

**Internationally Renowned Artist AKI INOMATA's
First Solo Museum Exhibition in Japan to be Held at the Towada Art Center**

Information concerning the upcoming exhibition at Towada Art Center

AKI INOMATA : Significant Otherness

Saturday 14 September 2019 – Monday 13 January 2020



Why Not Hand Over a "Shelter" to Hermit Crabs? -White Chapel-; 2014-2015 *Reference image
©AKI INOMATA / Courtesy of MAHO KUBOTA GALLERY

AKI INOMATA is an artist whose creative process is an artistic collaboration with living creatures. The Towada Art Center is proud to present her first solo exhibition in Japan from 14 September 2019 to 13 January 2020. She is renowned for projects like *Why Not Hand Over a "Shelter" to Hermit Crabs?*, in which she uses a 3D printer to create city-like shells for hermit crabs. Through such inter-species collaborations, INOMATA uses humor to question the realities of life on earth.

The exhibition title, *Significant Otherness*, is a nod to science historian Donna Haraway and her proposal for a new form of human relationship with other species on earth. In addition to INOMATA's signature hermit crab "shelter," *Significant Otherness* will feature octopus- and ammonite-inspired works, works made from observing clams affected by the 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami, and works that find bagworms wearing scraps of women's clothing. These works all highlight non-human perspectives and give visitors a chance to reflect on the flow of time, the environment, and the ecosystems of earth.

The exhibition will also see the debut of a new artwork based on the Nanbu breed of horse that once inhabited the region where Towada is located.

The first comprehensive exhibition of AKI INOMATA's works in Japan
Live hermit crabs in the exhibition!
Debut of the new work *Galloping Nambu breed horse*

Contact Us

Towada Art Center Communications: Sae Otani

Tel. +81(0)176-20-1127 Fax. +81(0)176-20-1138 press@towadaartcenter.com www.towadaartcenter.com

【 Exhibition Overview and Highlights 】

1. The first comprehensive exhibition of AKI INOMATA's works in Japan

INOMATA has presented her works in numerous exhibits so far including KENPOKU ART 2016 and the Asian Art Award 2018, however this occasion marks her first large-scale exhibition to simultaneously introduces 6 projects.

2. Live hermit crabs in the exhibition!

Hermit crabs that serve as key collaborators in INOMATA's practice will be on live display in the exhibition at Towada Art Center. Visitors may have the chance to witness the actual hermit crabs moving into "shelters" (3D-printed shells) made by INOMATA with their very own eyes. As it is usually difficult to display living creatures inside the museum, this exhibition is a rare and valuable opportunity.

※The installation and operation of the living exhibits are carried out with the advice of specialists and research institutions.

3. Debut of the new work *Galloping Nambu breed horse*

INOMATA produced a new work during her stay in Towada inspired by the Nambu breed of horse that had formerly been bred in the region where Towada is located. This exhibition marks the inaugural unveiling of this work.

【 Message from the Artist 】

I feel that the distance between us human beings and other living creatures is gradually increasing. It seems that we who today live in a thoroughly computer-controlled information society, have both excluded and set apart all non-human creatures from urban space. Many of my works are realized through a process of 'collaborating with living creatures.' I have thus continued to observe various creatures of other species everyday with a sense of awe and respect. My practice focuses on reconsidering the relationship between living creatures and human beings through gaining an understanding of creatures that are different to my species, and further attempting to devise ways of communicating with them. There are usually strong restrictions on bringing animals and plants into the museum in order to prevent pests and the generation of mold for reasons of protecting the artwork. However, it is possible to present exhibits with living creatures at Towada Art Center. There are also many places around the museum that are optimal environments for observing various animals and plants such as the Oirase Gorge that maintains its rich nature since ancient times, as well as Towada Lake, and the Hakkoda Mountains. I hope to invite living creatures into the museum in an effort to facilitate a dialogue or means of interaction with different species that we often tend to be unaware of in our daily lives.

【 AKI INOMATA 】

Born in 1983. AKI INOMATA graduated with an MFA in Inter-media Art from Tokyo University of the Arts in 2008. Her creative process centers around transforming collaborations with living creatures into artworks. These works include *Why Not Hand Over a "Shelter" to Hermit Crabs?*, where 3D-printed hermit crab "shelters" are given to the crustaceans who go on to inhabit her ornate creations, and *I Wear the Dog's Hair*, and *the Dog Wears My Hair*, in which the artist and her dog wear capes made out of the other's hair.

Her recent exhibitions include *Broken Nature: Design Takes on Human Survival* at The XXII Triennale di Milano; Thailand Biennale Krabi 2018; *AKI INOMATA, Why Not Hand Over a "Shelter" to Hermit Crabs?* (Musée de Nantes, France, 2018); *Coming of Age* (Sector 2337, Chicago, 2017); KENPOKU ART 2016; *Eco Expanded City* (WRO Art Center, Wroclaw, Poland, 2016); *emergencies! 025: AKI INOMATA Inter-Nature Communication* (NTT InterCommunication Center [ICC], Tokyo, 2015); *Digital Choc 2015: la fabrique du réel* (Institut français du Japon, Tokyo, 2015); and *Ars Electronica* (Linz, 2014). In 2017, she stayed in New York on an Individual Fellowship Grant from the Asian Cultural Council.



Photo by Kenshu Shitsubo

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【Related Events】

※The dates and times of events and their contents are subject to change. Please check our website for latest information.

■ Opening Talk

Exhibiting artist AKI INOMATA sits down with writer Yuju Wen to talk about his work and creative process. More details to follow.

Date: September 14th (Sat.) 15:00 – 16:00

Location: Towada Art Center Citizen Activity Space / Admission: Free *Exhibition ticket required

■ Opening Event: Live Reading –“Dissolving into and Out of One Another”

A live reading will take place in the exhibition room, collaboratively performed by writer Yuju Wen, musician Yutaka Ito, and exhibiting artist AKI INOMATA.

Date: September 15th (Sun.) 14:00 – 14:30

Location: Towada Art Center Exhibition Space / Admission: Free *Exhibition ticket required

■ AKI INOMATA Artist Catalogue Publication Talk & Book Signing

A talk event with AKI INOMATA and exhibition curator Kodama Kanazawa will take place to commemorate the publication of INOMATA’s artist catalogue that features the works presented in the exhibition.

Date: October 26th (Sat.) 15:00 – 16:00

Location: Towada Art Center Citizen Activity Space

Admission: Free ※Exhibition ticket required

AKI INOMATA Artist Catalogue
 “AKI INOMATA: Significant Otherness” (tentative title)
 Scheduled for publication by Bijustu Shuppan-sha in late-October 2019
 ※The catalogue will be available to purchase at Towada Art Center, select book stores, and online.

■ Other Events

A talk event by AKI INOMATA is organized to take place on October 28th (Mon.) from 19:00 at GINZA TSUTAYA BOOKS. For further details, please refer to GINZA TSUTAYA BOOKS’ official website (<http://store.tsite.jp/ginza/event/>).

【 About the Exhibition 】

Title :	<i>AKI INOMATA: Significant Otherness</i>
Date :	Saturday 14 September 2019 – Monday 13 January 2020
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 *Closed December 28, 2019 through January 1, 2020 for year-end holidays
Location :	Towada Art Center
Admission :	Exhibition + Permanent Collection: 1,200 yen, Exhibition only: 800 yen 100 yen/ticket discount for groups of 20 or more, High school students and younger: Free
Organized by :	Towada Art Center
Also Sponsored by :	Shimadzu Corporation
Special Support From :	MAHO KUBOTA GALLERY
In Cooperation With :	AQUARIUM ASAMUSHI, TRNK exhibition preparation, Matsumoto Chaho
Endorsed by :	To-o Nippo Press, The Daily-Tohoku Shimbun Inc., Aomori Broadcasting Cooperation, Aomori Television Broadcasting Co., Ltd., Asahi Broadcasting Aomori Co., Ltd., & Towada City Board of Education
Curator :	Kodama Kanazawa
Assistant Curator :	Sayaka Mitome



Towada Art Center

The Towada Art Center opened in 2008 as the first contemporary art museum in Japan’s Tohoku region. The museum’s permanent exhibition is comprised of 38 works by world-class artists, including Yayoi Kusama, Yoshitomo Nara, and Ron Mueck. The collection expands beyond the museum to the Art Square, a park-like area where children and adults alike can stroll, relax, and interact with the outdoor artwork.

10-9 Nishi-Nibancho, Towada, Aomori 034-0082 Japan

TEL:+81(0)176-20-1127 FAX:+81(0)176-20-1138 www.towadaartcenter.com

Contact Us



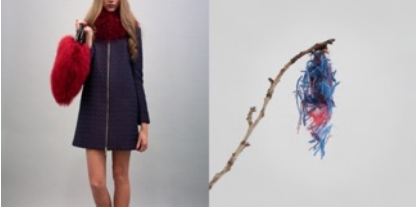



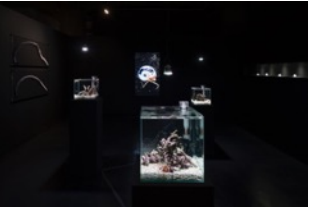

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【 Promotional Artwork 】

Please check the box for the number of the desired image and send this request form in by fax or email.

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<p><input type="checkbox"/> Fig. 1</p>  <p><i>Why Not Hand Over a "Shelter" to Hermit Crabs? -White Chapel-, 2014-2015 *Reference image</i> ©AKI INOMATA / Courtesy of MAHO KUBOTA GALLERY</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Fig. 2</p>  <p><i>Why Not Hand Over a "Shelter" to Hermit Crabs? -White Chapel-, 2014-2015 *Reference image</i> ©AKI INOMATA / Courtesy of MAHO KUBOTA GALLERY</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Fig. 3</p>  <p><i>girl, girl, girl, , , 2012 *Reference image</i> ©AKI INOMATA / Courtesy of MAHO KUBOTA GALLERY</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Fig. 4</p>  <p><i>girl, girl, girl, , , 2012 *Reference image</i> ©AKI INOMATA / Courtesy of MAHO KUBOTA GALLERY</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Fig. 5</p>  <p><i>Think Evolution #1 : Kiku-ishi(Ammonite) 2016-17</i> ©AKI INOMATA / Courtesy of MAHO KUBOTA GALLERY</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Fig. 6</p>  <p><i>Lines—Listening to the Growth Lines of Shellfish ver. 3.0, 2018</i> (Top) Asari clam sampled at Matsukawa-ura in Soma, Fukushima on July 17th, 2015 (Bottom) Asari clam sampled at Matsukawa-ura in Soma, Fukushima on July 3rd, 2011 Photo: Ken Kato ©AKI INOMATA / Courtesy of MAHO KUBOTA GALLERY</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Fig. 7</p>  <p>Installation view from <i>Asian Art Award 2018 supported by Warehouse TERRADA</i>, Warehouse TERRADA, Tokyo, 2018 Photo: Ken Kato *Reference image ©AKI INOMATA / Courtesy of MAHO KUBOTA GALLERY</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Fig. 8</p>  <p>AKI INOMATA, Photo by Kenshu Shitsubo</p>	

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