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PRESS RELEASE
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Millennium Park is a state-of-the-art collection of architecture, landscape design and art that provide the backdrop for hundreds of free cultural programs including concerts, exhibitions, tours, and family activities where you will find a new kind of town square – a lively, spectacular gathering spot located in the heart of the city and popular destination.

Millennium Park public art programming includes annual temporary exhibitions in the Boeing Galleries immediately east of Wrigley Square and Crown Fountain and flanking Cloud Gate. Jun Kaneko was selected for the third such installation from April 12th to November 4th, 2013 by a curatorial jury process comprised of members of the board of the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park and the Art Institute of Chicago.

The North Boeing Gallery will feature 17 figurative sculptures interpreted from Japanese folklore characters called Tanuki. From ancient times, the Japanese have expressed the purported shape shifting Tanuki in a variety of ways, but modernly they are usually depicted as a large, stout racoon-dog. They are legendarily spirited beasts that take on tasks around human habitats, the most familiar incarnation of which is the "sake buying errand boy" made popular by the ceramic artists of the city of Shigaraki which has one of the oldest ceramic traditions in Japan and where the Tanuki has evolved into the town mascot and an important symbol of business.

The South Boeing Gallery will exhibit 13 of the monumental works the artist created at his Mission Clay: Pittsburg project. Rarely does an artist have an industrial friendship that allows them to stretch the boundaries of a favorite medium. He worked at Mission Clay Products in California for two years in the mid-90's to create twenty-four immense sculptures and at their Kansas facility for the majority of three years starting in 2005 to create 44 monumental ceramic sculptures. All sculptures are fabricated by hand stitching clay slabs into the walls of singular monolithic hollow artworks. These two largest sculptural undertakings

in his 45 years as a studio artist were in cooperation with a family owned business that opened their kilns for an artist to build a dream.