

TCAA Exhibition opens on December 25!

“Wetland”—An interplay of mutually compatible works by Umeda Tetsuya and Oh Haji

Since 2018, Tokyo Metropolitan Government and Tokyo Arts and Space (TOKAS) have been organizing the Tokyo Contemporary Art Award (TCAA) for mid-career artists in Japan with the aim of assisting their further progress through continuous support over several years. The TCAA 2024-2026 exhibition will be held at the Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo featuring the winners of the fifth edition of the award.

The most recent works of **Umeda Tetsuya** and **Oh Haji**, the two winners of the fifth TCAA, are incorporating their respective examinations of water-related topics such as sea routes and waterways, as central elements.

Oh's exhibition mainly revolves around the “Grand-Mother Island Project,” which appeals to visitors' memories by taking them on a journey around imaginary “islands” connecting the stories and histories of human individuals, while Umeda, who has been visualizing the structures of things through performances that sometimes involve “excursion” like activities, creates new guidelines in the exhibition space that, like divisions between front and back, or marshland between the sea and the mainland, may gently overlap, or be reversed entirely.

Exhibition Information

Exhibition Title: Tokyo Contemporary Art Award 2024-2026 Exhibition “Wetland”

Artists: UMEDA Tetsuya, OH Haji

Period: Dec 25 (Thu), 2025 - Mar 29 (Sun), 2026

Venue: Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, Exhibition Gallery 3F (4-1-1 Miyoshi, Koto-ku, Tokyo)

Open Hours: 10:00-18:00

Closed: Mondays (except Jan 12, Feb 23), Dec 28 - Jan 1, Jan 13, Feb 24

Admission: Free

Organizers: Tokyo Metropolitan Government and Tokyo Arts and Space / Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo (Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture)

Website: www.tokyocontemporaryartaward.jp/en

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Highlights

Collaboration Between the Award Winners

Right after receiving the award, Umeda and Oh began to engage in an ongoing dialogue revolving around the respective concepts of their work. Sharing ideas for the award exhibition eventually resulted in a layout in which both artists' works interact with each other, with "Wetland" as an appropriate title that reflects the element of "water" that had crystallized in the process as a common element in each of the artists' recent works. A wetland is an area between sea and land that is a habitat for a variety of lifeforms, and for this exhibition, the term was chosen to represent at once a place where the works of two artists meet.

Oh presents the "Grand-Mother Island Project," an ongoing project in which she has been revisiting people's memories of places in Japan, Korea, Australia and others since 2017, including a new work created overseas as a result of the artist's TCAA-funded activities. By setting up a "pathway" around Oh's works, and furthermore, inserting fluid sonic objects at points across that space, Umeda aims to alter the visitor's perception of the art museum as an institution for the appreciation of artworks.

Being part of the TCAA program designed to provide medium-standing artists with a platform for challengingly innovative activities, this exhibition marks at once an occasion for two artists who employ in their practice completely different techniques, to bring their respective works together in order to resonate outside the framework of a show of individual works by individually selected artists.

Related Events

Artist Talk

A member of the selection committee talk with the featured artists about the selection process, exhibited works, and future plans.

Date: Jan 10 (Sat), 2026 15:00-16:30 (Doors open at 14:30)
Participants: UMEDA Tetsuya, OH Haji,
TAKAHASHI Mizuki (Executive Director and Chief Curator, CHAT / The chair of the TCAA 2024-2026 Selection Committee), the curator of the exhibition
Moderator: SHIOMI Yuko (Director, Arts Initiative Tokyo [AIT] / TCAA Selection Secretariat)
Venue: Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, B2F Auditorium

*Admission Free / Reservations required (Reservations open from early November) / Simultaneous English and Japanese sign language interpretation available

PLAYTIME / PRAYTIME (Composed and directed by Umeda Tetsuya) Screening+post-show talk

Date: Jan 12 (Mon), 2026 15:00-17:00 (Doors open at 14:30)
Venue: Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, B2F Auditorium
Video provided by Bunkamura (planning and production) NTT EAST, Inc. (cooperation)

*Admission Free / Reservations required (Reservations open from early November)

*Please note that the schedule and details of the event are subject to change.

*Related events are scheduled during the exhibition period. Details will be announced on the TCAA website.

Monograph (Scheduled for August 2026)

A monograph will be published for each award winner (Japanese / English, not for sale), featuring images of the respective artist's works, written contributions by the artists and experts, and pictures of the exhibition. After publication, they will be available on the TCAA website and will be distributed by post (in Japan only) to those who request them. Details will be announced on the TCAA website.

Artists / Artists' Comments / Press images *Please contact the PR section for more images.



Photo: SHIEH Hiroyasu

UMEDA Tetsuya

Born in Kumamoto in 1980.

Umeda produces installations that are inspired by and incorporate existing elements found in the environment and circumstances surrounding the exhibition space including its architectural structure. In addition to exhibitions in museums and art institutions, he has produced numerous site-specific works based on the context of both urban spaces and the natural environment. Performance works are presented in Japan and abroad, such as tours inviting the audience to unfamiliar places, stage works focusing on functions found in theaters, and chorus projects without a center point. He is also internationally renowned as a leading artist in the field of sound art.

Recent solo exhibitions: "wait this is my favorite part," WATARI-UM, The Watari Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo, 2023, "Tetsuya Umeda in BEPPU '0 Tai'," Beppu and other locations, 2020. Recent performance: "Kunstenfestivaldesarts 2017 'Composite: Variations / Circle'," Brussels, and more.

Artists' Comment

Although the plan was so unconventional that it would have been only natural if a public art museum didn't want to have anything to do with it, I was able to take it to a point just shy of completion thanks to the support of everyone involved. I wish to put together an exhibition that inspires visitors to remember quite casually that things we usually separate in order to understand them—front and back, ground and figure, ordinary and extraordinary—are just two sides of the same coin. In times when we are flooded with depressing news, it is my desire to continue my creative work while "flipping the coins" one by one and transforming things that we cannot or should not forget, into things that give us pleasure.



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1-2. Installation view at "wait this is my favorite part," WATARI-UM, The Watari Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo, 2023 Photo : AMANO Yuko

3-4. "Tetsuya Umeda in BEPPU '0 Tai'," Beppu and other locations, 2020 Photo : AMANO Yuko

An interview made after the award presentation, as well as information on activities overseas in Europe in the second year after receiving the award, is being published on the TCAA website.

Interview
(Recorded in July 2024) ▶



Overseas Activities
(Conducted from April to May 2024) ▶



Artists / Artists' Comments / Press images *Please contact the PR section for more images.



OH Haji

Born in Osaka in 1976.

Earned her PhD in Fine Arts from Kyoto City University of Arts in 2012.

Oh creates installation works utilizing textile-making techniques such as weaving, dyeing and unravelling, as well as photographs/cyanotype, texts and sounds. Drawing on her background as a third-generation *Zainichi* Korean, she creates artworks to give expression to the untold memories—silent memories—of women and unnamed individuals. She explores the concept of post-memory by sharing experiences and dialogue through a collaborative process of community workshops. Currently, she is based in Japan and Australia for her art practices.

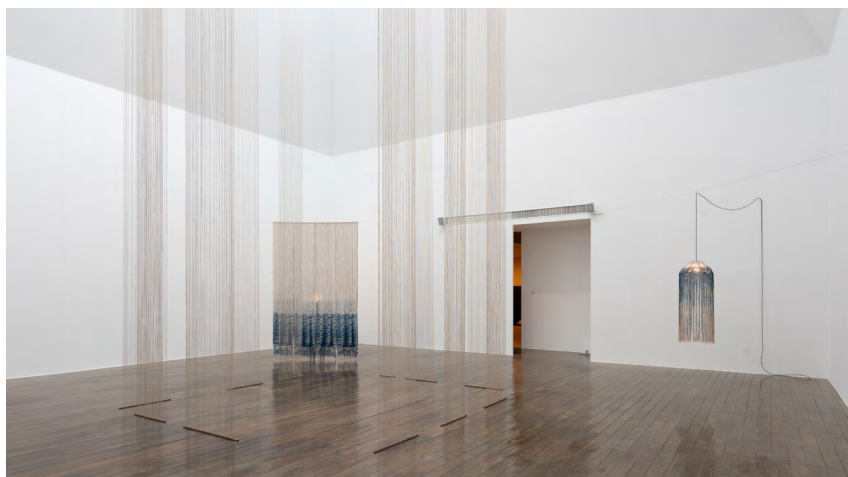
Recent exhibitions: "TOP 30th Anniversary Thoughts of a Distant Window: Contemporary Japanese Photography vol.22," Tokyo Photographic Art Museum, 2025, "The 11th Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art," Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane, Australia, 2025, "ANTEPRIMA x CHAT Contemporary Textile Art Prize 2024," CHAT, Hong Kong,

Photo: SHIEH Hiroyasu

"Roppongi Crossing 2022, Coming & Going," Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, and more.

Artists' Comment

The "Grand-Mother Island Project" that I have been focusing on in recent years, mainly revolves around the succession of memory, and sharing space and time through installations and workshops. During my TCAA supported overseas research, I had several opportunities to encounter people who were eager to connect events of the past to younger generations, as well as their activities and their vivid related memories. Meeting all these people at each place that I visited, was for me a precious chance to learn about their various approaches and attitudes. In addition to my previous works, at this exhibition I will unveil a new work that is based on interviews and research related to *Ama* divers (women who dive for shells and other marine life), that I conducted on the Tsushima and Jeju islands. Making this work was an operation comparable to patching together pieces of miraculous encounters. Additionally orchestrated through an unexpected collaboration with Umeda Tetsuya, the exhibition space—including also the creative process itself—is supposed to function as an environment where visitors can let their memories fly, and their own stories mingle with those of others.



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5. *A House of Memory Traces*, 2019

Photo: NEMOTO Yuzuru

Photo courtesy: Contemporary Art Center, Art Tower Mito

6. *Nautical Map*, 2017-2019

Photo: KIGURE Shinya

Photo courtesy: Kurumaya Museum of Art, Oyama City

7. *Seabird Habitats*, 2022, installation view at

"Roppongi Crossing 2022: Coming & Going," Mori Art Museum, Tokyo Photo: KIOKU Keizo

Photo courtesy: Mori Art Museum, Tokyo

8. *Wearing Memory*, 2014 Photo: YAMAMOTO Tadasu



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An interview made after the award presentation, as well as information on activities overseas in Osaka, Hyogo and Tsushima (Nagasaki) in the second year after receiving the award, is being published on the TCAA website.

Interview
(Recorded in July 2024) ▶



Overseas Activities
(Conducted from June to
July 2024 and February to
March 2025) ▶



About Tokyo Contemporary Art Award (TCAA)

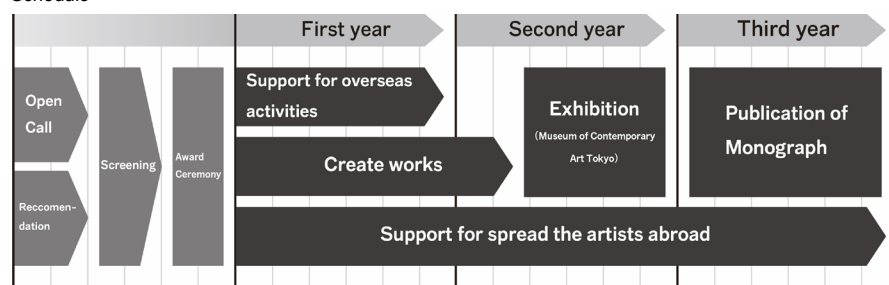
TCAA was established by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government and Tokyo Arts and Space in 2018 as a contemporary art award for mid-career artists active in Japan whose work, including work developed overseas, inspires expectations of potential for even greater achievements. Particular importance is given 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 several 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.

[TCAA 2024-2026 Award Details]

- 1) Monetary prize: ¥3,000,000
- 2) Support for overseas activities: Up to ¥2,000,000 (travel, accommodation, research and production expenses)
- 3) An award exhibition to be held at the Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo
- 4) Publication of a monograph (After holding the Exhibition), support for spread the artists abroad

Schedule



[International Selection Committee] *Positions and titles current as of the time of the 2023 selection process.

Sofia HERNÁNDEZ CHONG CUY [Director, Kunstinstituut Melly]

Lesley MA [Ming Chu Hsu and Daniel Xu Associate Curator of Asian Art in the Department of Modern and Contemporary Art, The Metropolitan Museum of Art]

NOMURA Shino [Senior Curator, Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery]

TAKAHASHI Mizuki [Executive Director and Chief Curator, CHAT]

WASHIDA Meruro [Director, Towada Art Center / Associate Professor, Graduate School of Tokyo University of the Arts]

KONDO Yuki [Program Director, Tokyo Arts and Space]

[Selection Secretariat] Arts Initiative Tokyo [AIT]

[Winners]

- | | | |
|--------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| 1st TCAA 2019-2021 | KAZAMA Sachiko | / SHITAMICHI Motoyuki |
| 2nd TCAA 2020-2022 | FUJII Hikaru | / YAMASHIRO Chikako |
| 3rd TCAA 2021-2023 | SHIGA Lieko | / TAKEUCHI Kota |
| 4th TCAA 2022-2024 | Saeborg | / TSUDA Michiko |
| 5th TCAA 2024-2026 | UMEDA Tetsuya | / OH Haji |

About Tokyo Arts and Space (TOKAS)

TOKAS is an arts center dedicated to the creation and promotion of contemporary artistic expression from Tokyo, and supports a wide spectrum of artistic activities including crossover and experimental projects.

With two main venues, TOKAS Hongo, as a facility for presentation of works, and the TOKAS Residency, where residing creators can create works, TOKAS provides ongoing support for contemporary creative activities through various programs, and will continue to nourish the rich culture of the metropolis of Tokyo, where diverse expressions are welcomed. In addition, Tokyo Metropolitan Government and TOKAS have established the "Tokyo Contemporary Art Award" in 2018, and hold an exhibition of works by the winners at Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo.

www.tokyoartsandspace.jp/en

Tokyo Contemporary Art Award 2024-2026 Exhibition

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☐ Logo Mark ☐ Web banner ☐ Portrait (☐ UMEDA Tetsuya ☐ OH Haji)

*Images can be downloaded from the link >> <https://www.tokyoartsandspace.jp/en/press/form/23>

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