

**First-Ever Update to Towada Art Center Permanent Collection Includes
Expansion of Exhibition Space and Display of Loaned Work**

Arts Towada 10th Anniversary Project

Update & Expansion of Towada Art Center Permanent Collection

New Works by SHIOTA Chiharu & NAWA Kohei on Display Starting Thursday, April 1, 2021

New Work by Leandro ERLICH Scheduled for Display Starting December 2021



SHIOTA Chiharu, *Uncertain Journey*, 2017
Installation: wooden boats, red wool
Mu.ZEE, Oostende, Belgium, Photo by Nele Thorrez
©JASPAR, Tokyo, 2021 and Shiota Chiharu
group show: The Raft-Art is (not) Lonely
*Reference Work



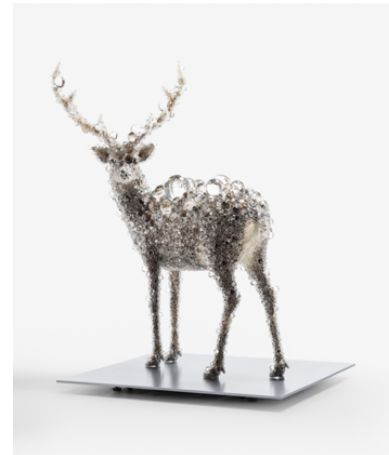
Leandro ERLICH, *Shikumen*
2013, Shanghai International Art Festival, Shanghai, China
© Leandro Erlich Studio
*Reference Work

The Towada Art Center is pleased to announce the first-ever update to its permanent collection, which will include an expansion of the exhibition space and display of a newly loaned work.

The art center and its permanent collection first opened in 2008, and 2010 saw the completion of the Arts Towada project with artworks added to a new outdoor Art Square. As contemporary art continues to evolve with time, we believe it is important for our permanent collection to reflect these changes. As such, the Towada Art Center will be introducing three new works in 2021.

New to the permanent collection as of Thursday, April 1, 2021, is a work by Shiota Chiharu, a Japanese artist living in Germany, who will present a new work inspired by Towada. This is a new work in her signature series of boats and tangled thread, which has been shown at art festivals and exhibitions across the world. In December, we will unveil a work by Argentine artist Leandro Erlich inside a new exhibition space. We will also be introducing a new system for loaned works, which includes exhibiting a work by Kyoto-based artist Nawa Kohei in a new space at the art center starting Thursday, April 1.

2021 will be a year of renewal for the art center as we evolve with these rapidly changing times.



NAWA Kohei, *PixCell-Deer#52*
2018, mixed media
h.2173 w.1896 d.1500 mm
Photo: Nobutada OMOTE | Sandwich
Courtesy of SCAI THE BATHHOUSE

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Permanent Collection

On display starting April 1, 2021 (Thursday): SHIOTA Chiharu *Title TBD

Scheduled for display starting December 2021: Leandro ERLICH, *Edificio — Buenos Aires*

Loaned Works

Scheduled for display from Thursday, April 1, 2021, to September 2023: NAWA Kohei, *PixCell-Deer#52*

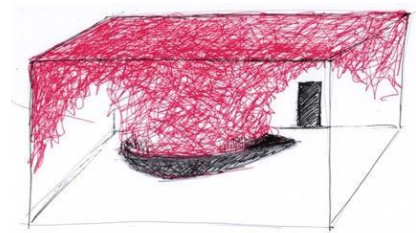
*With this new work on display, Kim Changkyum's *memory in the mirror* will be removed from the exhibition space and will remain in storage until it can be exhibited again.

Permanent Collection

On Display Starting Thursday, April 1, 2021

SHIOTA Chiharu *Title TBD

Shiota has created a new work especially for the Towada Art Center's permanent collection, finding her inspiration in Lake Towada. Lake Towada is said to have been formed through volcanic activity some 220,000 years ago. The city of Towada has had a longstanding relationship with water, founded after reclaiming land by digging irrigation channels that brought water from Lake Towada. Shiota's work will weave red threads to dock a boat floating in a space where time and memory continue to flow. Part of the installation will feature a boat from Lake Towada. This boat is in line with a theme that runs through Shiota's work: What is existence and what does it mean to be alive? What are we searching for, and where are we headed? The red thread that Shiota uses is a symbol of the microcosm of blood and blood vessels that circulate within the body. It also represents the thread that binds us to one another. In some areas, the threads can be taut or tangled, yet their entanglement can indicate that these relationships continue unbroken.



SHIOTA Chiharu, *Sketch for a new work*

SHIOTA Chiharu



SHIOTA Chiharu
Berlin, 2020, Photo by Sunhi Mang

Born in Osaka in 1972. Lives and works in Berlin. Confronting fundamental human concerns such as life, death, and relationships, Shiota explores human existence throughout various dimensions by creating an existence in the absence either in her large-scale thread installations that include a variety of common objects and external memorabilia or through her drawings, sculptures, photography, and videos. In 2008, she received the Art Encouragement Prize from the Japanese Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. In 2015, Shiota was selected to represent Japan at the 56th Venice Biennale. In 2019, her most comprehensive solo exhibition, "The Soul Trembles" was shown at the Mori Art Museum. Other solo exhibitions throughout the world include Art Gallery of South Australia (2018); Yorkshire Sculpture Park, UK (2018); the Museum of Art, Kochi (2013); the National Museum of Art, Osaka (2008) among others. Her work has also been included in numerous international group exhibitions.

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On Display Starting December 2021

Leandro ERLICH, *Edificio* – Buenos Aires

Artist Leandro Erlich is known for his monumental and interactive installations, and in a world-first, his acclaimed work *Bâtiment* will be added to the Towada Art Center's permanent collection. For this new installation, Erlich has chosen to use the façade of familiar architecture from his native Buenos Aires, Argentina. The piece allows visitors to view themselves in a gravity-defying illusion using a large mirror as they scale the face of the building. Though simple *in mechanics*, the effect of seeing yourself in such an impossible scene is sure to bewilder and delight those who see it for the first time. While the installation invites visitors to physically interact with the mirror, it also creates diverse perspectives across the artwork, both for those who choose to pose as well as those who observe the entirety of the place from a distance.



Leandro ERLICH, *Bâtiment*
2004, Nuit Blanche, Paris, France
© Leandro Erlich Studio
*Reference Work

Leandro ERLICH



Leandro ERLICH
© guyot

Born in Argentina in 1973. Lives and works in Buenos Aires (Argentina) and Montevideo (Uruguay). As a conceptual artist, his work explores the perceptual bases of reality and our capacity to interrogate these same foundations through a visual framework. The architecture of the everyday is a recurring theme in Erlich's art, aimed at creating a dialogue between what we believe and what we see, just as he seeks to close the distance between the museum or gallery space and daily experience. The celebrated installation *Bâtiment* (Nuit Blanche, Paris, France, 2004) has been reproduced in countries across the globe (France, UK, Australia, Japan, Argentina, Ukraine, Austria). Recent solo exhibitions include "Seeing and Believing" (Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, 2017), "Liminal" (Museo de Arte Latinoamericano de Buenos Aires, 2019) and "The Confines of The Great Void" (CAFA Art Museum, Beijing, China, 2019).

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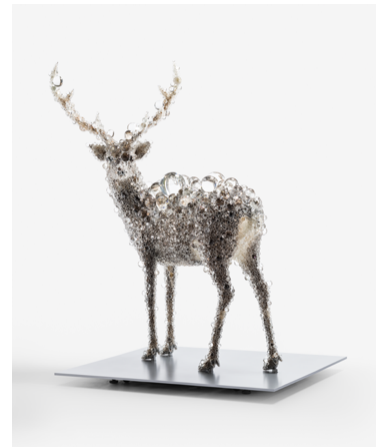
Loaned Works

A warehouse at the Towada Art Center will be converted into a new exhibition space for displaying loaned works. This will be the first long-term exhibition of a loaned work at the art center.

*A “loaned work” refers to the process by which the owner of a work of art retains ownership while it is exhibited or stored at a museum.

On Display Starting Thursday, April 1, 2021, through September 2023 NAWA Kohei, *PixCell-Deer#52*

The Towada Art Center has been loaned *PixCell-Deer #52* from Nawa Kohei’s signature PixCell series, which will be on exhibition for a limited time. PixCell is a series of sculptures in which transparent spheres cover the surface of stuffed animals, musical instruments, and other objects that Nawa has acquired over the internet. The objects that we see on the Internet are seen through the “cells” of the screens in our computers and mobile devices. The PixCell series expresses the current state of our global information society. Covered in cells, these different objects are brought together by a single texture. And due to the lens-like effect of the cells, the surface of the objects is magnified and distorted. The objects themselves can then only be seen through the cells and can no longer be the subject of visual and tactile perception.



NAWA Kohei, *PixCell-Deer#52*
2018, mixed media
h.2173 w.1896 d.1500 mm
Photo: Nobutada OMOTE | Sandwich
Courtesy of SCAI THE BATHHOUSE

NAWA Kohei



NAWA Kohei

Sculptor / Director of Sandwich Inc. / Professor at Kyoto University of the Arts
Born in 1975. Based in Kyoto, Japan. Nawa Kohei received a PhD in Fine Art / Sculpture from Kyoto City University of Arts in 2003 and established Sandwich in 2009. Focusing on the surface “skin” of sculpture as an interface connecting to the senses, Nawa began his PixCell series in 2002 based on the concept of the cell, symbolizing the information age. Adopting a flexible interpretation of the meaning of sculpture, he produces perceptual experiences that reveal the physical properties of materials to the viewer through works addressing themes related to life and the cosmos and to artistic sensibility and technology. These include *Direction*, in which he produces paintings using gravity; *Force*, in which silicone oil pours down through space; *Biomatrix*, in which bubbles and grids emerge on a liquid surface; and *Foam*, in which bubbles form enormous volumes. Recently, Nawa has also worked on architectural projects, including the art pavilion *Kohte. VESSEL*, a performance work produced in conjunction with Belgo-French choreographer and dancer Damian Jalet, has been presented around the world since its premiere in 2015. In 2018, his sculpture *Throne* was exhibited under the Pyramid at the Musée du Louvre in Paris, France.

Related Events

Please note that the content of the event may change due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. For the latest information, please check the art center’s website.

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Commemorative Gallery Talk by SHIOTA Chiharu

Date Saturday, March 20, 2021, 15:00 – 16:00

Location Towada Art Center, Permanent Exhibition Space, Cafe and Rest Space

Admission Free with permanent collection ticket

Capacity 10 people (Reservations take priority) *Video of the talk will be made available online.

Language Japanese

What is Arts Towada?

Towada City has been promoting the Arts Towada initiative to beautify its main thoroughfare of Kanchogai Avenue as part of its urban planning for the future. This, in effect, transforms Kanchogai Avenue into an open-air museum with a variety of artworks adorning the entirety of the avenue. The boldness of such a project is rare even when considered on a global scale. Towada strives to be a city of the arts, one that inspires creativity in visitors and residents alike. The city's strong art scene, rich history, and natural beauty all work to intensify the local vitality of the area. At the heart of the Arts Towada initiative is the Towada Art Center, which opened its doors in 2008. The art center was followed by the Art Square, an outdoor space located across from the art center and filled with iconic outdoor artworks completed in the spring of 2010.

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 includes works by world-class artists, including Kusama Yayoi, Nara Yoshitomo, 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.



Towada Art Center

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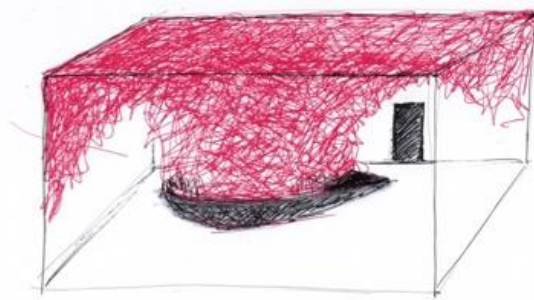
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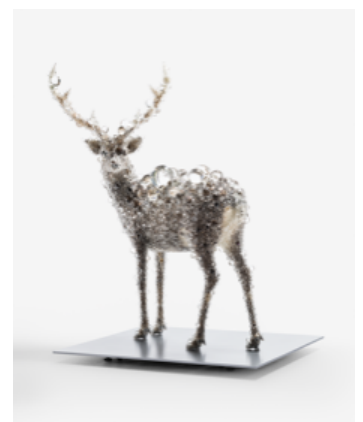
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