

Winter 2025 Exhibition Announcement

Kineta Kunimatsu: Breathing in Ripples

December 13, 2025 – May 10, 2026



Photo by Kuniya Oyamada

First solo museum exhibition by Kineta Kunimatsu, a Hokkaido-based sculptor garnering attention across Japan, featuring new works crafted from Aomori beech trees native to the Oirase region of Towada

The Towada Art Center is pleased to present *Breathing in Ripples*, the first solo museum exhibition by Hokkaido-based sculptor Kineta Kunimatsu, from Saturday, December 13, 2025, to Sunday, May 10, 2026.

Since the early 2000s, Kunimatsu has been based at the Tobiu Art Community, which is housed in a former elementary school in Tobiu, inland from the town of Shiraoi in south-central Hokkaido. Inspired by trees and their unique shapes formed over many years in the rugged northern landscape, Kunimatsu creates sculptures, paintings, and installations that explore the contours and boundaries found in nature, including horizons, shorelines, mountains, and caves. His process involves carving and burning into the surfaces and interiors of wood, and engaging directly with minerals, snow, and other natural materials, resulting in works that embody a singular, fleeting dialogue between artist and nature. At the Tobiu Art Community, Kunimatsu has also organized the annual Tobiu Art Festival since 2009, all while working to preserve the forest that surrounds the site. (This year's festival will be held from Saturday, September 6, to Sunday, September 14.) Since the mid-2010s, he has also conducted field research under the name Ayoro Laboratory while exploring the nearby Ayoro region.

This exhibition offers a rare opportunity not only to encounter Kunimatsu's most iconic works, but also to experience new creations born from his dialogue with the natural environment of Towada, presented here for the first time. It also highlights the breadth of his practice, from his involvement in the Tobiu Art Community and Ayoro Laboratory to the artistic lineage he shares with his father, sculptor Asuka Kunimatsu, and grandfather, painter Noboru Kunimatsu. Through this exhibition, visitors are invited to experience the breath of the works, the breath of Kunimatsu, the breath of the land, and the creative vitality that continues to ripple across time and space. Further exhibition details will be announced around October 2025.

Contact Information

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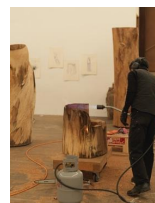
Kineta Kunimatsu



Photo by Yasuhito Sasajima

Born in Hokkaido in 1977. After graduating from the Department of Sculpture at Tama Art University, he has been based at the Tobiu Art Community in Shiraoi, Hokkaido since 2002. He also collaborates with Shinichi Tateishi (currently Chief Curator at the National Ainu Museum) on Ayoro Laboratory (2015–), and is a member of the artist collective THE SNOWFLAKES (2020–), formed at the Tobiu Art Community. Recent solo exhibitions include *TERRA* (t.gallery, Tokyo, 2024) and *Marking the Land* (Tobiu Art Community, Shiraoi, 2022). Group exhibitions include *ART for EXPO 2025* (Yumeshima, Osaka) and *Sapporo International Art Festival 2024* (Future Theater [Higashi 1-chome Theater], Sapporo). In 2024, he published *Breath in This Land* (Kyuryudo).

<https://kinetakunimatsu.com/>



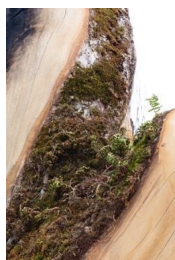
During production inside the artist's studio at Tobiu Art Community
Photo by Masahiro Yamamoto

Right two images: Scenes from the Tobiu Art Festival, held annually since 2009 at Tobiu Art Community, Kunimatsu's base of activity. This is a rare occasion when the forest and former school building are opened to the public, offering visitors the chance to view works created there. In 2025, the festival will be held from Saturday, September 6 to Sunday, September 14.

Organized by the Tobiu Art Community
<https://tobiu.com/> (Japanese)



Reference Works



Left two images: *WORMHOLE*, 2025, approx. 390 × 120 × 100 cm, wood (mizunara oak). On view at Osaka Expo 2025, Exhibited at Connecting Lives Zone, Pop-up Stage North, Sky Plaza. Photo by Koichiro Kutsuna



WORMHOLE, 2024, on view at Sapporo International Art Festival 2024. Photo by Tsubasa Fujikura



COSMOS, 2024, 90 × 90 cm, acrylic on panel / iron. Photo by Kai Takihara



ICE CAVE, 2024, 40.5 × 36.5 × 30 cm, chalk on wood (Cercidiphyllum japonicum). Photo by Kai Takihara



GLACIER MOUNTAIN, 2024, 17.5 × 60 × 29 cm, chalk and soil on wood (Japanese yew). Photo by Kineta Kunimatsu



At left: *HORIZON*, 2017, 80 × 180 cm, acrylic and charcoal on panel / iron. Photo by Kai Takihara

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About the Exhibition

Title	<i>Kineta Kunimatsu: Breathing in Ripples</i>
Dates	December 13, 2025 – May 10, 2026
Hours	9:00 – 17:00 (Last admission 30 minutes before closing)
Closed	Mondays* (except for National Holidays, in which case the Center is open on the holiday and closed the following Tuesday)
Location	Towada Art Center
Admission	1,800 yen (Under 18: Free)
Organized by	Towada Art Center
Curator	Yukiko Shikata

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 comprises 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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Towada Art Center Communications: Ms. Otani

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Aomori beech tree from the Oirase area of Towada
Photo by Kuniya Oyamada

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(2) (3) *WORMHOLE*, 2025, approx. 390 × 120 × 100 cm, wood (mizunara oak)
On display at Osaka Expo 2025
Exhibited at Connecting Lives Zone, Pop-up Stage North, Sky Plaza
Photo by Koichiro Kutsuna

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WORMHOLE, 2024, on view at Sapporo International Art Festival 2024
Photo by Tsubasa Fujikura

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COSMOS, 2024, 90 × 90 cm, acrylic on panel / iron
Photo by Kai Takihara

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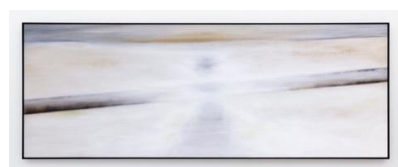
ICE CAVE, 2024, 40.5 × 36.5 × 30 cm, chalk on wood (*Cercidiphyllum japonicum*)
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Photo by Kineta Kunimatsu

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HORIZON, 2017, 80 × 180 cm, acrylic and charcoal on panel / iron
Photo by Kai Takihara

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Kineta Kunimatsu
Photo by Yasuhito Sasajima

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Towada Art Center

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