Mask - RETURNING TO EARTH

Object: Mask
Place of origin: Japan (made)
Date: 1990 (made)
Artist/Maker: Koie, Ryoji, born 1938 (artist)
Materials and Techniques: Stoneware
Museum number: FE.417:1-1992
Gallery location: In Storage

Public access description
Koie's facility with clay owes much to his early training in Tokoname, first at high school, then with a tile manufacturing company and finally, from 1962 to 1966, at the Tokoname Municipal Ceramics Research Institute (Tokoname Shiritsu Togei Kenkyujo). His functional pieces - plates, cups, teabowls, vases and other vessel forms - have an extraordinary spontaneity about them. His highly intuitive approach and the way he breaks every rule in the potter's book to produce works of fluidity and expressive intensity were admirably demonstrated to a non-Japanese audience at the time of third International Potter's Festival at Aberystwyth, Wales, in July 1991.

Descriptive line
Koie Ryoji (1938-)

Physical description
Made from a plaster mould taken from the artist's face, it is one of a sequence of sixteen masks showing the gradual disintegration of his features into an anonymous mound of clay.

Dimensions
Height: 15 cm, Diameter: 45 cm

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URL
http://collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O457725/returning-to-earth-mask-koie-ryoji/