

Information concerning the Fall 2017 exhibition at the Towada Art Center

Ever Present Figures

The Paintings and Sculptures of Shin Morikita

Saturday October 7, 2017 – Sunday January 28, 2018



Fig. 1 | *stranger in blue* (Acrylic on cotton), 2017, 130cm x 80cm

Shin Morikita's long-awaited first large-scale solo exhibition

Will the secrets of the museum's *Flying Man and Hunter's* finally be revealed?!

Shin Morikita is the creator of *Flying Man and Hunter*, an artwork in the Towada Art Center permanent collection. The piece's two sculptures reside outside between the museum's exhibition spaces and can be found only by looking up to the sky. Are they floating there? Or is one trying to catch the other as he tries to fly away? Their humorous figures beg us to consider their relationship and the *ma*, or the spaces in between.

Morikita will carefully examine a space and, with impeccable balance, transform it with simple paintings and sculptures that highlight the characteristics of their materials. Motifs such as people, houses, and trees are often seen in his work, and the relationships between environment and art, architecture and art, people and art, and even between art and art all hang somewhere in the middle, wrapped in poetic humor.

Ever Present Figures will be Morikita's first solo exhibition at a museum and will present, for the first time, the portfolio of artwork he has produced since the turn of the millennium. In this exhibition, Morikita tells all-new stories while sharing the latest in a series of works that can be traced back to *Flying Man and Hunter*. The title—*Ever Present Figures*—has layers of interpretation left to be uncovered while enjoying and experiencing the charm of the exhibition.

In these uncertain and stifling times, as relationships grow ever more complex and people and things are reduced to mere numbers, we hope that you will join us at the Towada Art Center to pause for a moment and see yourself and your surroundings in a new light.

Contact Us

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About the Exhibition

Title	<i>Ever Present Figures: The Paintings and Sculptures of Shin Morikita</i>
Date	Saturday, October 7, 2017 – Sunday, January 28, 2018 *Opening Reception Friday, October 6, 2017 17:00–18:30
Hours	9:00-17:00 (Last admission 30 minutes before closing)
Closed	Mondays except for National Holidays, in which case the museum is open on the holiday and closed the following Tuesday *Open October 9, 2017 and January 8, 2018 *Closed December 25, 2017 through January 1, 2018 for year-end holidays
Location	Towada Art Center
Admission	Exhibition + Permanent Collection: 1,000 yen Exhibition only: 600 yen 100 yen/ticket discount for groups of 20 or more High school students and younger: Free
Organized by	Towada Art Center
Endorsed by	To-o Nippo Press, The Daily-Tohoku Shimibun Inc., Aomori Broadcasting Cooperation, Aomori Television Broadcasting Co., Ltd., Asahi Broadcasting Aomori Co., Ltd., & Towada City Board of Education

Shin Morikita

Born in Aichi Prefecture in 1969. Shin Morikita graduated from Aichi University of Arts, Department of Sculpture, and currently lives and works in Tajimi City in Gifu Prefecture. A prominent painter and sculptor, he produces art around motifs like people and houses. His work has been shown at exhibitions around the world, including 2009 exhibition *Kami. Silence – Action: Japanese Contemporary Art on Paper* (Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden, Dresden, Germany), *Aichi Triennale 2016 - Homo Faber: A Rainbow Caravan* (Aichi Arts Center, Nagoya, and other sites in Aichi, Japan), and most recently *so alone* (Kenji Taki Gallery, Tokyo, Japan, 2017). His humorous pair of sculptures, *Flying Man and Hunter*, is part of the Towada Art Center permanent collection.



Fig. 2



Flying Man and Hunter

Towada Art Center Permanent Collection

Shin Morikita installed a pair of sculptures, composed of two human body forms within a slit-like triangular outdoor space—like some kind of urban canyon—at the Towada Art Center. One of the pair's hands and feet are thrust out in between the buildings, as though comically flying in the sky. The other is watching humorously from a bridge, as if to capture, or to mock, the first.

Fig. 3 | *Flying Man and Hunter*
Photo: Mami Iwasaki

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Exhibition Preview

Members of the press are invited to preview the exhibition ahead of the opening reception. Exhibiting artist Shin Morikita will also be in attendance.

Friday, October 6, 2017 15:00–16:00
Towada Art Center Exhibition Space

Related Events

Opening Talk

Shin Morikita, whose *Flying Man and Hunter* is part of the Towada Art Center permanent collection, will sit down with exhibition curator and Vice-Director Yayoi Kojima to talk about his work and his creative process.

Date Saturday, October 7 13:00–14:00

Location Towada Art Center Collaborative Space

Admission Free with exhibition ticket.

Build A House Workshop (tentative title)

Create a house together with artist Shin Morikita. Completed houses will be displayed in the Towada Art Center Cube.

Date Sunday, November 19 13:00–16:00

Location Towada Art Center Collaborative Space

Ages 15 and up

Admission Free

* Additional events will be held throughout the exhibition period. Details will be announced at a later date.

*Content and guests of the events above are subject to change. We update our website regularly, so please check there for the latest information.

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About the Artwork

Ever Present Figures will focus on Morikita's latest drawings, paintings, sculptures, and installations as well as never-before-seen works currently in production ahead of the exhibition.

Reference Works



Fig. 4 | *Untitled*, 2002



Fig. 5 | *Limelight*, 2016
Photo by Tetsuo Ito



Fig. 6 | *a colony on the table*, 2005



Fig. 7 | *Untitled*, 2002

*Please use the main visual (Fig. 1 on p. 1 of this press release) when posting only one image.

*Please contact the museum to request other images for publication.

*Fig. 4 – Fig. 7 are reference works and will not be exhibited.

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