

Taninaka Yuske: Choose Grief

December 7, 2024–March 23, 2025



First Solo Museum Exhibition of Interdisciplinary Taninaka Yuske's Interdisciplinary Sculpture and Performance Practice

Towada Art Center is pleased to present *Choose Grief*, a solo exhibition by the artist Taninaka Yuske, from December 7, 2024, to March 23, 2025.

Hailing from Kansai and based in Berlin, Taninaka Yuske's interdisciplinary sculpture, dance, and performance practice treats the human body not as something independent but as an entity influenced by its surroundings, exploring the emergent body's relationships with the environment and other people.

For his first solo exhibition at an art museum, Taninaka presents new installations, sculptures, video installations, and performances, reflecting on the inherent fragility of the body in terms of aging, illness, injury, and disability as well as our desires and fleeting hopes encompassed within the always-evolving medical technology that aspires to conquer that fragility, and, conversely, a mode of living that embraces it, that acknowledges that things do not always go as we want.

The exhibition title connotes an inquiry into our ability to live in a way that engages with the loss of our bodily functions over time due to the unavoidable: injury, illness, aging, and death. When complete treatment or recovery is elusive, we must compromise with the constantly changing reality of our lives. Whether in good or bad health, we are all prisoners of our uncertain and unstable bodies, a condition that this exhibition re-examines.

Contact

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Arts Towada

Exhibition Highlights

Installation version of the performance *Gallop*, unstaged in Japan

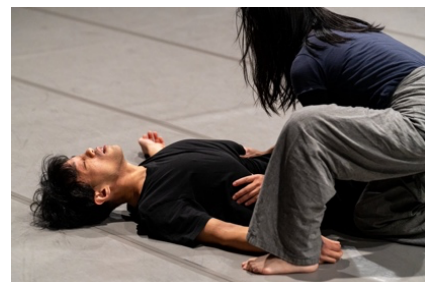
First performed in Berlin in 2022, *Gallop* is here recreated as a sculpture installation. *Gallop* was conceived by Taninaka Yusuke in the wake of an accident that happened to his younger brother. To what extent can he join his brother in “mourning” the physical abilities and future possibilities his sibling had lost? *Gallop* emerged from that process of reflection. At the start of the exhibition, Taninaka will stage a performance in the installation.



Gallop, 2022
90min, Dance
Photo: Urska Boljkovac
Reference image

Screening of the performance *Air Crip*

In 2023, Taninaka created a performance called *Air Crip* with Tomomi Yokoo and Yamamoto Sophie Yurika, exploring how air carrying sound acts on the bodies of a deaf and hearing person, and how those with and without hearing impairments are able to communicate through air. The exhibition includes a screening of the filmed version of the performance with closed captions, and which is shown with the objects that appear in the performance.



Air Crip, 2023
60min, Dance
Photo: Matsumi Takuya
Reference image

New sculpture based on research on regenerative medicine

Beginning with research on regenerative medicine, a cutting-edge field that grows stem cells to replace human tissue and organs, Taninaka eventually focused on an area of genetics and biology that studies the body at a molecular and cellular level through the lens of embryology. He combined metal parts based on medical equipment as well as corroded bronze and large lumps of organic glass evocative of internal organs, exploring through sculpture the contemporary nature of human physicality, whose life is made possible by medical support.

Artist Statement

Lots of things happen over the course of life and so it has come to pass that I am holding this exhibition at Towada Art Center. I am delighted to have this opportunity. Holding a solo show at an art museum has been a dream I've cherished ever since I was in art college, or a teenager with aspirations to become an artist, perhaps even all the way back to my childhood, when the six-year-old me first decided to become a painter. I eventually gave up on becoming a painter and instead aspired to be a sculptor. Over the course of this, I came into contact with the medium of performance and started creating dance. In *Choose Grief*, I plan to present three recent projects.

My interest in the body has appeared at many times and in various ways in my practice. As a child, I had a complex about my physical frailty, and I think my interest in the body stems from a desire to overcome that. Seeking out a body that is strong and sturdy felt less and less real over time, and so my interests have instead recently shifted toward finding potential in physical fragility. I hope you will find that frailty and uncertainty within the body as you view my works in *Choose Grief*.

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Taninaka Yuske

Photo: Maetani Kai

Born in Osaka Prefecture in 1988, in 2012, he graduated with a degree in sculpture from the Faculty of Fine Arts at the Kyoto City University of Arts. He received a Ph.D. in sculpture from the university's Graduate School of Arts in 2014. Taninaka Yuske is based in Berlin. With a focus on sculpture and dance, his interdisciplinary practice straddles both exhibitions and performances. Major recent performances include *Deception of Air* (Kyoto Art Center, 2023) and *Gallop* (Uferstudios, Berlin, 2022; CoFestival 2022, Ljubljana). Major group exhibitions include *DOMANI: The Art of Tomorrow Exhibition 2022–23* (National Art Center, Tokyo, 2022) and *Celebration: Japanese-Polish Contemporary Art Exhibition* (Kyoto Art Center; Dom Książki, Poznań, Poland, 2019, etc.).

Public Programs**Live Performance: *Gallop***

Dates: December 7, 8, 2024 / Time: 16:00–16:30

Location: Towada Art Center – Special Exhibition Room

Admission: Free *Ticket for the exhibition is required.

Curator Gallery Talk with Taninaka Yuske

Date: December 8, 2024 / Time: 14:00–15:00

Location: Towada Art Center – Special Exhibition Room

Admission: Free *Ticket for the exhibition is required.

Curator Gallery Talk with Sign Language

Date: January 19, 2025 / Time: 14:00–15:00

Location: Towada Art Center – Special Exhibition Room

Admission: Free *Ticket for the exhibition is required.

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

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About the Exhibition

Title	<i>Taninaka Yuske: Choose Grief</i>
Dates	December 7, 2024–March 23, 2025
Hours	9:00–17:00 (last admission 16:30)
Closed	Mondays (except for holidays, in which case closed the following day) December 23, 2024–January 1, 2025 / January 20–24, 2025
Admission	1,800 yen 200 yen discount for groups of 20 or more Under 18: free
Location	Towada Art Center
Organized by	Towada Art Center
Sponsored by	MELCO Group Inc.
Supported by	Nomura Foundation
In Cooperation with	Ichisawa Concrete, Nakanoshima Museum of Art, Osaka
Endorsed by	Asahi Broadcasting Aomori Co., Ltd., Aomori Broadcasting Corporation, Aomori Television Broadcasting Co., Ltd., Aomori Fm Broadcasting, The Daily-Tohoku Shimbun Inc., The To-o Nippo Press, and Towada City Board of Education
Curator	Toyama Aruma

Towada Art Center

The Towada Art Center opened in 2008 as the first contemporary art center in Japan's Tohoku region. Its permanent exhibition comprises thirty-eight works by world-class artists, including Kusama Yayoi, Nara Yoshitomo, Shiota Chiharu, 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 artworks.

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Towada Art Center Communications: Otani Sae



Main visual



Gallop, 2022
90min, Dance
Photo: Urska Boljkovac
Reference image



Air Crip, 2023
60min, Dance
Photo: Matsumi Takuya
Reference image



Pulp Physique #8, 2022
Photo: Otsuka Keita + Inaguchi Shunta
Reference image



Corpse of Whale, 2019
Photo: Koroda Takeru
Reference image



Taninaka Yusuke
Photo: Maetani Kai



Towada Art Center

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