

There's something fishy about this... Artist creates amazing 3D sculpture painting layer after layer of resin

By KERRY MCQUEENEY



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On first glance you might marvel at the image of this formation of fish, swirling as they try to out-swim a ladle placed in the bowl. However, take a closer look, because there is something very fishy about this particular picture.

These are not real fish at all but amazing three-dimensional sculptures created by an artist in Japan.

The unbelievably realistic models are the work of Riusuke Fukahori, who sculpts the fish out of resin. The artist said he became interested in sketching fish when he was younger but he moved on to more ambitious creations.

Beginning with a small piece of resin, Fukahori paints the fish on to multiple layers. Gradually, layer by layer, more detail is revealed to bring the goldfish to 'life' and create the fantastic optical illusion. The complex and meticulous process is similar to the function of a 3D printer. Upon each of the sandwiched layers of resin he draws the fish with acrylic paint before allowing the resin to settle and pouring another layer on top. The length of time it takes to complete each sculpture depends on its size - the largest of Fukahori's works took two months to finish.

The 38-year-old artist said he is inspired by French impressionist Claude Monet and his series of oil paintings titled 'Water Lilies'. Fukahori, from the Aichi region, said: 'I first began to draw goldfish about 10 years ago. I then developed the resin technique which I thought gave an original representation of the fish. All my works are drawn from my imagination, I never use pictures of goldfish to follow and I do not have pet goldfish to sketch.'

'Memories I have, fun or painful, and the influence of people I meet are always reflected in my sculptures.'

Fukahori graduated from Aichi Prefectural University of Fine Arts and Music with a degree in media design. The biggest sculpture he has created to date measured 16 ft by 6.5 ft and his works can sell for up to £2,500. He recently held his first British exhibition, titled the Goldfish Salvation, at the ICN Gallery in London. Fukahori also entertains fans by staging live painting performances to give a real insight into how the technique works.

He added: 'I chose to paint goldfish, rather than tropical fish, because they are original and simple. I am always searching for motivation from my activities as an artist and my identity through goldfish.'



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