



**BIRCH TREE GALLERY**  
THE FINE ART OF CRAFT

art@birchtreegallery.co.uk

0131 556 4000  
23a Dundas Street  
Edinburgh, EH3 6QQ

BIRCHTREEGALLERY.CO.UK

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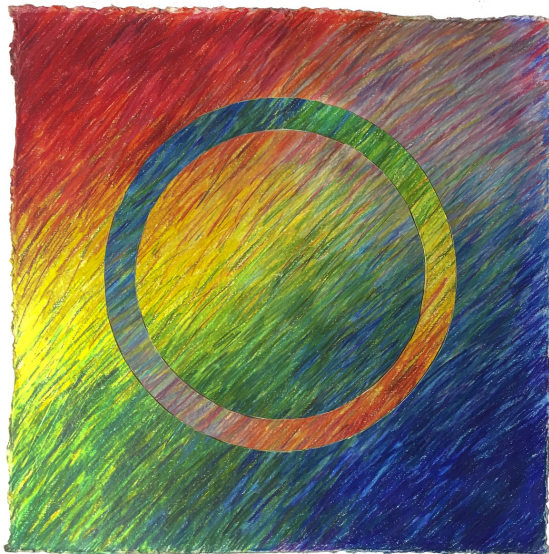
## **JAPANESE SCULPTOR TO EXHIBIT VIVID COLOUR DRAWINGS IN EDINBURGH GALLERY**

### **Hironori Katagiri: *Lifetide***

May 11 – June 2, 2018, at Birch Tree Gallery, Edinburgh  
Private View: Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 6-8pm

Japanese sculptor Hironori Katagiri is best known for his impressive large-scale site-specific public sculptures across Europe and Japan. This is the first time Katagiri is exhibiting his drawings in Edinburgh alongside his domestic scale stone sculptures. *Lifetide* is a solo exhibition of colour and form celebrating the rich complexity of life.

-----Hironori  
Katagiri and his wife, Scottish sculptor Kate Thomson, work both at their Ukishima Sculpture Studio in Japan, and their second studio in Edinburgh.



Drawing is a vital part of Katagiri's process for making sculpture (from rough idea sketches, to proposals, and plans). For over 40 years, drawing as an art form in its own right has also been an important part of his creative practice. In a new series made especially for this exhibition he draws with vivid colour pencil on characteristic Indian hand-made cotton paper. He then cuts, reverses or replaces sections to create shifting perceptions like musical chord inversions, putting each colour harmony into a new context.

*Image: 'Lifetide', colour pencil on Indian cotton paper, 30.5 x 30.5 mm, 2018; photo: Hironori Katagiri*

Since he studied painting and sculpture at art school, colour and form have been symbiotic fascinations. In the late 70s he found drawing gave him more freedom to experiment with colour, cutting and inverting sections to explore new relationships and harmonies. 20 years ago he started drawing with graphite on 3m sheets of roughly textured handmade Nepalese paper. After the 3.11 earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disaster in Japan, Katagiri's colour and monochrome inversions in *Light and Silence* series of drawings expressed the void left behind by catastrophic loss and attempted to find solace. This and his darker, more melancholic *Ghost Memory* series are powerful emotional responses to the devastation he saw in the coastal city of Kesenuma where he was born and grew up.



Katagiri constantly returns to previous themes and techniques, re-editing them to develop and refine his understanding of the tides of life. Each art form has a quality that is unique to them, yet they inform each other. While the sculptures distil the essence of life into pure abstract form, the drawings are perhaps more immediate responses to the ebb and flow of life.

*Image: 'Streamline', Japanese basalt,  
490 x 90 x 100(h) mm; photo: Hironori Katagiri*

When drawing purely for its own sake Katagiri is free from the demands of gravity that apply to sculpture, and he can explore an alternative reality of space and texture. Like his more famous sculptures, his drawings have a presence and power that resonates with our instinctive desire to connect with nature and each other.

Searching for essential form, proportion, texture and composition that expose the qualities of the material, and evoke people's senses, memories and imagination, I want to inspire people to look with fresh eyes, to explore the fundamental nature of being and the world that encompasses it. says Katagiri.

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Artist s web-site: [www.ukishima.net](http://www.ukishima.net)

Katagiri Hironori is working in Scotland April May 10th, 2018 and available for interview/ photos.

Contact: Jurgita Galbraith, Birch Tree Gallery

[art@birchtreegallery.co.uk](mailto:art@birchtreegallery.co.uk)

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