

For Immediate Release: August 25, 2026

Sakurada Yuriko, Mayor of Towada City
Shikata Yukiko, Director of the Towada Art Center

Towada Art Center Permanent Collection
Ron Mueck's *Standing Woman* to be Registered as a
Special Resident of Towada City
Invitation to the Special Certificate of Residence Presentation Ceremony

Thank you for your continued interest in and support for Towada City and the Towada Art Center.

Towada City will register Ron Mueck's *Standing Woman*, a work in the Towada Art Center's permanent collection, as a special resident of the city. The initiative is intended to raise the art center's profile across Japan, promote tourism, and revitalize the local community, while increasing resident engagement with art and culture.

A ceremony to present the Special Certificate of Residence will be held as detailed below. We would greatly appreciate your coverage and help in sharing news of the event.

1. **Date & Time:** Friday, September 11, 2026, 14:00–14:30
2. **Location:** *Standing Woman* permanent exhibition space inside the Towada Art Center
3. **Program:**
 - (1) Remarks by the Mayor of Towada City
 - (2) Remarks by the Director of the Towada Art Center
 - (3) Presentation of the Special Certificate of Residence

Please return the attached RSVP form to the Towada City Tourism Division **by Thursday, September 10.**

Inquiries and RSVP

Terada / Shimoda

Tourism Division, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Tourism, Towada City

Tel: 0176-51-6771 / Fax: 0176-22-9799 / E-mail: kanko@city.towada.lg.jp

Towada Art Center Permanent Collection

Ron Mueck's *Standing Woman* to be Registered as a Special Resident of Towada City

Towada City and the Towada Art Center will welcome Ron Mueck's *Standing Woman* (2007), a signature work in the art center's permanent collection, as a special resident of the city. To mark the occasion, a ceremony to present the Special Certificate of Residence will be held on Friday, September 11, 2026, in the artwork's permanent exhibition space.

Standing Woman has stood in Towada for 18 years, ever since the Towada Art Center opened in 2008, and has become a beloved symbol of the art center for local residents and visitors alike. This project is an invitation to see the sculpture in a new light: not simply as a work to look at, but as a member of the Towada community.

By welcoming the work as a resident, we hope to better share a culture unique to Towada, one in which art has taken root in the city and become part of people's

everyday lives over time. With the Towada Art Center set to celebrate its 20th anniversary in 2028, this project also marks one step on the journey toward that milestone.

At the ceremony, a congratulatory message from Ron Mueck will also be shared.

The art center also plans to distribute commemorative copies of the Special Certificate of Residence to visitors at future events and other occasions.



Ron Mueck, *Standing Woman*, 2007

Photo: Oyamada Kuniya
Courtesy Anthony d'Offay, London

■ Inquiries regarding the Special Certificate of Residence presentation ceremony

Tourism Division, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Tourism, Towada City (Terada / Shimoda)
TEL: 0176-51-6771 (direct) / kanko@city.towada.lg.jp

■ Inquiries regarding the work and the artist

Towada Art Center

TEL: 0176-20-1127 / media@towadaartcenter.com / www.towadaartcenter.com/en/

About the Artwork

Standing Woman, 2007 / Mixed media / 155 × 110 × 405 cm (W × D × H)

Mueck's elderly lady is recreated with vivid verisimilitude, from her wrinkled and sagging skin, to her translucent veins and individual strands of hair. The stark contrast of her unrealistic scale, at over four meters, only serves to highlight the oddness of her presence. The Australian artist is known for sculptures capturing glimpses of universal human vulnerability, often in the form of aging or loneliness. Facial expressions that seem at once stern and kind, depending on the angle, and quiet, contemplative poses, in which the figures seem to stare into thin air, encourage the viewer to empathize and imagine.

About the Artist

Ron Mueck

Born 1958 in Melbourne, Australia; lives and works in London, UK. After working in children's television, motion picture special effects and advertising for many years, Mueck attracted a great deal of attention for his tiny and uncanny realistic sculpture *Dead Dad*, which he made to come to terms with his father's death. He has had solo exhibitions at the National Gallery (London, 2003) and Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain (Paris, France, 2013), among many others, and his works are in the collections of numerous museums including the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (US) and Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth (US).

The exhibition *Ron Mueck* is currently on view at Mori Art Museum in Tokyo through Wednesday, September 23.

Video of Special Talk with Charlie Clarke Now Available

Charlie Clarke has assisted Ron Mueck for many years with the conception and installation of his works. On April 30, Clarke gave a special talk in the *Standing Woman* permanent exhibition space, sharing stories from the making and installation of *Standing Woman* and discussing Mueck's recent work. A video recording is now available on the Towada Art Center YouTube

channel. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqgi-S9hzU11GuEZ1gaipZw>

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 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.



10-9 Nishi-Nibancho, Towada, Aomori 034-0082 Tel: 0176-20-1127 / Fax: 0176-20-1138 www.towadaartcenter.com

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RSVP FORM

To: Tourism Division, Towada City

E-mail: kanko@city.towada.lg.jp / Fax: 0176-22-9799

Please reply by e-mail or fax by **Thursday, September 10**

Special Certificate of Residence Presentation Ceremony for Ron Mueck's *Standing Woman*

Date & Time: Friday, September 11, 2026, 14:00–14:30

Location: *Standing Woman* permanent exhibition space inside the Towada Art Center

Attendance	☐ Attending / ☐ Not attending
Organization / Affiliation	
Name	
Address	Postal code:
TEL / FAX	TEL FAX
E-mail	@
Filming / Photography	No / Yes ☐ Video ☐ Stills ☐ Other ()
Planned Coverage Media Outlet and Publication Date	Media Name
	Medium: TV / Radio / Newspaper / Magazine / Free paper / Web Other ()
	Publication / Broadcast Date: (YYYY-MM-DD)
Notes	

*Personal information provided on this form will be used solely for purposes related to this event and will not be used for any other purpose.

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