



State of the Artists

Since 2018, Tokyo Metropolitan Government and Tokyo Arts and Space (TOKAS) have been organizing the Tokyo Contemporary Art Award (TCAA) for mid-career artists in Japan with the aim of assisting their further progress through continuous support over several years.

Two artists, **Saeborg** and **Tsuda Michiko**, were selected as winners of the fourth TCAA. In addition to a monetary prize, they received funding for overseas activities in the year following the award, and now, we are pleased to present the TCAA 2022-2024 Exhibition at the Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo. We invite you to enjoy recent works by these two artists, who are expected to make significant strides in the future, at this exhibition which follows approximately two years of support following their selection for the award in March 2022. At the close of the exhibition, monographs (not for sale) will be published featuring past works by both of the recipients as well as new works created for this exhibition.

Exhibition Information

Exhibition Title: Saeborg “I WAS MADE FOR LOVING YOU” / TSUDA Michiko “Life is Delaying”

Tokyo Contemporary Art Award 2022-2024 Exhibition

Period: 2024/3/30 (Sat.) - 2024/7/7 (Sun.)

Venue: Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, Exhibition Gallery 3F (4-1-1 Miyoshi, Koto-ku, Tokyo 135-0022)

Open Hours: 10:00-18:00

Closed: Mondays (Except 4/29, 5/6), 4/30, 5/7

Admission: Free

Organizers: Tokyo Metropolitan Government and Tokyo Arts and Space / Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo of the Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture

Cooperation: TARO NASU

Website: www.tokyocontemporaryartaward.jp/en/

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About the Exhibition

These exhibitions featuring Saeborg and Tsuda Michiko, winners of the fourth TCAA, are titled “I WAS MADE FOR LOVING YOU” and “Life is Delaying” respectively. While the two adjacent exhibitions are separate presentations that differ significantly in terms of their concerns and creative approach, they have a commonality in that viewers’ actions in the galleries become part of the work. In viewing these works they also face themselves, and this leads to examination of relationships with others, including animals, and of roles that society expects.

■ Saeborg “I WAS MADE FOR LOVING YOU”

Saeborg’s primary practice of performance incorporating latex bodysuits has varied with each iteration, and new characters have continually emerged. The work in this exhibition, building on the foundation of past performances, adopts the perspective of “care” in the context of relationships between people and animals, which have formed a central axis of the artist’s works. By having viewers in the gallery become part of the performance, the distinctive structure of a museum exhibition is utilized to stage an event in which the viewers at times become the viewed.

■ TSUDA Michiko “Life is Delaying”

In this exhibition Tsuda explores the theme of physicality, which has strongly interested her in recent years. She presents an installation incorporating video equipment, centered on a new work inspired by family goings-on in a video shot when a video camera first appeared in her childhood home. A reenactment of commonplace events, captured through the lens from the camera operator’s perspective, takes documentation of the family – the smallest basic unit of society – as its starting point, but broadens its scope to encompass the positions of individuals within groups and systems.

Both artists take the body as one of their points of departure, and have developed their unique practices by alternating between production of artworks and physical expression. During the exhibition, in addition to the works of view, performances and other programs will beckon viewers into experiences that link the exhibition venue and their own bodies.

Related Events

Artists Talk

Sofia Hernández Chong Cuy, a TCAA 2022-2024 selection committee member, will speak with the featured artists about the selection process, their exhibited works, and future plans.

Date: 2024/3/30 (Sat.), 14:00-15:30 (Doors open at 13:30)

Participants: Saeborg, TSUDA Michiko,

Sofia Hernández Chong CUY [Director, Kunstinstituut Melly / TCAA 2022-2024 Selection Committee]

Moderator: SHIOMI Yuko (Director, Arts Initiative Tokyo / TCAA Selection Secretariat)

Venue: Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, B2F Auditorium (4-1-1 Miyoshi, Koto-ku, Tokyo)

*Admission Free / Reservations required / First-come-first-served basis. With Japanese-English simultaneous interpretation.

*Related events are scheduled during the exhibition period. Details to be announced on the website in early March.

Monograph

Monographs (in Japanese and English, not for sale) on each of the winners are scheduled to be published in July 2024. In addition to images of the artists’ works, they will feature their texts discussing their creative processes and essays on the artists by specialists.

After publication, they will be available on the TCAA website and will be distributed by post (in Japan only) to those who request them. Details to be announced on the TCAA website.

ARTISTS

Saeborg



Photo: ZIGEN

Born in Toyama in 1981, based in Tokyo.

Saeborg is an imperfect cyborg that is half human and half toy. In performances and exhibitions both in Japan and abroad, Saeborg creates latex bodysuits through which she can artificially transcend physical characteristics such as age and gender. In her performances, she employs colorful and deformed representations of insects and livestock, including female cattle and pigs. These performances at first seem bright and playful, but they touch on issues of human cruelty and animal consumption as well as social issues like nursing and care. Her work defies characterization by simple dichotomies of strong and weak or benefactor and beneficiary, facing head-on the issues of coexistence and acceptance of diversity.

Recent exhibitions and performances: "Middlesbrough Art Week," United Kingdom, 2023, "Theater der Welt," Frankfurt and Offenbach, Germany, 2023, "Ultra Unreal," Museum of Contemporary Art Australia, Sydney, 2022, "Reborn-Art Festival 2021-22," Oshika Peninsula (Momonoura), Miyagi, 2021, Solo Exhibition "LIVESTOCK" PARCO MUSEUM TOKYO, 2021, and more.

-Artist Statement-

In this exhibition, I will present a new work based on my experience during last year's overseas research and on my recent work *Super Farm*. Viewers will be asked to transform into characters based on livestock for an animalistic experience outside the norm, all in a space created to resemble a life-size toy farm. What if we were the animals, and we were suddenly facing presences impossible for us to understand: would we be able to reconcile ourselves to them? Can we transcend boundaries within our environments that separate other and self, the body and synthetic materials, and populations of organisms and their ecosystems?

Let's all become animals to oink, moo, bleat, and cock-a-doodle-doo together!



1 "Ultra Unreal" installation view at Museum of Contemporary Art Australia, Sydney, 2022 Photo: Alex Davies



2 "House of L" performance at Aichi Triennale 2019: Taming Y/Our Passion, Aichi Prefectural Art Theatre, Nagoya Photo: Masahiro Hasunuma



3 "Pigpen" performance at Dark Mofu 2019, Avalon Theatre, Hobart, Australia Photo: Dark Mofu 2019



4 "Cycle of L" performance at The Museum of Art, Kochi, 2020 Photo: Taisuke Tsurui

An Interview with the award winner, recorded in July 2022, is currently viewable on the TCAA website. ►



ARTISTS



Photo: Yuji Oku

TSUDA Michiko

Born in Kanagawa in 1980, based in Ishikawa.

Tsuda Michiko produces a diverse range of installations and performance pieces that incorporate characteristics of video media. She creates spaces containing video equipment and simple structures which blur perceptual boundaries, altering viewers' perspectives and actions and inciting contemplation of cognition and physical sensation. Since 2016, Tsuda has also been one half of artist unit "baby tooth" with Kamimura Megumi. Together they hold performance lectures that closely analyze and reenact the choreography of characters from Ozu Yasujiro's films to visualize issues such as the underlying distance between individuals and the role of women in society.

Recent exhibitions and performances: Solo Exhibition "Michiko Tsuda so far, not far," Kanazawa Art Gummi, 2023, "Summer Vacation at a Certain Art Museum," Chiba City Museum of Art, 2022, "The 10th Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art (APT10)," Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane, Australia, 2021, Solo Exhibition "Trilogue," TARO NASU, Tokyo, 2020, "Inter+Play Season 1," Towada Art Center, Aomori, 2020, and as baby tooth "OPEN SITE 2019-2020," TOKAS Hongo, 2020, and more.

-Artist Statement-

I'm sure I am not the only one whose concerns surrounding the body underwent radical change during the COVID-19 pandemic. I experienced how consciousness of our distance from others affects our physical behavior, even at the level of society's smallest units such as the family. I believe that the relationship between the camera's location, the frame, and the person on film can be a tool to measure the body's sense of distance.

This exhibition is analogous to seeing a poster peeling off the wall and gently sticking it back on, something that you might not need to do, but it's an extension of your instinct to act on the things you perceive.



5. *Tokyo Shigusa*, 2021/2023, installation view at "ICC Annual 2023: Shapes of Things," NTT InterCommunication Center [ICC], Tokyo Photo: KIOKU Keizo Photo Courtesy: NTT InterCommunication Center [ICC]



6. *Tokyo Behavior*, 2021, installation view at "Back TOKYO Forth," Tokyo International Cruise Terminal, 2021 Photo: Akira Arai (Nacása & Partners Inc.)



7. Still from *so far, not far*, 2023



8. *You would come back there to see me again the following day.*, 2016, installation view at "Open Space 2016: Media Conscious," NTT InterCommunication Center [ICC], Tokyo Photo: Tadasu Yamamoto

An Interview with the award winner, recorded in July 2022, is currently viewable on the TCAA website. ►



About TCAA

The Tokyo Contemporary Art Award (TCAA) is a contemporary art prize for mid-career artists active or based in Japan whose work inspires expectations of potential for even greater achievements, including development of their careers overseas. Particular importance is given to the need to provide the best possible support at the optimal time in the artists' career. The selection process includes research on the artists and visits to their studios by members of the international selection committee, to deepen their understanding of the artist's thinking, style, and career stage.

The winners will receive several years of continuous support, including, in addition to funding for overseas activities, the opportunity to show their work at the Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo and the publication of a monograph (in Japanese and English).

[Winners]

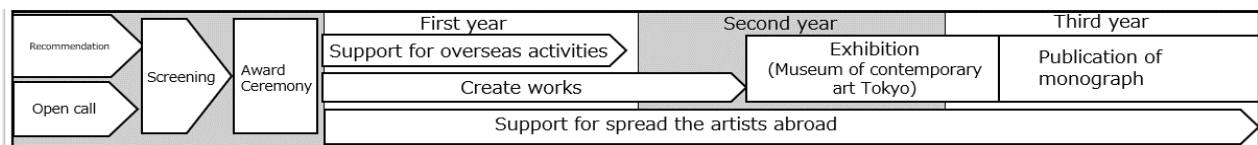
1st	TCAA 2019–2021	KAZAMA Sachiko /	SHITAMICHI Motoyuki
2nd	TCAA 2020–2022	FUJII Hikaru /	YAMASHIRO Chikako
3rd	TCAA 2021–2023	SHIGA Lieko /	TAKEUCHI Kota
4th	TCAA 2022–2024	Saeborg /	TSUDA Michiko

About TCAA 2022-2024

[Award Details]

- 1) Monetary prize: ¥3,000,000
- 2) Support for overseas activities: UP to ¥2,000,000 (travel, accommodation, research and production expenses)
- 3) An award exhibition presenting the results of the two years of support, to be held at the Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo
- 4) Publication of a monograph

[Schedule]



[International Selection Committee] *Positions and titles current as of the time of the 2021 selection process.

Sofía Hernández Chong CUY [Director, Kunstinstituut Melly]

TAKAHASHI Mizuki [Executive Director and Chief Curator, CHAT (Centre for Heritage, Arts and Textile)]

Carol Yinghua LU [Director, Beijing Inside-Out Art Museum]

NOMURA Shino [Senior Curator, Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery]

WASHIDA Meruro [Director, Towada Art Center]

KONDO Yuki [Program Director, Tokyo Arts and Space]

[Selection Secretariat]

Arts Initiative Tokyo [AIT]

Tokyo Contemporary Art Award 2022-2024 Exhibition

Application Form for Image Data

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To : Public Relations Section, Tokyo Arts and Space

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 TCAA 2022-2024 Exhibition Banner Portrait (Saeborg TSUDA Michiko)



*Images can be downloaded from the link here ► <https://tokyocontemporaryartaward.jp/news/form/1778>

Name of publication (name of feature or section): _____

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*For TV programs, etc. covering this exhibition, please send one copy of the video or DVD. For printed materials (newspapers or magazines), please send the original item (one) or copies (three). For websites, please send us the URL when it is published.

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