

Summer 2026 Exhibition Announcement

Tsubaki Noboru: FREEDOM *

June 6 — November 8, 2026
Towada Art Center



Design: Miyama Yu

A Solo Exhibition by Leading Japanese Contemporary Artist Tsubaki Noboru

The Towada Art Center is pleased to announce an exhibition of works by Tsubaki Noboru, one of Japan's foremost contemporary artists. The exhibition will run from June 6 to November 8, 2026.

In a career spanning around 40 years from the significant early work *Chameleon Eater* (1985), Tsubaki has continued to interrogate the realities of modern capitalist society through the modeling of giant, seemingly mutant life forms. Catapulted to the forefront of the contemporary art scene following a stunning international debut in 1989 with the massive yellow monster *FRESH GASOLINE*, in 2001, at the Yokohama Triennale, Japan's first major international art show, he attracted even wider attention with the giant inflatable sculpture *Insect World*, made in collaboration with Muroi Hisashi.

The mammoth crimson-red robotic ant *ATTA* (2008) installed outdoors at the Towada Art Center is the only rendition of this work on permanent display in the artist's home country, and makes a powerful impression on all who visit.

Showcasing works employing different techniques and formats, the exhibition will focus especially on the latest of the artist's giant life forms, unveiled for the first time here.

This first Japanese museum exhibition devoted exclusively to the work of Tsubaki Noboru in 14 years, and his first in the Tohoku region, promises to be a peerless survey of a multifaceted practice spanning more than four decades.

*Exhibition title and further details will be provided in a further release around March 2026.

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Tsubaki Noboru



© Tsubaki Noboru

Born 1953 in Kyoto, Japan. Tsubaki received his MFA from Kyoto City University of Arts. He shot to international acclaim with his large-scale sculpture *FRESH GASOLINE* at "Against Nature: Japanese Art in the Eighties" (San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, et al., 1989–91). His works were also featured in Aperto '93 at the 45th Venice Biennale (Italy, 1993), and he presented *Insect World* at Yokohama Triennale 2001 (Kanagawa, Japan). Among his solo exhibitions are "Noboru Tsubaki" (Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, US, 1992), "UN Boy" (Art Tower Mito, Ibaraki, Japan, 2003), "Noboru Tsubaki: 2004–2009 Gold Black White" (The National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto, 2009), and "Prehistoric PH" (Kirishima Open-Air Museum, Kagoshima, Japan, 2012). Tsubaki served as artistic director of the "Sakate Port and Hishio no Sato Project" for Setouchi Triennale 2013 (Kagawa, Japan), Aomori Triennale 2017, and Artists' Fair Kyoto (2018–).

<https://www.metapolice.net/>

aTTA is on display outdoors as part of the permanent collection of the Towada Art Center.

Related Works



aTTA
2008 Photo by Oyamada Kuniya



Chameleon Eater (Reference image)
1985 © Tsubaki Noboru



FRESH GASOLINE (Reference image)
1989 © Tsubaki Noboru



metapolice (Reference image)
1997 © Tsubaki Noboru



Insect World (Reference image)
2001 © Tsubaki Noboru



mammalian (Reference image)
2012 Photo by Kenryo Gu

About the Exhibition

Title	<i>Tsubaki Noboru: FREEDOM*</i>
Dates	June 6 – November 8, 2026
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)
Location	Towada Art Center
Admission	1,800 yen 200 yen discount for groups of 20 or more Under 18: free
Organized by	Towada Art Center
Endorsed by	Asahi Broadcasting Aomori Co., Ltd., Aomori Television Broadcasting Co., Ltd., Aomori Broadcasting Cooperation, FM Aomori, The Daily-Tohoku Shimbun Inc., The To-o Nippo Press & Towada City Board of Education
Curator	Nagao Eriko

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 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 artwork.

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Contact Us

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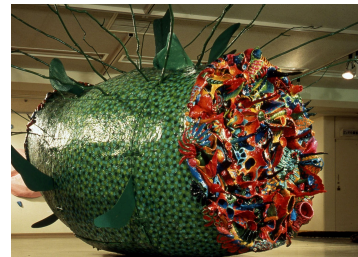
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aTTA
2008 Photo by Oyamada Kuniya

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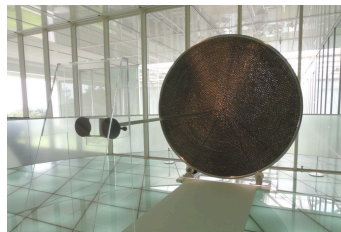
Chameleon Eater (Reference image)
1985 © Tsubaki Noboru

【4】



FRESH GASOLINE (Reference image)
1989 © Tsubaki Noboru

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metapolice (Reference image)
1997 © Tsubaki Noboru

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Insect World (Reference image)
2001 © Tsubaki Noboru

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mammalian (Reference image)
2012 Photo by Kenryo Gu

【8】



Portrait © Tsubaki Noboru

【9】



Towada Art Center Exterior