



## YOUNG JAPANESE ARTIST PROGRAM **GAKUSHI YAMAMOTO**



GAKUSHI YAMAMOTO, a 26 year old recent graduate of ZOKEI UNIVERSITY who is presently studying for his MFA is the first artist chosen for The Asian Collection's Young Artist Program. He was born in Los Angeles, the son of a Buddhist priest. He grew up in Kyoto and studied furniture design and graphic design before coming to Zokei to study sculpture. He has assisted in the sculpting of some of the rides at Disneyland in Tokyo and was a hit of the recent 5 university show at the Tokyo Museum in Roppongi.

Gakushi's most recent works are of iron chairs--empty ones and ones with traces of the people who occupied them. They can be arranged on pedestals or on furniture and you can see they are all different—approx 40-45 cm high-heavy and 4-5 kg each—all different—men women, legs, arms, canes, kids, old people, one is empty-perhaps someone has left or has yet to come.



As part of the Young Artist Program Asian Collection, Asian Collection selects, introduces and represents young recent university graduates to clients and assists these recent graduates with promotion and career development and actively champions their works with collectors and museums in Japan and internationally. In making this year's selections, Asian Collection examined more than 1000 graduation portfolios.

Two other artists selected are Naomi Ishikawa, a sculptor who graduated recently from Nihon University Faculty of Fine Arts and Kaori Fukasawa, a painter and printmaker, an MFA graduate of Tama University of Fine Arts.