

## Tokyo Contemporary Art Award 2026-2028 受賞者

TCAA

**The winners of the sixth TCAA are Han Ishu and yang02!**

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. For the TCAA 2026-2028, Joselina Cruz, Director and Curator, the Museum of Contemporary Art and Design (MCAD) Manila, and Kondo Kenichi, Senior Curator, Mori Art Museum, joined the selection committee. After thorough studio visits and interviews by the six-member committee, two artists were selected as the award winners.

Following their activities overseas after receiving the award, the recipients will hold an exhibition at the Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo in the third year following the award. Through continued support over several years, including the publication of a monograph after the exhibition, TCAA aims to encourage the recipients to make even greater strides, including overseas development.

Award Ceremony and Symposium will be held on March 4 (Wed) at the Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo.

**Comments from the Chair of the Selection Committee**

This year's selection process was one in which each jury member was moved by the earnest and candid presentations and subsequent Q&A offered by the participating artists. Their works clearly revealed a sincere engagement with urgent questions such as where they come from, and how they will engage with society as artists through their respective concerns for technology, gender, modern Japanese history, and the voices of peripheralized individuals. On the other hand, their visual languages and the ideas and words underpinning their concepts lack strong originality, recalling works of the past, while they sometimes seem to simply borrow existing forms and styles. It is likely that the artists themselves are aware of this and are searching for a breakthrough. We hope that participating in this award becomes an opportunity for the artists to reflect on their artistic journeys thus far, step outside their comfort zones, and strive toward the next phase of their artistic development.

TAKAHASHI Mizuki [Executive Director and Chief Curator, CHAT]

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## Award Ceremony and Symposium

Date : March 4, 2026 (Wed)

Venue : Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, B2F Auditorium (4-1-1 Miyoshi, Koto-ku, Tokyo)

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

■ Award Ceremony (14:00-14:30 Doors open at 13:30)

■ Symposium (14:40-16:10)

At this symposium, we will reflect on the overall evaluations provided by the TCAA 2026-2028 selection committee members and on the key points discussed during the selection. Additionally, both of the award-winning artists will provide insights into their respective works and creative processes.

[Panelists]

Winners: HAN Ishu  
yang02

International Selection Committee:

KONDO Kenichi (Senior Curator, Mori Art Museum)

NOMURA Shino (Senior Curator, Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery)

KONDO Yuki (Program Director, Tokyo Arts and Space)

Moderator: SHIOMI Yuko (Director, Arts Initiative Tokyo [AIT] / TCAA Selection Secretariat)

< How to Book >

Please make your reservations for the event via the TCAA website by March 2 (Mon).

Booking Form: <https://tokyocontemporaryartaward.jp/news/form/3743>



## 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. Established in 2001 as Tokyo Wonder Site (TWS), an initiative for the support and nurturing of young artists, it was renamed TOKAS in 2017.

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. [www.tokyoartsandspace.jp/en](http://www.tokyoartsandspace.jp/en)

## Winners' Profiles



Photo: NOMURA Sakiko

### HAN Ishu

Born in Shanghai in 1987. Based in Tokyo.

Earned his PhD in Film and New Media Studies from Tokyo University of the Arts in 2025.

#### ■ Reasons for the Award

Han's practice is driven by an exceptionally strong sense of motivation originating from personal experience, and while poetic and essayistic in nature, references to history and contemporary art are visible in his work. The core of his subject matter is well grounded, and deep connections exist between motivation and theme, process and finished work, leading to a coherent body of work that clearly demonstrates the artist's signature style.

This is also a period in which Han is expanding his perspective on his own practice, and future projects that mediate between the self and others through diasporic experiences are expected to result in significant development in the artist's career.

#### ■ Profiles

Through his own perspective, Han addresses questions regarding the complex relationship between individuals and society and the confusion caused by such relations. His performance-based videos and installations, grounded in his own body as a point of departure, make visible the norms, systems, and structures of the gaze embedded in everyday society, at times inflected with subtle humor.

Recent exhibitions: "Asia Avant-Grade film festival 2025: Time Will Tell," M+ Museum, Hong Kong, "11th Asian Pacific Triennial," Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane, Australia, 2024, "Home Sweet Home," The National Museum of Art, Osaka, 2023, "In the Wake Japanese Photographers Respond to 3/11," Museum of Fine Arts Boston, 2015, and more.

Participated in TWS/TOKAS programs: "Shibuyajizai – Infinity, or Self-Territory," Tokyo Wonder Site Shibuya, 2017, "TWS CiR OPEN STUDIO 'TOKYO STORY 2013'," Tokyo Wonder Site Hongo, "Exchange Residency Program <Melbourne>," 2013, and more.

Awards: "The 36th Takashimaya Art Award," 2025, "Nissan Art Award 2020," Grand prize



1. *The Weight Between You and Me*, 2023, installation view at "BEYOND GLITCH : Remapping Reality in a Broken World," Kyoto International Conference Center, 2023

Photo: MORIYA Yuki



2. *Cultivating the Waves*, 2024, single channel video

An interview with award winners, their future activities and the detail of the exhibition will be published on the TCAA website.

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





Photo: NAKAGAWA Shu

## yang02

Born in Kanagawa in 1984. Based in Kanagawa.

Graduated with an MA in Information Design from Tama Art University in 2009.

### ■ Reasons for the Award

yang02's work addresses questions about technology that everyone can relate to, and while it begins with motifs such as graffiti and robotic arms, it compellingly suggests elements that are not restricted to narratives of collapse in technological structures and systems, possessing a critical edge that humorously questions the violence inherent in technology. The wide range of variation in yang02's works is driven by clear reasons and motivations, and the richness underlying his practice is expected to benefit from being presented in a more panoramic way through this award, providing a valuable opportunity for the artist to explore new directions and possibilities.

### ■ Profiles

Known for installation works in which human-centered actions associated with the art system—such as creating, viewing, and installing (or removing) works—are replaced by machines. In recent years, he has created works that involve slowing down toy racing cars and transforming exhibition spaces into power stations using self-built large generators. Through these and other methods, he focuses on issues concealed behind the convenience and rationality of technology, such as politics, privilege, and violence, to question the structure of society as defined by technology. Recent exhibitions: "Setouchi Triennale 2025," Hiraga Gennai Memorial Museum, Sanuki, Kagawa, "Random Access 4.0," Nam June Paik Art Center, Yongin, Korea, 2025, "MOT Annual 2023 Synergies, or between creation and generation," Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, "Roppongi Crossing 2022: Coming & Going," Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, and more.

Participated in TWS/TOKAS program: "OPEN SITE 2018-2019 TOKAS Recommendation Program contact Gonzo 'untitled session'," Tokyo Arts and Space Hongo, 2019, "TWS CiR OPEN STUDIO 'TOKYO STORY 2010'," Tokyo Wonder Site Hongo, 2011, "Exchange Residency Program <Barcelona>," 2010, and more.

Awards: "TERRADA ART AWARD 2023," TERASE Yuki Award, "The 21th Japan Media Arts Festival," Art Division, Excellence Award, 2018 (\*With KANNO So) and more.



3. *TEFCO vol.2 ~Under Control~*, 2023, installation view at "MOT Annual 2023 Synergies, or between creation and generation," Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo  
Photo: KIGURE Shinya



4. *Installation in Progress*, 2022, installation view at "Roppongi Crossing 2022: Coming & Going," Mori Art Museum, Tokyo  
Photo: TAKEHISA Naoki

An interview with award winners, their future activities and the detail of the exhibition will be published on the TCAA website.

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





## About 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.

## About TCAA 2026-2028

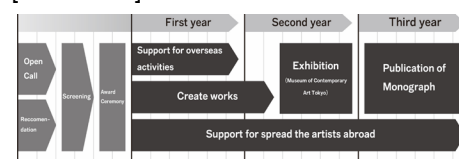
After the open call for applications was conducted in June 2025, the selection committee was given a list of all applicants, from which the candidates for the first screening – plus a number of recommended artists named by the committee – were chosen. Following a discussion at the first screening stage, the committee selected the candidates for the final screening, which was then followed by various dialogue with the artists in interviews and visits to their ateliers. The winners were finally determined after further discussion among the judges.

In the selection process, we considered whether each finalist has established a body of work and a unique expression/formative language as a mid-career artist, in addition to their motivations for creating, the persuasive power of their works, their connectivity and communicability in international contexts, the potential for development after the award, and whether the support from TCAA comes at an optimal time in the artist's career.

### [ 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 (Scheduled for 2027 fiscal year)
- 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 2025 selection process.

Joselina CRUZ [Director and Curator, the Museum of Contemporary Art and Design (MCAD) Manila]  
 KONDO Kenichi [Senior Curator, Mori Art Museum]  
 Lesley MA [Ming Chu Hsu and Daniel Xu Curator, 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]  
 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

The exhibition by Umeda Tetsuya and Oh Haji, the fifth winners of the TCAA is now on view at the Tokyo Museum of Contemporary Art.

Exhibition Title: Tokyo Contemporary Art Award 2024-2026 Exhibition "Wetland"  
 Period: Dec 25 (Thu), 2025 - Mar 29 (Sun), 2026  
 Venue: Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, Exhibition Gallery 3F

**「Tokyo Contemporary Art Award 2026-2028」  
Award winners announced  
Application Form for Image Data**

**Email : [press@tokyoartsandspace.jp](mailto:press@tokyoartsandspace.jp)**

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

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

☐ 1   ☐ 2   ☐ 3   ☐ 4   ☐ TCAA 2026-2028 Web banner   ☐ TCAA 2026-2028 Logo Mark  
☐ Portrait ( ☐ HAN Ishu   ☐ yang02 )

\*Images can be downloaded from the link >> <https://www.tokyoartsandspace.jp/en/press/form/24>

Name of publication (name of feature or section): \_\_\_\_\_

☐ TV   ☐ Radio   ☐ Newspaper   ☐ Freesheet   ☐ Web magazine   ☐ Other ( \_\_\_\_\_ )

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\*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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