

New animated works by Towada's own Mizushiri Yoriko and lacquer sculptures by Aoki Chie

Arts Towada 10th Anniversary Exhibition: Inter+Play

Season3: January 22 – May 29, 2022

Towada Art Center



AOKI Chie, *BODY18-2*, 2018 Photo by Ikeda Hiraku

“Inter+Play” is the Towada Art Center’s ongoing three-part exhibition to celebrate the tenth anniversary of Arts Towada, a city-wide initiative to promote art throughout the city of Towada and along its main thoroughfare of Kanchogai Avenue. The third and final season (January 22 - May 29, 2022) will feature the works of Towada-born filmmaker Mizushiri Yoriko and lacquer sculptor Aoki Chie.

Mizushiri’s animations convey tactile and painful sensations, visually evoking a sense of touch. Sound design for the exhibition will be handled by musician Yuka C. Honda, who has created new music especially for Towada. Meanwhile, Aoki Chie’s lacquer sculptures take shape as amorphous human forms that have plumbed the depths of our inner emotions and externalized them. The layers of lacquer that envelop these bodies all possess a penetrating depth that draws the viewer into the work. Aoki’s exhibition will feature a mix of both new and old works.

The third season of “Inter+Play” will focus on video and sculpture works that blur the border between the internal and external to create a shared experience with others. The theme of the exhibition, which began as a reflection on the “interplay” between museum and city, people and nature, will now expand to include the realm of physical sensation.

Part of Tomas Saraceno's season two exhibition, as well as works by Suzuki Yasuhiro and art collective mé, will remain on display through the end of the exhibition. A performance by Problem Behaviour Trio is also scheduled during the exhibition.

- **Season 3 Artists:** MIZUSHIRI Yoriko, AOKI Chie, Tomás SARACENO
- **Year-long Exhibits:** SUZUKI Yasuhiro [exhibited in front of the Towada Art Center], 目 [mé] [exhibited in the city of Towada]
- **Performance:** Problem Behaviour Trio (NOMURA Makoto, SAKUMA Shin, JAREO Osamu)

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Exhibition Highlights

Japan premiere of a new animated work by Towada-born filmmaker Mizushiri Yoriko, which was selected to be screened during the Directors' Fortnight at the 74th Cannes International Film Festival in 2021

Filmmaker Mizushiri Yoriko's animated works are characterized by light colors and soft hand-drawn lines. In *Anxious Body*, which is being shown in Japan for the first time, Mizushiri creates textural images of familiar objects that evoke memories in the viewer, resulting in an animation that synchronizes with the viewer before eroding away. Yuka C. Honda's accompanying sound design synchronizes with the on-screen movements and aurally depicts their textures, heightening the viewer's sensory perceptions.

A mix of old and new works from lacquer sculptor Aoki Chie's signature BODY series

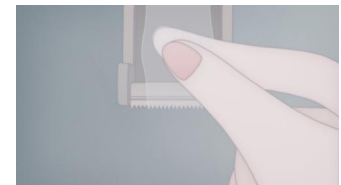
Sculptor Aoki Chie first encountered lacquer while studying at Kanazawa College of Art, where she says she was drawn to the depth of its gloss and experienced how the vitality of this natural material can be used for creative expression. Using the dry *kanshitsu* lacquer technique, Aoki creates new forms of expression to explore themes such as the relationship between the self and the other, the inner (spirit) and the outer (body). On display here are *BODY17-1*, *BODY18-2*, and *BODY21-3*, a new work created especially for Towada, all of which express the fusion and collision of body and spirit, expanding the viewer's physical senses.

Season 3 Exhibiting Artists



MIZUSHIRI Yoriko

Video artist. Born in Towada, Japan, in 1984. Mizushiri Yoriko's works often feature tactile animations of familiar objects and parts of the human body. Her work has been screened at film festivals around the world, including the Berlin Short Film Festival, and she is the recipient of numerous awards including the Japan Media Arts Festival Animation Division New Face Award. Mizushiri's film *Anxious Body* was selected to be screened during the Directors' Fortnight at the 74th Cannes International Film Festival and will be on display throughout the exhibition. The film also received the Best Non-Narrative award at the 45th Ottawa International Animation Film Festival. Mizushiri's films continue to have success at international film festivals, garnering awards that include Best Sound at the Fantoche International Animation Film Festival. *Anxious Body* is an international co-production of Miyu Productions (France) and New Deer (Japan).



MIZUSHIRI Yoriko, *Anxious Body*
©MIYU Productions, New Deer, Yoriko Mizushiri



AOKI Chie

Sculptor. Born in Gifu Prefecture in 1981, Aoki Chie holds a doctoral degree from the Kanazawa College of Art, where she currently serves as a college professor. Driven by a desire to create out of an interest in Japanese lacquer, Aoki was drawn to the depth of its gloss and began to produce lacquer works that center on themes of human existence. Her works pursue a unique expression that fuses the human body with other abstract forms. Her past exhibitions include "The Human Form and Sculpture" (Shizuoka City Museum of Art, Shizuoka, 2014) and "Hard Bodies: Contemporary Japanese Lacquer Sculpture" (Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minneapolis, 2017), among many others both at home in Japan and abroad. In 2019, Aoki received the Merit Award at the 2019 KOGEI World Competition in Kanazawa.



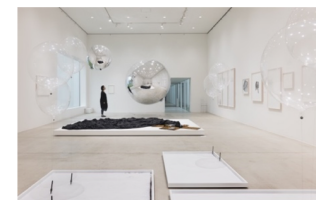
AOKI Chie, *BODY 21-3*, 2021
Photo by Imamura Yuji
Image Courtesy of Soko Gallery



© Alfred Weidinger, 2015

Tomás SARACENO

Born 1973 in Tucuman, Argentina; lives and works in Berlin. Tomás Saraceno's practice is informed by the concepts linking art, life science, and the social sciences. Enmeshed at the junction of these worlds, his floating sculptures, community projects, and interactive installations propose and explore new, sustainable ways of inhabiting and sensing the environment. Saraceno has most recently exhibited at Palazzo Strozzi in Florence for *Aria* (Italy, 2020), the 58th Venice Biennale as part of "May You Live In Interesting Times" (Italy, 2019), and the Palais de Tokyo in Paris for his *Carte Blanche* exhibition "ON AIR" (France, 2018).



"Arts Towada 10th Anniversary Exhibition: Inter+Play Season 2" Exhibition Interior, 2021
Photo: Oyamada Kuniya

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Exhibition-long Exhibiting Artists



SUZUKI Yasuhiro

Artist. Born 1979 in Shizuoka. Suzuki Yasuhiro's works add new dimensions to familiar objects as he continually asks questions about how we see things and how we perceive the world. He has held solo exhibitions at the Art Tower Mito, Contemporary Art Gallery (2014), and the Hakone Open Air Museum (Shinagawa, 2017). He garnered attention for his Zipper Boat, which debuted at the 2010 Setouchi Triennale when it was displayed on Tokyo's Sumida River in 2018. His work was exhibited at the fourth Moscow Biennale of Contemporary Art in 2011, and in 2016, he represented Japan at the inaugural London Design Biennale. In 2014, he received the Mainichi Design Award. Suzuki is a professor at Musashino Art University and also works in the Research Center for Advanced Science and Technology at the University of Tokyo.



SUZUKI Yasuhiro, *Quantum Apples*, 2020
"Arts Towada 10th Anniversary Exhibition:
Inter+Play" Exhibition Interior
Photo: Oyamada Kuniya



目 [mé]

Art collective founded in 2013. Mé is comprised of artist Haruka Kojin, director Kenji Minamigawa, and production manager Hirofumi Masui. They value teamwork that utilizes the individual strengths of each member, which allows them to develop works that attract us to the endless uncertainty of the real world, placing an emphasis on exhibition spaces and the role of the visitor, regardless of any specific genre or methodology. Their major works include *Unreliable Reality – The Where of This World* (2014, Shiseido Gallery, Tokyo) and *Elemental Detection* (2016, Saitama Triennale).



目 [mé], *space*, 2020
"Arts Towada 10th Anniversary Exhibition:
Inter+Play" Exhibition Interior
Photo: Oyamada Kuniya

Performances

Problem Behaviour Trio (Nomura Makoto, Sakuma Shin, Jareo Osamu)

Behaviour Problem Trio was formed in 2018 when two of Nomura Makoto's acquaintances, Sakuma Shin and Jareo Osamu, visited a large welfare facility for people with disabilities in Hong Kong where he was working as an artist in residence. In 2019, they held *Nomura, Jareo & Sakuma's Behaviour Problem Show: Practice Pieces for Becoming an Outsider* at the Toyonaka Performing Arts Center in Osaka.



NOMURA Makoto

Composer and pianist. Born 1968 in Nagoya. Nomura Makoto's solo exhibitions include *Organic Vegetable* (Art Space Niji, Kyoto), and he has participated in a number of group exhibitions, including "Textures" (Aomori Contemporary Art Centre, Aomori), "Archway Sound Symposium" (Five Years Gallery, London), "Makoto Nomura's Music Room" (Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art, Hiroshima), and "Notations 21" (Jeanie Tengelsen Gallery, New York). He currently serves as director of community programs for the Japan Century Symphony Orchestra.



SAKUMA Shin

Traditional Javanese Dancer. Born 1968 in Osaka. Sakuma Shin has been involved in projects that promote collaboration, improvisation, and communication. These include *Body Talk*, a clinical philosophy project initiated by Osaka University, and *Hiru no Dance*, a new kind of dance between dance and people with disabilities created together with Tanpopo-no-ye in Nara. He is also the co-author of *Social Art: How Art and People with Disabilities Can Change Society* (Sôsharu âto: shôgai no aru hito to âto de shakai o kaeru) (Bungeisha Co., Ltd.).



JAREO Osamu

Choreographer and dancer. Born 1965 in Osaka. In 1991, Jareo Osamu formed a dance unit with Misako Terada. But in recent years, he has focused on solo work as well as projects for people with disabilities, the elderly, and displaced persons, working to develop a practice that connects art with society. In 2016, he published his first book, *Dancing in the Nursing Home: Choreography, Care, and the Birth of Totsu Dance* (*Rojin Home de Umareta "Totsu Totsu Dance" – Dance no Youna, Kaigo no Youna*) (Shobunsha). Jareo serves as a specially appointed professor in the Department of Body Expression and Cinematic Arts at Rikkyo University.

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Event Artist Talk: Mizushiri Yoriko & Aoki Chie

Date: Saturday, January 22, 2022

Time: 13:00 – 14:00 / Location: Towada Art Center Exhibition Space / Admission: Free with exhibition ticket

Guests: Aoki Chie, Mizushiri Yoriko

Performance Behaviour Problem Trio

During their Season 2 performances, the trio took to the streets to interact with the people of Towada. For Season 3, the trio will interact with the exhibition artwork, this time against a snowy backdrop. On February 6, the trio will present a new performance featuring Sakuma and Jareo dancing to music Nomura created in 2019 during his tour of the many different pianos in Towada as they attempt to create presence in absence.

Dates: February 5, and February 6, 2022 / Time: 14:00 – 15:00

Location: 2/5 Towada Art Center, 2/6 Towada Civic Cultural Center

Admission: Free with exhibition ticket

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

Please note that the schedule and content of the event may change due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.



Behavior Problem Trio, *Sanbongi Stroll*, 2021, "Arts Towada 10th Anniversary Exhibition: Inter+Play"
Photo: Oyamada Kuniya

About the Exhibition

Title	Arts Towada 10th Anniversary Exhibition: Inter+Play Season 3
Date	January 22 – May 29, 2022
Hours	9:00–17:00 (Last admission 16:30) *Please check the website for the latest information.
Closed	Mondays Except for National Holidays, in which case the museum will close the next day.
Location	Towada Art Center
Admission	800 yen 100 yen/ticket discount for groups of 20 or more High school students and younger: Free
Organized by	Towada Art Center
Endorsed by	Embassy of the Argentine Republic, The 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
Curators	Kanazawa Kodama, Washida Meruro
Assistant Curators	Mitome Sayaka, Nakagawa Chieko, Satomura Mari, Toyama Aruma



What is Arts Towada?

Towada City has been promoting the Arts Towada initiative to help 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 center 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, which was completed in the spring of 2010.

Towada Art Center

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

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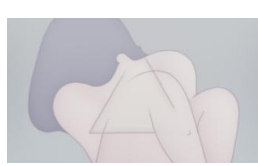
□Fig. 1



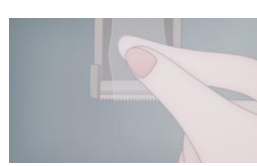
□Fig. 2



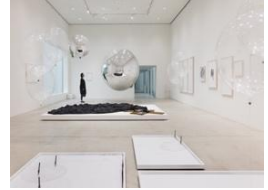
□Fig. 3



□Fig. 4



□Fig. 5



□Fig. 6



□Fig. 7



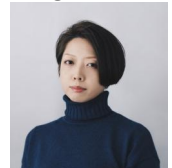
□Fig. 8



□Fig. 9



□Fig. 10



□Fig. 11



□Fig. 12



□Fig. 13



□Fig. 14



□Fig. 15



□Fig. 16



□Fig. 17



□Fig. 18



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