

## Tokyo Contemporary Art Award 2020-2022 Award winners Announced



The Tokyo Metropolitan Government and Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture carry out the Tokyo Contemporary Art Award as part of the Tokyo Tokyo FESTIVAL.

The winners have been decided upon for the Tokyo Contemporary Art Award (TCAA), for mid-career artists whose work, including work produced outside Japan, deserves global recognition. This award, established by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government and Tokyo Arts and Space (Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture) is intended to encourage these artists to make new breakthroughs in their art.

### Winners

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FUJII Hikaru, YAMASHIRO Chikako



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#### 【Chair of the Selection Committee, KAMIYA Yukie Comment】

In the selection process for this second TCAA, having the six finalists as candidates, we visited the artists' studios and other spaces in Tokyo and the Kansai area, and carried out interviews and intensive discussions for a three-day period. We concluded to award two artists, Fujii Hikaru and Yamashiro Chikako, for the 2020-2022 period. Both made us full of expectations about their conceptions for new work and their making a turn from their practice thus far.

This year the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus meant that some members of the selection committee had to put off their trips to Japan, but the Internet enabled them to take part in the entire selection process and provided a setting for a full discussion. While that experience confirmed that the net, as a means of communication, enabled us to overcome the barrier of distance, to share and deepen our discussion, it also made us painfully aware that unpredictable changes, including disease and disaster, can readily block travel between countries and the sharing of experiences, which had been so simple.

Fujii Hikaru's work varies between a cinematic practice with a script, and a documentary approach, recording the situation and performers objectively. He adapts archival materials with them in attempts to reconsider history through moving image. This time he has been exploring a theme deeply related to his personal history, with he himself narrating, and conceives of his new work from a point near the perspective of both the subject and the creator.

Yamashiro Chikako, as an artist from Okinawa, has continued to explore its history and identity today, employing her own body as her central medium, and is now expanding her practice to places beyond Okinawa. Scrutinizing the omnipresent trauma and pain in every history, she is embarking on new efforts to examine the world as a contiguous place.

### Award Ceremony (Not Confirmed)

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\*Details will be made available later on Tokyo Contemporary Art Award website.

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## Award Winners' Profiles

### FUJII Hikaru

Born in Tokyo in 1976, based in Tokyo. Graduated with a DEA (MA) from Université de Paris 8.

His practice is based on the notion that artistic production implies a close relationship with society and history. Mainly in the form of video installation, he creates work that responds to contemporary social issues through detailed research and fieldwork on unique cultures and histories of various countries and regions.

Recent exhibitions: "Things Entangling," Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, 2020, Solo Exhibition "Les nucléaires et les choses," KADIST, Paris, 2019, "Aichi Triennale 2019," Nagoya City Art Museum, Solo Exhibition "The Primary Fact," ISCP, New York, 2018, "Catastrophe and the Power of Art," Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, 2018, "How little you know about me," National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Korea, seoul, 2018.

Award: "Nissan Art Award 2017," Grand Prize.



1. *Les nucléaires et les choses*, 2019



2. *The Primary Fact*, 2018

### YAMASHIRO Chikako

Born in Okinawa in 1976. Graduated with an MA in Environmental Design, Graduate School of Formative Arts from Okinawa Prefectural University of Arts in 2002.

With the geopolitical situation and history of Okinawa, her native place, as her starting point, Yamashiro explores the voices, bodies, and souls of people left in East Asia while taking identity, the boundary between life and death, and changing memories of history as her theme, working in photography and video. she continues to address the latent potential of images and their possibilities for performativity.

Recent exhibitions: "Image Narrative, Literature in Japanese Contemporary Art," The National Art Center, Tokyo, 2019, "Asia Pacific Breweries Foundation Signature Art Prize 2018," National Museum of Singapore, "Aichi Triennale 2016," the former Meiji-ya Sakae Building, Nagoya, "Yebisu International Festival for Art & Alternative Visions: Searching Songs," Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography, 2010.

Awards: "The 64th International Short Film Festival Oberhausen," ZONTA Prize, 2018, "Asian Art Award 2017 supported by Warehouse TERRADA," Grand-Prize.



3. *Chinbin Western – Representation of the Family*, 2019, video

©Chikako Yamashiro, Courtesy of Yumiko Chiba Associates



4. *Mud Man*, 2016, 3-channel high-definition video installation

©Chikako Yamashiro, Courtesy of Yumiko Chiba Associates

## ■ About TCAA

TCAA was established by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government and Tokyo Arts and Space (Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture) in 2018 as a contemporary art prize for mid-career artists active in Japan whose work, including work developed overseas, inspires expectations of potential for even greater achievements. Particular importance is given to the need to provide the best possible support at the optimal time in the artist's career. The selection process includes research on the artists and visits to their studios by members of the international selection committee, to deepen their understanding of the artist's thinking, style, and career stage.

The winners will receive two years of continuous support, including, in addition to funding for overseas activities, the opportunity to show their work at the Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo and the publication of a monograph (in Japanese and English) that would make possible concrete provision of information about the artist abroad.

### **Award Details**

- 1) Monetary prize: ¥3,000,000
- 2) Support for overseas activities: ¥1,000,000 (travel, accommodation, research and production expenses)
- 3) An award exhibition presenting the results of the two years of support, to be held at the Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo
- 4) Publication of a monograph

### **International Selection Committee**

KAMIYA Yukie (Gallery Director, Japan Society, New York)

SUMITOMO Fumihiko (Director, Arts Maebashi / Associate Professor, Graduate School of Tokyo University of the Arts)

Doryun CHONG (Deputy Director / Curatorial and Chief Curator, M+)

Maria LIND (Curator, Writer and Educator)

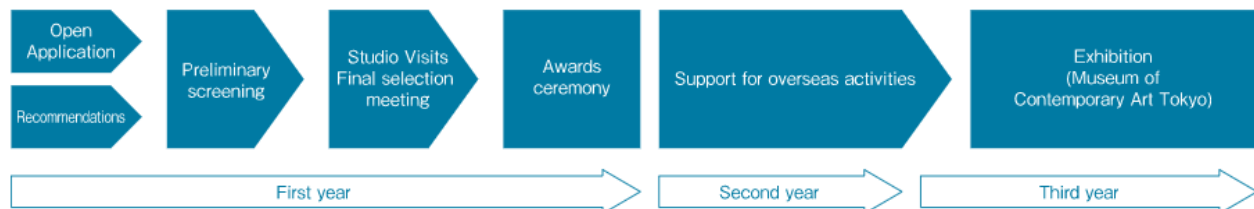
Carol Yinghua LU (Director, Beijing Inside-Out Art Museum)

KONDO Yuki (Program Director, Tokyo Arts and Space)

### **How the artists are selected**

A call for applications is issued in July and August of fiscal 2019 and the list of applicants is sent to international selection committee with a request for nominations, including the applicants. Following discussion, the selection committee finalizes the list of nominated artists. Selection of two winners follows research on nominated artists, studio visits, and interviews.

### **Schedule**



Organized by: Tokyo Metropolitan Government and Tokyo Arts and Space,(Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture.)

Website: <https://www.tokyocontemporaryartaward.jp/>

「Tokyo Contemporary Art Award 2020-2022」  
Award winners announced  
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<Press Contact>

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