

TOKAS Project Vol. 5

Himotoku: The Opening Blossoms of an Unraveling World

2022/8/27 (Sat.)–10/10 (Mon.)

Tokyo Arts and Space Hongo

—Exhibition by Japanese and Taiwanese artists, reflecting on exchange between TOKAS and TAV

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.

TOKAS and Taipei Artist Village (TAV) have been operating a two-way residency program that invites and sends creators to and from Japan and Taiwan since 2007, and this year marks the program's 15th anniversary. As of this year a total of 29 artists have participated in the program, producing works in both Japan and Taiwan.

This exhibition presents works by five artists: three who stayed at the TOKAS Residency, and two who met and worked together during their stay at TAV.

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

Exhibition Title: TOKAS Project Vol. 5 “Himotoku: The Opening Blossoms of an Unraveling World”

Artists: **CHEN I-Hsuen, Sera Yu Wen CHEN, HASHIMOTO Jin, LU Chih-Yun, CHOU Wuhan**

Dates: 2022/8/27 (Sat.)–10/10 (Mon.)

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 9/19, 10/10), 9/20 (Tue.)

Admission: Free

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

Cooperation: Taipei Artist Village

Support: Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in Japan

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

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■ About the Exhibition

The Japanese word *himotoku* (lit. “to unravel”) can signify opening and reading a book, and connects to the process of coming into contact with knowledge through printed matter, looking back on history, and revealing truths. The word also represents an image of a bud opening and bursting into bloom. The five artists featured in this exhibition, active in Japan and Taiwan, participated in the TOKAS and TAV Exchange Residency Program and spent time in Tokyo and Taipei reflecting on regional history, meeting people, and discovering new aspects of the city where they stayed. Connecting these encounters to the production of art has been a process of evolution toward new creative horizons and the disentanglement of a complex world, like a tightly closed bud beginning to open.

Since 2007, when our affiliation with TAV began, there have been various events such as the Great East Japan Earthquake of 2011 and the ongoing pandemic that have caused great turmoil and change in people’s lives and the economy, and each of the artists’ works naturally reflects the circumstances of the times.

Lu Chih-Yun is a Tokyo-based artist who grew up in Japan and Taiwan, and since completing a residency in Tokyo in 2012, when the aftereffects of the Great East Japan Earthquake were still felt, she continues to be based in the city. In this exhibition, Lu expands on the works she presented in 2014 incorporating cement, sponges, and artificial flowers. When viewers enter the exhibition space and walk over the installation, which appears hard-textured, the sensation of sinking and the cracking of the surface will transform their perceptions.

Hashimoto Jin, who completed a residency in Taipei in 2019, was researching his forebears born and raised in Taiwan and the Japanese colonial-era building “Takahashi Residence” where his grandmother lived. Then he met Chou Wuhan, who was researching architecture and history of the same period. Here, works by these two artists are presented on the same floor, with each examining the same place from their own vantage point so as to approach a multilayered perspective on history. The exhibition also documents their interactions thus far.

Chen I-Hsuen happened to arrive in Tokyo and explore the city on the eve of the spread of COVID-19. As the pandemic gradually took hold of the world, the Tokyo captured in his photographs was sparsely populated, and objects placed in the urban landscape reflected the state of “self-isolation” caused by the virus. By returning to Tokyo for the exhibition, the artist will be able to resume his research, which previously had to be interrupted partway through.

Sera Yu Wen Chen has been in Tokyo since April 2022, when the TOKAS Residency Program, suspended due to the pandemic, began to be resumed. She presents a video installation on the theme of nature and artifice, conceived while conducting research on Japanese gardens, trees and plants on street and private gardens.

We sincerely hope that this collaboration between TOKAS and TAV, which is celebrating its 15th anniversary, will continue to bring about the blooming of many flowers in the future.

Related Events

Artists Talk

Date: 2022/8/28 (Sun.) 15:00 – 16:30

Participants (scheduled):

CHEN I-Hsuen, Sera Yu Wen CHEN, HASHIMOTO Jin, LU Chih-Yun, CHOU Wuhan

Please see the TOKAS website for details.

Related Exhibition

Exhibition Title: Messengers: TAV & TOKAS 15th Anniversary Commemorative Exhibition

Artists: ARAKAWA Soya ÷ ABE Nyubo, CHANG Yung-Ta, HANASAKI Kaya, NAKASHIMA Kayako + LEE Te-Mao

Exhibition Consultant: WU Dar-Kuen

Dates: 2022/6/25 (Sat.)–7/24 (Sun.)

Venue: Barry Room, Taipei Artist Village

Hours: 11:00–18:00

Closed: Mondays

Organizer: Taipei Artist Village

Website: <https://www.artistvillage.org/event-detail.php?p=4560>



ARAKAWA Soya ÷ ABE Nyubo
"Messengers" Installation view
2022

Courtesy of Taipei Artist Village

Photographer: Sasha Chan



CHANG Yung-Ta
"Messengers" Installation view
2022

Courtesy of Taipei Artist Village

Photographer: Sasha Chan

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

CHEN I-Hsuen

Participant in Exchange Residency Program (Taipei) in 2019

Chen I-Hsuen creates photographic, video, and performance works, focusing on relationships between objects and public power in urban environments. During his residency in Tokyo from January to March 2020, he researched homeless people in transit and those compelled to move into new housing due to the Tokyo Olympics. In this exhibition, he presents *Soft Quarantine*, a series of photographs that capture objects in a state of “self-isolation” amid a city entering a pandemic.



1. *Soft Quarantine*, 2020 Photography

[Profile] Born in Taipei in 1982. Lives and works in Taipei. Graduated with an MFA from Pratt Institute in Photography in 2012. Recent exhibitions: “Commissioned,” Honggah Museum, Taipei, 2019, “Taipei Biennial,” Taipei Fine Arts Museum, 2016.

Sera Yu Wen CHEN

Participant in Exchange Residency Program (Taipei) in 2022

Sera Yu Wen Chen is interested in human-created natural spaces, and during her residency at TOKAS, she visited various Japanese gardens to conduct research and interviews so as to explore the methods and ideas underlying the creation and maintenance of gardens. Through this approach, she presents works inspired by relationships between people, nature, and cities as seen in Japanese gardens and streets.



2. *The Naturalness II*, 2018 Three-Channel Video-installation Sound

[Profile] Born in Hualien in 1991. Lives and works in Taipei. Graduated with an MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2019. Recent exhibitions: “Scenery in Mock-up,” Kuandu Museum of Fine Art, Taipei, 2021, “Everyday Fictionality: Beholding Shadows of Illusion,” Taipei Fine Arts Museum, Taipei, 2019, “Terms & Conditions,” SoMad Studio, New York, 2019.

LU Chih-Yun

Participant in Exchange Residency Program (Taipei) in 2012

Lu Chih-Yun moved to Tokyo following her residency in 2012. In recent years, she has been working with cement, which is used in construction and has an image of strength and solidity. In this exhibition, she presents work that alters the viewer's perception of cement by combining it with other materials such as sponges on the floor and artificial flowers suspended from the ceiling.



3. *Stage 01*, 2014 Cement, sponge, artificial flower

[Profile] Born in Japan in 1984. Lives and works in Tokyo. Earned her PhD from Tokyo University of the Arts in 2018. Recent exhibitions: "LU Chih-Yun," Galleria Grafica Bis, Tokyo, 2019, "Crush Syndrome," Crane Gallery, Taipei, 2015.

HASHIMOTO Jin

Participant in Exchange Residency Program (Taipei) in 2019

Hashimoto Jin uses materials such as wood and iron in works based on the themes of "time and accretion" and "existence and memory." In this exhibition, he traces the story of his grandmother, a *Wansei* (Taiwan-born Japanese person) who was repatriated to Japan after World War II, and memories accumulated at the Takahashi Residence where she lived in Taipei, while expressing the collective mentality of Wansei people in abstract form.



4. *Memory Code*, 2019 Carved wood, soil blocks

[Profile] Born in Saitama in 1984. Lives and works in Saitama.

Graduated with an MA in Crafts from the Tokyo University of the Arts in 2014. Recent exhibitions: "Memory Code," Kuo Mu Sheng Foundation, Taipei, 2020, "TOKAS Creator-in-Residence 2020 Exhibition 'Daisy Chain'," TOKAS Hongo.

CHOU Wuhan

Collaboration with Hashimoto Jin in Taipei in 2019

Chou Wuhan employs architectural design, drawings and stories in installations and performances to reinterpret architectural and urban narratives. For this exhibition, he researched the Takahashi Residence built during the Japanese colonial period in Taiwan, and the history of that period, with the goal of reconstructing memories of that era. He is also a member of Inukichi Books, which produces artist books through research into Taiwanese literature and architecture.



5. *The Vivid Memories in the Vanished Villa*, 2021 Brick, map collage in a wood box

[Profile] Born in 1987. Lives and works in Taipei. Graduated with an MA in Architecture from London Metropolitan University in 2014.

Recent exhibitions: "Im-Memory," Keelung Fine Art Museum, Taipei, 2022, "Sense of Site-specific," Waley Art Gallery, Taiwan, 2021, "Those Vivid Memories in the Vanished Villa," Taipei Artist Village, 2020.

**TOKAS Project Vol. 5 “Himotoku: The Opening Blossoms of an Unraveling World”
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<Press Contact>

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