

Tokyo Contemporary Art Award 2024-2026 Exhibition “Wetland” is currently on view!

- A collaborative stage for recalling voices and memories from afar

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.

“Tokyo Contemporary Art Award 2024-2026 Exhibition ‘Wetland’” featuring **UMEDA Tetsuya** and **OH Haji**, recipients of the fifth TCAA is now on view at Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo until March 29 (Sun.) We will inform you that the details for the related events in February and March has been decided.

Information

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|-------------------|---|
| 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: | https://www.tokyocontemporaryartaward.jp/en/exhibition/exhibition_2024_2026.html |

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Outline

As a result of an ongoing dialogue between Umeda Tetsuya and Oh Haji after receiving the award, the artists chose “Wetland” as a title for this exhibition, inspired by the role of “water” as a common element that their respective recent work revolves around.

Oh has been working on the “Grand-Mother Island Project” since 2017, and at this occasion she showcases the project with a newly added work. Utilizing the support for overseas activities that is part of this award, Oh conducted research about *Ama* divers on Jeju Island, before visiting places in Japan, Korea and Australia – three countries that the artist has personal relations with – to trace people’s memories in a manner of dissolving existing boundaries. In addition to materials, weaving and dyeing techniques that are closely linked to the respective local contexts, she used several other media such as photographs, sounds and texts, and put all these parts together into an installation. Sceneries of islands, made up of real and virtual images, emerge as places for sharing the memories of other people that have fallen by the wayside in the course of history, and inspire the viewer to use their imagination.

While visualizing the environment that surrounds the museum’s architecture, Umeda lightly intervenes and attempts to transform the system of the art exhibition itself. He uses scaffolding to set up a new walkway, and a motor to move the interior wall that is used for displaying works, to ultimately create multiple layers and new pathways within the exhibition space. His objects and sounds containing elements of light, water, air, and wind that exist at points across the museum’s interior, not only suggest the nature of the ground on which the museum was built, but they also function as connectors between the exhibition space and the remote locations that appear in Oh’s work.

“Wetland” provides a stage for two very different artists to show their works independently yet in a mutually stimulating collaborative format. Together they create an ambiguous kind of place where the real world that we live in coalesces with the museum’s exhibition space.

Related Events

OH Haji “Grand-Mother Island Project” viewing tour Mapping Memories

This is a workshop-style viewing tour for which the two members of “textus” function as guides. After viewing the artworks on display, participants write short texts among others, taking clues from their own individual memories that the tour evoked in them. The program encourages the participants to share the experience of giving new shapes to their respective memories and feelings inspired by the works they have seen.

Date: Feb 21 (Sat), 2026 13:00-15:30

Moderator: textus (OH Haji, MIYAKE Miyako)

Venue: Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, Exhibition Gallery 3F and B2F Seminar room

Gathering spot: B2F Seminar room

Capacity: 15 participants

*Reservations required / First-come-first-served basis (Booking will be open in late January) / Available only in Japanese

Gallery Talk

Date: Feb 7 (Sat), 2026 15:00-15:40

March 8 (Sun), 2026 15:00-15:40

Venue: Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, Exhibition Gallery 3F

*No reservation needed / Available only in Japanese

*Programs are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances.

*Closing event will be held in late March. Details will be announced on the TCAA website.

Monograph (Scheduled for Augst 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.

<https://tokyocontemporaryartaward.jp/en/publication/>

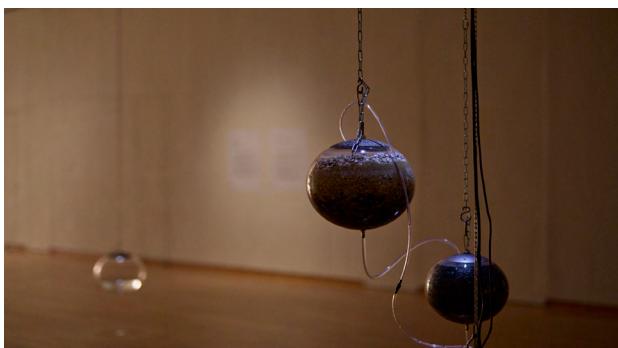
Images Photo Photo:TAKAHASHI Kenji Photo courtesy of Tokyo Arts and Space



1. Installation view at "Tokyo Contemporary Art Award 2024-2026 Exhibition 'Wetland', " Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, 2025



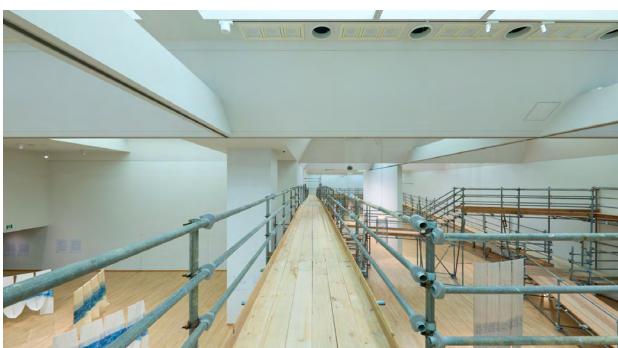
2. Installation view at "Tokyo Contemporary Art Award 2024-2026 Exhibition 'Wetland', " Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, 2025



3. UMEDA Tetsuya
Watering, 2025



4. UMEDA Tetsuya
Watering, 2025



5. UMEDA Tetsuya
Watering, 2025



6. OH Haji
Nautical Map, 2017



7. OH Haji
A House of Memory Traces, 2019



8. OH Haji
Left: *Empty grave*, 2025 / Right: *A Narrated Journeyscape*, 2025

About Tokyo Contemporary Art Award (TCAA)

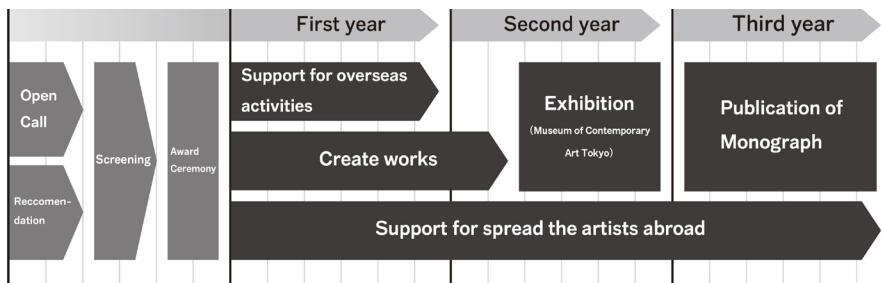
TCAA was established by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government and Tokyo Arts and Space (Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture) in 2018 as a contemporary art prize for mid-career artists who have been active or based in Japan whose work, including work developed overseas, inspires expectations 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 two recipients of the award will receive several years of continuous support.

[Award]

*TCAA 2024-2026 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.

Sofía 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

Application Form for Image Data

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

(I would like to receive data for the following images)

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TCAA 2024-2026 Logo Mark TCAA 2024-2026 banner

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

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*Please send us your article text in advance so we can confirm the information.

*For TV programs, etc. covering this exhibition, please send one copy of the video or DVD. For printed materials (newspapers or magazines), please send the original publication (one) or copies (three). For websites, please send us the URL when it is published.

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