 7

Iron
290 x 310 x 140 cm
2015



Hecomi Fitting, 392 x 36 cm, 2014



An award-winning work of *The 1st Hongo Shin Memorial Sculpture Award*, 2014



***Hecomi Study for Bunkichi Okazaki, Barato, JP
enlargement 1 : 3***

Compressed PVC, Steel, Hinges
501 x 132 x 66 cm, 2015

*Bunkichi Okazaki
(1872–1945)
was a pioneer in early river conservation in Japan.
He established the river improvement theory called “naturalism”.



Hecomi Study #31, Hongo Shin Memorial Sculpture Museum, Sapporo, JP, 2015



Hecomi Study for Former Kibe elementary school, JP

Compressed PVC, Brass, Steel, Hinges, Rotatable device/stable devices
 38 x 57 x 21 cm, 2017
 Hecomi Fitting: 120 x 88 cm, 2017



Valkhof Nijmegen, NL, State II

Compressed PVC, Steel, Hinges, Brass, Woods, Acrylic plate
 67 x 78 x 25 cm, 2021
 Hecomi Fitting: 101 x 58 cm, 2013



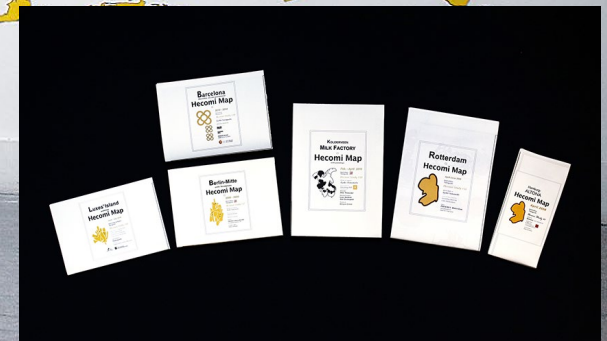
**No. 9, Beijing E Rd, Zhongzheng District, Taipei, TW
 #5, enlargement 1:3**

Compressed PVC, Brass, Steel, Hinges, Wood, Leather, Rubber, Acrylic plate
 Rotatable devices, Wheel, Valve handle, Iron lever handle, Gear
 126 x 107 x 50 cm, 2019
 Hecomi Fitting: 55.5 x 33 cm, 2016



Hecomi Mapping

Between 2000 and 2021, I have collected roughly 400 shapes in 45 countries. Hecomi maps are records of those cracks gathered from certain cities and places or according to a certain approach / theme. By arranging them in the manner of a field guide, the uniqueness of each shape stands out. They possess the same functions like a map and one can read them as such. In addition, there are other maps such as Luxes' Island Hecomi Map or Hamburg Altona Hecomi Map that were created by participants of workshops I hosted.





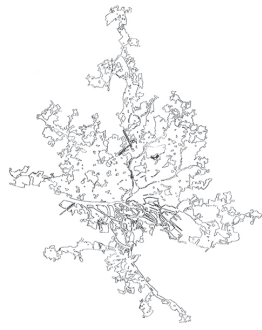
Ostsee kai, Kiel, Germany, 2021



Apeldoorn, the Netherlands



Kassel, Germany



Hamburg, Germany



Mine, Japan



Hong Kong



Nagasaki, Japan



Mumbai, India



Taipei, Taiwan



Leiden, the Netherlands



Sapporo, Japan



Lerma, Spain



Rotterdam, the Netherlands



Ube, Japan

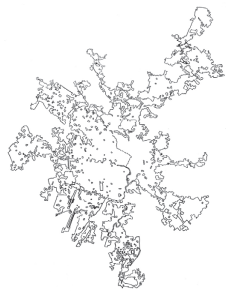


Helsinki, Finland

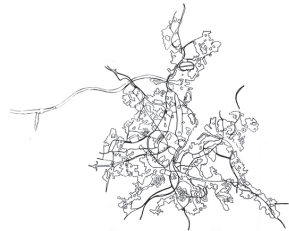
City Study



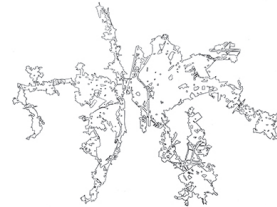
Echigotsumari, Japan



Chengdu, China



Kiel, Germany



Sevilla, Spain



Basel, Switzerland



Hiroshima, Japan



Eastbourne, UK



Mannheim, Germany



Copenhagen, Denmark



Utrecht, the Netherlands



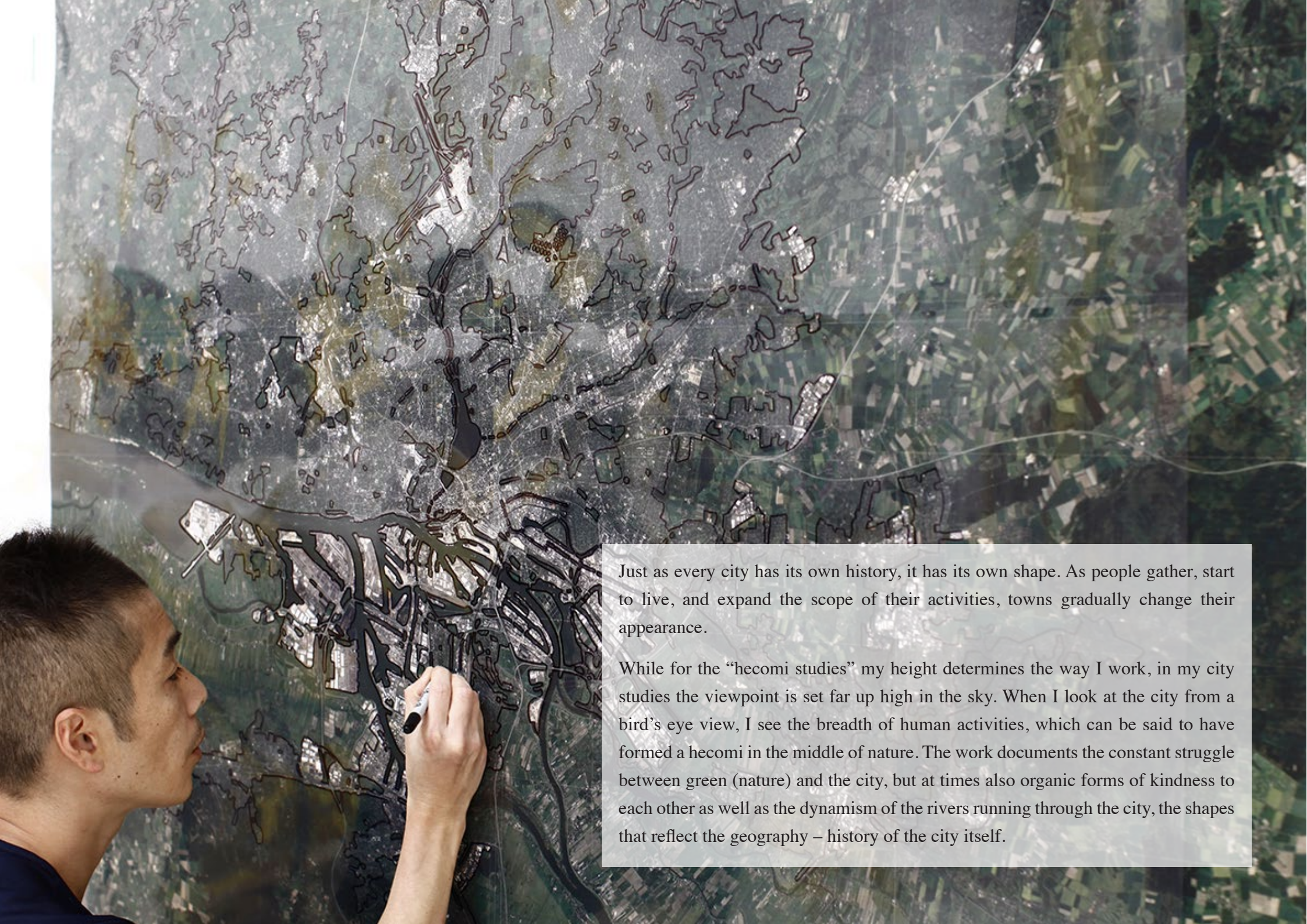
Münster, Germany



Barcelona, Spain



London, UK



Just as every city has its own history, it has its own shape. As people gather, start to live, and expand the scope of their activities, towns gradually change their appearance.

While for the “hecomi studies” my height determines the way I work, in my city studies the viewpoint is set far up high in the sky. When I look at the city from a bird’s eye view, I see the breadth of human activities, which can be said to have formed a hecomi in the middle of nature. The work documents the constant struggle between green (nature) and the city, but at times also organic forms of kindness to each other as well as the dynamism of the rivers running through the city, the shapes that reflect the geography – history of the city itself.

City Study for Sapporo, Japan
– Exploring the shape of Sapporo 2018

Sapporo Community Plaza, a cultural complex consisting of an art exchange center, a theater, and a library. Three works, “Shape of Sapporo”, a three-dimensional work “Hecomi Study for Sapporo”, and “Illustrated Book of Sapporo’s Shape” were permanently installed in the two atrium spaces.

“Shape of Sapporo”, which outlines the border between the city and nature/waterfront, scattered green areas, parks and so on, was adopted from aerial photographs of the Sapporo area. “Illustrated Book of Sapporo’s Shape” comprises of 51 parts that were divided according to the flow of rivers through the city and arranged on the wall. “Hecomi Study for Sapporo” is a sculpture made from combing and folding these parts. The three works are made in a way that allows viewers to walk around them and play puzzles in their mind.

Documentary - 16 min.17

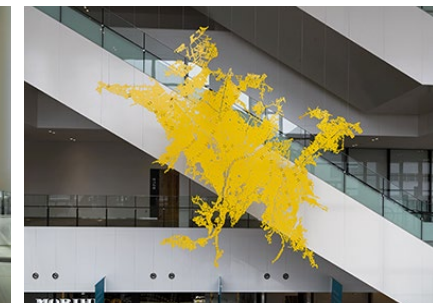
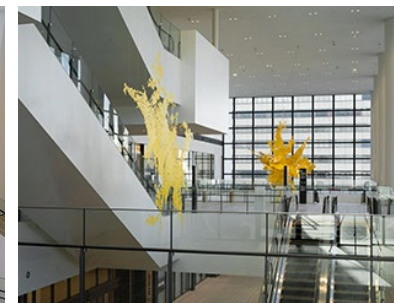
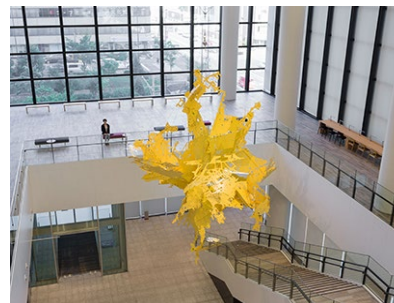
<https://kenichirotaniguchi.com/city-study/project/sapporo>
https://youtu.be/1_BxIK5zy7o

Hecomi Study for Sapporo, 1 / 3300 scale, Carbon, Stainless steel, 6.2 x 7 x 5.8 m

Illustrated Book of Sapporo’s Shape, 1 / 6600 scale, Aluminium, 30 x 5 m

Shape of Sapporo, 1 / 6600 scale, Carbon, Stainless steel, 5.6 x 5 m

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City Study for Ube, Japan

approx. 1 / 2,700 scale

Iron

220 x 210 x 165 cm,

2015



The 26th UBE Biennale, Ube Tokiwa Museum Park, Ube City, Yamaguchi, Japan, 2015



City Study for Kiel, Germany

approx. 1 / 7,500 scale

Compressed PVC, Brass, Steel, Hinges, Wood, Acrylic plate, Rotatable devices

280 x 177 x 120 cm

2020

Collection – Stadtgalerie Kiel, Germany



Linking Transformations, Stadtgalerie Kiel, DE, 2020, Photo: Helmut Kunde, Strande



City Study for London, UK #4

approx. 1 / 27,000 scale

Compressed PVC, Brass, Steel, Wood, Hinges, Rotatable devices

190 x 150 x 155 cm, 2018



Linking Transformations, Stadtgalerie Kiel DE, 2020. Photo: Helmut Kunde, Strande

City Study - Green Remains, Apeldoorn, NL

approx. 1 / 23,000 scale

Compressed PVC, Brass, Steel, Hinges, Rotatable devices
135 x 162 x 155 cm, 2016



Rijks Museum, Asian Pavilion, Amsterdam, NL, 2018



City Study for Nagasaki, JP

approx. 1 / 30,000 scale

Compressed PVC, Brass, Steel, Hinges, Wood, Acrylic plate
Rotatable devices, Caster
60 x 160 x 60 cm, 2020



City Study for Taipei, TW #3

Compressed PVC, Brass, Steel, Hinges, Rotatable devices
194 x 80 x 60 cm, 2016



Hecomi Study - Taipei and Mine city, Akiyoshidai International Art Village, JP, 2017

