

Tetsuya Tanaka

b. 1970, Japan



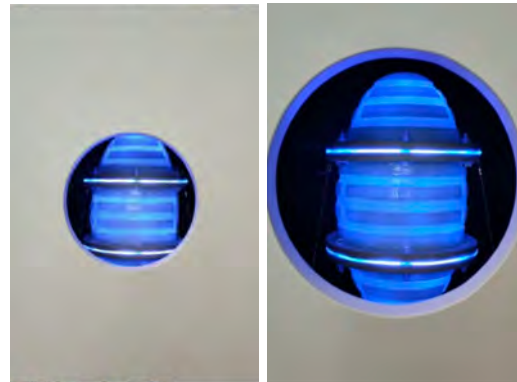
Kagayaki-Cocoon 輝器, 2020

Translucent Clay, Celadon Glaze, LED Blue Light, Acrylic Bolt, Acrylic Nut.

Mixed Media, Coil Building and Wheel thrown, Carving.

H 30 x 14.5 x 14.5 cm

(includes a box H 40 x 40 x 40 cm)



The *Kagayaki Vessels for Light* series is the result of Tanaka's ceramic investigations into the mystery of light rays. The first of these distinctive pieces was presented in 2012 as a requiem and monument to the lives lost in the 2011 Fukushima earthquake and tsunami, with the hope that the radiant obelisk-shaped installation could offer a renewing and purifying force for the people and the blighted region. Made using a special translucent clay developed by the Industrial Research Center of Shiga Prefecture in 2009, the mixed media piece is lit from within using illuminating agents and assembled using acrylic nuts and bolts after firing, a technique he had developed while putting together large *Hibiki* (Vessels for Sound) and *Kagayaki* structures to overcome the limitations posed by the dimensions of the kiln. A large, installation size version of *Cocoon* – a sci-fi, futuristic-looking *Kagayaki* vessel with mysterious blue light emanating from within what seems to be a bricked translucent structure, an explicit indicator of the use of clay as material – was awarded a Merit Prize at the 2016 Taiwan Ceramics Biennale.