

## **Artist Statement**

### **Tomoo Yamaji**

This piece, *h020101 Dragon to Flower (Blue/Gold)*, is based on my ten years of experience working as a civil engineer, where one must always be cautious and aware of the various hazards caused by nature and technology. This sculpture represents the many sides of engineering and technology, which can at once serve as protection for human beings against natural disasters, provide a foundation for peace in society, yet can also exacerbate disasters such as the recent nuclear power plants incident in Japan. Engineering can be seen as a symbol for peace like a ring of flowers, or as a reliable protector like a dragon, but can also be seen as evil.

As a reference to engineering, both analog and digital technologies were utilized to create this piece, such as mechanical tools and 3D-CAD. The audience is encouraged to hold the piece in their hands, transforming it from one shape to another in order to experience the multi-sided nature of engineering. It is the intent that the audience realizes that a thing may look a certain way but to experience its many facets they must understand its structures and functions. The sculpture also speaks against the modernist notion of art as opposed to engineering, technology and mass-production.