

Sitting Statue of Eleven-faced and
Thousand-armed Avalokiteśvara
(Upper Body)

十一面千手観音菩薩座像（上半身）

145.5 x 115.1 x 69.7 cm
medium grain Nukata stone, produced in Okazaki
岡崎産額田中目石

1991
housed at Semyouji Temple
世明寿寺蔵



Distinct from two-dimensional painting, sculpture—in which the three-dimensional world can be expressed—has always been regarded as a sublime form of art. In addition, the sacred in religions of every kind has been embodied in sculpture, bringing the human soul to a higher plane. Wakei Nagaoka realizes this perfectly, and his series of sculptural work contains the aesthetics of Buddhism.

The work of Nagaoka is embedded with technique as spectacular as that of Michelangelo. His pieces inherit a traditional Oriental style, but seem to have a unique interpretation through his approach. Either way, they cannot be seen as inferior to the masterpieces of the past. His transcendent and majestic work is classical, and I imagine it maintaining harmony alongside other sculptures standing in the same temple. However, the important point is that his Buddhist statues are incredibly elegant and that they communicate the tradition of sculpture over the past few thousand years directly, without any loss of quality or spirituality.

2次元の絵画に対して3次元の世界を表現できる彫刻は、常に崇高な芸術とみなされてきた。また、彫刻の中にはあらゆる宗教の聖性が秘められ、人間の魂をより高い次元に引き上げるものであった。長岡和慶はこれを実現しており、その素晴らしい彫刻作品群は仏教の美学を有している。

ミケランジェロのように見事なテクニックで刻まれた長岡作品。東洋の伝統的な様式を受け継いでいるが、自身のスタイルに基づく独特な解釈を加えているようだ。いずれにせよ過去の偉大な作品に勝るとも劣らない。崇高かつ偉大なその作品は古典的であり、きっと同じ寺院に存在するその他の彫刻と調和を奏でているのだろう。最も重要な点は、これらの仏像が優雅で、数千年にも及ぶ彫刻の伝統を、品質や精神性を一切失うことなくそのまま伝えていることである。