

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

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## Tokyo Contemporary Art Award 2021-2023 Award winners, Award Ceremony, and Symposium Announced

The Tokyo Metropolitan Government and Tokyo Arts and Space (TOKAS) established the Tokyo Contemporary Art Award (TCAA) in 2018 as a contemporary art prize to encourage mid-career artists to make new breakthroughs in their work by providing them with two years of continuous support. The 3rd TCAA (2021–2023) welcomes Sofia Hernández Chong Cuy, Takahashi Mizuki, and Washida Meruro as members of a six-person committee that has selected the award winners. The TCAA (2021–2023) award ceremony and symposium are scheduled for March 2021.

### Winners

#### SHIGA Lieko



##### Reasons for the Award

Shiga Lieko is highly acclaimed for her thoughtful and earnest attitude toward her reality and production, her exploration of the equivalence between human spirituality and the nature of the photographic medium, and an original perspective that cuts across the nature of photography and the body. She considers how modern society has suppressed the human spirit in the wake of the Great East Japan Earthquake and the reconstruction that has followed. The thought behind her creative process condenses important elements for reflecting on the society in which we find ourselves, including concepts like human nature, center and periphery, death and mourning, regulation and freedom, and harmony with nature. It is of great significance that this award will support her efforts to confront these issues in the creation of her future works.

#### TAKEUCHI Kota



##### Reasons for the Award

While Takeuchi's work seems to respond to recent social events in Japan, it is consistent in its concern with the ways in which memory is passed on, the nature of materials as media, and people's passivity to them. His creative practice is highly regarded for its emotional impact and its willingness to engage deeply with the exploration of individual and collective forms of memory. In the new proposal presented here, he questions the ethics of remote technologies, looking at the blindness of remote attacks and a growing dependence on digital media as a source of information. His work presents an awareness of issues that have the potential to be shared by many more people beyond contexts specific to Japan.

TCAA

Tokyo  
Contemporary  
Art Award  
2021-2023

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## ■ Chair of the Selection Committee Comment

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This year's selection process was made even more challenging with the continuation of COVID-19 and the impossibility to travel. The majority of jury members couldn't be at the artist studios physically. Instead, we relied heavily on studio visits and artist presentations on the Internet. Thanks to the superb organization of the TCAA team and the extreme patience and dedication of each artist, we were able to get a very comprehensive and in-depth survey of each artist's practice.

With a mixture of jury members who have been involved in this award since the very beginning and new jury members, the discussion before the selection process and during the final deliberation was extremely lively and constructive. There have been a lot of reflections and consideration of how this award has been positioned and organized and how to move forward in the future. There has been a considerable amount of self-reflection on the jury's part in terms of the criteria of evaluation. In the deliberation meeting, we were able to discuss each artist in detail, conveying each of our views frankly and fully. The final decision was a well-weighed and thoroughly-discussed one.

At a critical time such as this, when conditions of globalization is subject to challenge and re-examination, TCAA continues to make utmost efforts to connect artists to different aspects of the larger art world. The awards of such an endeavor, supporting artists to continue working and aiming for higher goals, will soon to come to fruition in the near future. As jury members, we are very honored to be part of such an outward-looking and future-looking commitment.

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

## ■ Award Ceremony and Symposium

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### ■Award Ceremony

Date: 2021/3/19(Fri.), 10:30-11:00

Venue: Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, B2 Auditorium (4-1-1 Miyoshi, Koto-ku, Tokyo)

\*To prevent the spread of COVID-19, attendance is limited to members of the press and others by invitation only.

\*The ceremony will be conducted online streaming. (with Japanese-English interpreter)

### ■Award Symposium

\*Admission Free / Reservations required / First-come-first-served basis / With Japanese-English interpretater

Date: 2021/3/21(Sun.), 14:00-15:30 (Doors open at 13:30-)

Venue: Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, B2 Auditorium

\*The symposium will be conducted online streaming.

\*Speaker information and other symposium details will be available on the TCAA website at a later date.

### ■Applying to attend the award symposium■

Please apply by 3/10(Wed.), using the application form on the TCAA website.

Application form: <https://www.tokyocontemporaryartaward.jp/form/>

\*Subject to alteration according to the state of the COVID-19 infection.

## ■ Award Winners' Profiles

### SHIGA Lieko

Born in Aichi in 1980. Based in Miyagi.

Graduated with an MA in Fine Art New Media from Chelsea College of Art and Design, London Institute in 2004.

"As someone who grew up in a clean and safe environment that favored convenience, my affinity with camera equipment was an extremely violent one," says Shiga, for whom the space-time of photography was a salvation and excitement greater than "death." In 2008, Shiga moved to Miyagi Prefecture, where she became involved in the local community and continued producing works related to memories that span generations, thinking about life from imaginations of death, and the relationship between nature and human society. Her experiences in the wake of the Great East Japan Earthquake, which saw the breaking down of social functions along the coast and the unforgiving disposition of the laws of nature, link back to "recovery" efforts seen in postwar Japan, inciting an overwhelming sense of déjà vu. Shiga, through her creative process and production, seeks the roots of the human spirit. Her works are intent on visualizing, through the medium of photography, what she calls "the eternal present," a moment that is neither past nor future suspended in space-time. They are photographic spaces in which the viewer can see their own body and consciousness reflected back as if looking in a mirror.

Recent exhibitions: Solo Exhibition "Human Spring," Tokyo Photographic Art Museum, 2019, Solo Exhibition "Building Romance," Toyota Municipal Museum of Art, Aichi, 2018, Solo Exhibition "Blind Date," Marugame Genichiro-Inokuma Museum of Contemporary Art, Kagawa, 2017, Solo Exhibition "CANARY," Foam Museum, Amsterdam, 2013 etc.

Awards: "The 33rd Kimura Ihei Award," 2007, "ICP Infinity Award," 2009.



1. *Today is the same as yesterday; tomorrow will be the same as today*, 2019, C-type print  
at "Human Spring," Tokyo Photographic Art Museum, 2019



2. *rasen kaigan 31*, 2019, C-type print  
at "RASEN KAIGAN," Sendai Mediatheque 6th floor  
gallery, 2012-2013

**TAKEUCHI Kota**

Born in Hyogo in 1982. Based in Fukushima.

Graduated with a BA in Department of Intermedia Art from Tokyo University of the Arts in 2008.

Takeuchi Kota's work spans across temporal and spatial divides on the theme of parallel bodies and possession. Across the temporal divide: Aerial imagery to track the whereabouts of Balloon Bombs used during World War II; the reproduction of a photo series of stone monuments taken by a local historian; and footage of the demolition of a 19th-century movie theater. Across the spatial divide: a font designed by a security guard in the exclusion zone following the 2011 nuclear accident in Japan; photo installation of wearing the clothes left in an evacuee's home. Tracing lost histories and collaborating with others in isolated areas, he presents photographic and video installations that integrate research, production, and performance, which come together in one unified action. He tries to access the memories of people through buildings, monuments, sculptures, archives, and interviews with local historians as well as eyewitnesses. Furthermore, he pursues images by more innovative means that include mapping apps, live streaming video, and UAV (drone) cameras. His works explore the relationship between media and human nature and offer a simulated sharing experience between the artist and the viewer.

Recent exhibitions: Solo Exhibition "Body is not Antibody," SNOW Contemporary, Tokyo, 2020, "6th Asian Art Biennial 2017," National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts, Taichung, Taiwan, 2017, Solo Exhibition "Memory Bug," Arts Catalyst, London, 2016 etc. As the Representative Agent of Finger Pointing Worker\*, "Weavers of Worlds -A Century of Flux in Japanese Modern / Contemporary Art-," Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, 2019, "GLOBALE:GLOBAL CONTROL AND CENSORSHIP," ZKM, Karlsruhe, Germany, 2015 etc. Awards: "The 10th Gunma Biennale for Young Artists" Encouragement prize, 2010.

\* As the Representative Agent of Finger Pointing Worker: Finger Pointing Worker is a man who pointed at the public live camera in Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant after the disaster in 2011. Kota Takeuchi is the representative agent of him.



3. *Blind Bombing, Filmed by a Bat*, 2019-2020  
single-channel digital video with sound, 32min



4. *Document 1: Corona and Body*, 2020  
installation, laser print on papers  
Courtesy of SNOW Contemporary

## ■ Past TCAA winners

### [1st TCAA (2019–2021) Winners]

KAZAMA Sachiko  
SHITAMICHI Motoyuki

### [2nd TCAA (2020–2022) Winners]

FUJII Hikaru  
YAMASHIRO Chikako

The exhibition of Kazama Sachiko and Shitamichi Motoyuki, the winners of the 1st TCAA (2019–2021) will be held at the Tokyo Museum of Contemporary Art starting 2021/3/20.

Please see the TCAA website for more information.



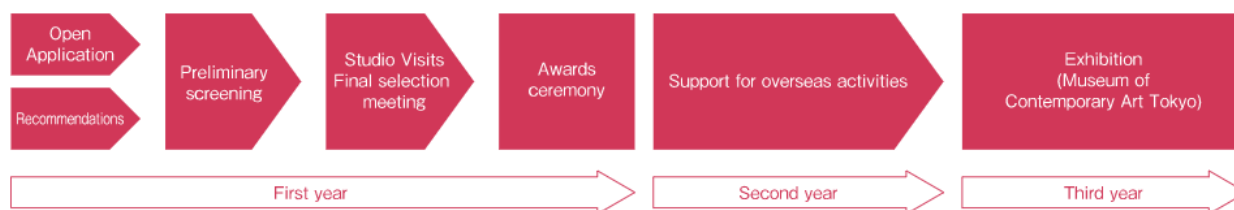
## ■ About TCAA

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 award 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 artists' 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.

### Award Details

- 1) Monetary prize: ¥3,000,000
- 2) Support for overseas activities: Up to ¥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

### Schedule



## ■ About TCAA 2021-2023

### International Selection Committee

Sofía Hernández Chong CUY (Director, The institution fka Witte de With Center for Contemporary Art)

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

TAKAHASHI Mizuki (Executive Director and Chief Curator, CHAT (Centre for Heritage, Arts and Textile))

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

WASHIDA Meruro (Director, Towada Art Center)

KONDO Yuki (Program Director, Tokyo Arts and Space)

### How the artists were selected

After an open call for applications in June 2020, nominees were selected upon recommendation and much deliberation among selection committee members. After that, two winners were chosen after a preliminary investigation of each artist, studio visit, interviews, and other direct correspondences with the artists.

「Tokyo Contemporary Art Award 2021-2023」  
Award winners announced  
Application Form for Image Data

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To : **Public Relations Section, Tokyo Arts and Space**

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