

## Name

Chitoku Ishihana (石花ちとく)

Artist of “Ishihana” — Japanese Rock Balancing Art

## Artist Statement

Ishihana (literally “Stone Flower”) is my artistic practice of creating ephemeral stone sculptures through balance. Unlike piling stones, I let them stand. By carefully listening to gravity, friction, and the unique surface of each stone, I discover forms that seem impossible yet natural.

My work is not only visual art but also a performative meditation: the act of balancing invites audiences to rethink perception, focus, and the beauty of impermanence rooted in Japanese aesthetics.

## Education & Background

1969 — Born in Yamanashi Prefecture, Japan

2009 — Began experimenting with rock balancing, inspired by time spent with his young son

2011 — Started artistic activity as one of the first Japanese rock balancing artists

2012 — Founded Ishihana-kai (Japan’s first rock balancing collective), and adopted the artist name “Chitoku Ishihana”

2013 — Held Japan’s first rock balancing exhibition; first appearance on national television

2018 — Left a 23-year corporate career to fully dedicate himself to Ishihana art

2019 — Operated Ishihana Cafe (March–December)

2020 — Established the Rock Balancing Laboratory — Ishihana

2020 — Launched “Maruta-za,” a tabletop stand designed specifically for rock balancing practice

Since then, numerous public performances, workshops, media appearances, and exhibitions in Japan and abroad

## Exhibitions & Performances (Selected)

2023 — Public Performance The Desire to Stand (TACHITASA) — Homage to Natsuyuki Nakanishi, Tokyo

2022 — Ishihana Exhibition 2022, Tokyo

2021 — Shinano Primitive Sense Art Festival, Nagano

2021 — Ishihana Exhibition 2021, Tokyo

2018 — Performance The Desire to Stand (TACHITASA) vs. Rock Balancing (ISHI-HANA), Nagatoro Valley

2017 — Manazuru Biennale of Sensing Art, Kanagawa

2016 — TOKYO ART FLOW 00, Tokyo

2013 — Solo Exhibition “Ishihana Chitoku Exhibition”, Tokyo

Numerous public workshops, performances, and river-side events in Japan

Awards, Residencies & Grants

2022 — 3rd Japan Picture Book Award, “Poem Prize”

2021 — Grant from Japan Arts Council (Ishihana Exhibition)

2017 — BankART AIR Residency, Yokohama

2016 — BankART AIR Residency, Yokohama

Publications & Media

2024 — Contribution, Eureka (Yuriika) September Issue, Japan

2023 — Ishikoro tte Sugoi! Paperback, Amazon Japan

2016 — Featured in Business Insider (International edition), “Stone Balancing Master”

2011 — Contributed to art book Instants of Eternity / Istanti di Eternita, Blurb, Italy

Numerous features in Japanese TV, newspapers, and magazines

Other Roles & Contributions

Founder of the informal collective Ishihana-kai (Japan’s first rock balancing community)

Public lectures and workshops on creative thinking, perception, and balance

Ambassador for nature-based cultural programs (Japan)