

TOKAS Project Vol. 4

THE FUTURE IS ART  
文化でつながる。未来とつながる。TokyoTokyo  
FESTIVAL

## Routes/Roots

2021/8/21 (Sat.)–10/3 (Sun.)

Tokyo Arts and Space Hongo

### —Exhibition by Japanese and German artists, reflecting on exchange between TOKAS and Germany

The Tokyo Metropolitan Government and the Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture are carrying out TOKAS Project Vol. 4 as part of the Tokyo Tokyo Festival.

Ever since it opened in 2001, Tokyo Arts and Space (TOKAS) has continued to collaborate with international artists, curators, arts centers, and cultural organizations to produce exhibitions and pioneer related programs. TOKAS Project, which began in 2018, aims to promote international exchange and shine a contemplative light on the arts, society, and other themes from multicultural perspectives.

In 2011, TOKAS launched the Exchange Residency Program in which creators are dispatched to Berlin and invited to Tokyo, the two having a Friendship Cities relationship. Participants from Japan are offered the opportunity to stay and work at Kunstraum Kreuzberg/Bethanien in Berlin.

This exhibition presents works by artists based in Berlin, to commemorate both 10 years of exchange between TOKAS and Kunstraum Kreuzberg/Bethanien and 160 years of diplomatic relations between Germany and Japan.

### Information \*Details are subject to change as a result of COVID-19 countermeasures.

Exhibition Title: TOKAS Project Vol. 4 “Routes/Roots”

Artists: **SUGITO Yoshie, TAKEDA Tatsuma, YOSHIDA Shingo  
Martin EBNER, Joachim FLEISCHER, Stefanie GAUS**

Dates: 2021/8/21 (Sat.)–10/3 (Sun.)

Venue: Tokyo Arts and Space Hongo (2-4-16 Hongo, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo)

Hours: 11:00–19:00 (Last entry 18:30)

Closed: Mondays (Except 8/30, 9/20), 9/21 (Tue.)

Admission: Free

Organizer: Tokyo Arts and Space, Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo,  
Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture

Support: The German Embassy in Tokyo, Goethe-Institut Tokyo

Website: <https://www.tokyoartsandspace.jp/>

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Jahre Freundschaft  
Deutschland – JapanGOETHE  
INSTITUT

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## ■ About the Exhibition

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Compared to other major cities of the world, Berlin's social structure makes it easy for artists to live and for creative communities to form, and creators from all over the world have gathered to live and work in the city. Sugito Yoshie, Takeda Tatsuma, and Yoshida Shingo, whose works are featured in this exhibition, have also lived in Berlin for several years and have been producing works with multifaceted perspectives on Europe's unique history and diversity while adapting to a different linguistic and cultural environment. They participated in TOKAS's residency program for Japanese artists in Germany, exhibited their works at Kunstraum Kreuzberg/Bethanien, and each of them deepened their knowledge and insight through activities and interactions that leverage the networks they have cultivated thus far.

As it happens, this year all three artists have elected to leave Berlin temporarily, for different reasons, and have begun living and working in new places that are also removed from their places of origin.

This exhibition features works with themes related to legends, traditions, and cultures that draw the artists' interest. Also, video works capturing Japan from distinctive perspectives, by past participants in the Tokyo TOKAS Residency, Martin Ebner, Joachim Fleischer and Stefanie Gaus, who are currently based in Germany, will be screened.

When people relocate, we plan routes to reach our destinations, put down roots, and leave vestiges of ourselves there. Then, we plan routes to our next destinations and take flight once more. The works in this exhibition reveal something like layers of soil formed through slow accumulation over the course of long journeys, and the cultural fruits that grow up from this soil.

\*As of March 2021, TOKAS has concluded our activities at Kunstraum Kreuzberg/Bethanien for the time being, but moving forward, we intend to continue the exchange program between Germany and Japan.

## ■ Related Events

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Please see the TOKAS website for details.

## ■ Creators / Press Images \*Please contact the PR section for more images.

### SUGITO Yoshie

Sugito explores themes of social interaction, artistic moments encountered in the course of daily life, and the generation of images through various media. She presents an installation with the motifs of coffee-grounds reading, a traditional form of Middle Eastern fortune-telling, and pajamas, incorporated as a device for switching back and forth between subject and object.



1. *Coffee Reading*, 2019 Oil on paper, wood, clay

[Profile] Born in Aichi in 1985. Lives and works in Berlin and New York. Earned an MFA from Braunschweig University of Art, Germany in 2013. Recent exhibitions: “NEST NESTER,” Einstellungsraum, Hamburg, Germany, 2020, “αM+ vol.1 The National Museum of Art, Okutama (MOAO) -The National Mizuumi of Art, Okutama - Supporting Each Other / Okutama Coin,” gallery αM, Tokyo, 2020.

### TAKEDA Tatsuma

In his work, Takeda interprets the concept of “media” in terms of the old-fashioned “mediums” of classical analog art forms such as painting and sculpture, and seeks to explore beauty as a common language. In this exhibition he presents the *Skin Deep Beauty* series, inspired by medieval European still life paintings of vegetation.

[Profile] Born in Kumamoto in 1988. Lives and works in Amsterdam and Berlin. Earned an MFA with Prof. Carsten Nicolai, Dresden Academy of Fine Arts, Dresden, Germany in 2020. Recent exhibitions: “Inner Cosmology,” 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, Ishikawa, 2021, “VOCA 2021: The Vision of Contemporary Art,” The Ueno Royal Museum, Tokyo, 2021, “Skin Deep Beauty,” Cité internationale des arts, Paris, 2020.



2. *Skin Deep Beauty (No. 3)*  
2016  
Acrylic, resin, steel, felt

### YOSHIDA Shingo

Yoshida is interested in micro-societies of various parts of the world, and creates video works with themes including myths from diverse regions, humans’ actions toward nature, and human powerlessness. Here, he primarily presents a video work based on a legend handed down over generations in a small village, which he visited with friends, on the border between France and Spain.

[Profile] Born in Tokyo in 1974. Lives and works in Marseilles and Berlin. Earned a post-graduate diploma from the Program La Seine of Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts de Paris in 2007.

Recent exhibitions: “the UN Conference on Climate Change, COP23,” Berlin/Bonn, Germany, 2017, “Standing on the Earth, Looking up into the Sky—Contemporary Artists’ Views of Landscapes,” Gunma Museum of Art, Tatebayashi, 2016.



3. *ludèrt, ludèrt prèserva-me dera sèrp*  
(*ludèrt, ludèrt preserve me from serpent*)  
2020  
Video

## Screenings of Video Works by Germany-Based Artists

### Martin EBNER

Participant in Exchange Residency Program (Berlin) in 2017

Works to be screened:

*Untitled (Tokyo)* (2017), *Drop Car* (2018)

[Profile] Born in 1965. Lives and works in Berlin. Graduated with a degree in Visual Media from the University of Applied Arts, Vienna in 1993. Ebner has primarily produced video works and installations in recent years. Recent exhibitions: "Palydos," SWALLOW, Lithuania, 2020, "Walking in ice," XC.HuA Gallery, Berlin, 2020.



4. *Untitled (Tokyo)*  
2017  
Video

### Joachim FLEISCHER

Participant in Research Residency Program in 2013

Works to be screened:

*Slow Light – Scanning Tokio* (2014),  
*Münsterscanning* (2015), *Tomogramm* (2018),  
*White eats Black* (2018).

[Profile] Born in 1960. Lives and works in Stuttgart.. Fleischer presents large-scale installations dealing with the theme of light. Recent exhibitions and projects: "Inversion," Kunsthalle Göppingen, Göppingen, Germany, 2021, "Kunst ist Lebensbereicherung," Art is life enrichment," Akademie der Diözese Rottenburg, Stuttgart, Germany, 2020.



5. *Slow Light – Scanning Tokio*  
2014  
Video

### Stefanie GAUS

Participant in Research Residency Program in 2017

Works to be screened:

*Ogata-mura - A model farming village* (2021),  
*Beyond Metabolism* (2014)

[Profile] Born in 1976. Lives and works in Berlin. Her interest in political and socio-cultural impacts – also seen as matter of representation – and her distinctive view on spacial and architectural dimensions are base of her artistic practice and films. Major works: *Nippon-koku Ogata-mura* (2021), *Laufhaus* (2006).



6. *Ogata mura - A model farming village*  
2021  
Video

TOKAS Project Vol. 4 "Routes/Roots"  
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