

Press Release

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## ART WEEK TOKYO ANNOUNCES AMBITIOUS PLANS FOR 2025

### MORE THAN 50 MUSEUMS, GALLERIES AND ART SPACES TO TAKE PART ACROSS THE CITY



Lieko Shiga, *Sadness*, 2023. Chromogenic print. © Lieko Shiga, courtesy the artist and the Artizon Museum; Chikako Yamashiro, Still from *Chinbin Western: Representation of the Family*, 2019. Single-channel video and sound installation, 32 min. © Chikako Yamashiro, courtesy Yumiko Chiba Associates and the Artizon Museum; Noboru Tsubaki, *Aesthetic Pollution*, 1990. Polyurethane, clay, wood (willow), paints, etc., 290 x 360 x 270 cm. Photo by Taku Saiki. © Noboru Tsubaki, courtesy the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, and the National Art Center, Tokyo; Aki Sasamoto, Still from *Point Reflection* (video), 2023. © Aki Sasamoto, courtesy Take Ninagawa and the Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo; Sou Fujimoto, *House of Music, Hungary* (interior), 2021. Budapest. Photo by Iwan Baan, courtesy the Mori Art Museum.

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The fourth **Art Week Tokyo**, bringing together over 50 leading museums, galleries and art spaces across the city, will take place from **5 – 9 November 2025**.

All the city's flagship museums will participate, including the **National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo**; the **Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo**; the **Mori Art Museum**, the **National Art Center, Tokyo**; **Tokyo Metropolitan Teien Art Museum**; and the **Artizon Museum**.

Exhibition highlights will include:

**Prism of the Real: Making Art in Japan 1989–2010 at the National Art Center, Tokyo**—Curated and organised in partnership with M+ in Hong Kong, this landmark thematic exhibition promises to redefine an important era of contemporary art in Japan by both revisiting iconic works and establishing new connections with global trends.

**Aki Sasamoto's Life Laboratory at the Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo**—New York-based multimedia artist Aki Sasamoto has inspired an avid following across the globe for her installations and improvised performances examining the interplay between individual obsessions, mathematical theory, pop psychology, and more. This exhibition is the artist's first midcareer survey.

**The Architecture of Sou Fujimoto: Primordial Future Forest at Mori Art Museum**—Architect Sou Fujimoto, who wowed international audiences with his ethereal Serpentine Pavilion in London in 2013, receives the blockbuster treatment from Tokyo's leading private institution.

**Jam Session: The Ishibashi Foundation Collection × Yamashiro Chikako × Shiga Lieko: “In the midst of” at Artizon Museum**—This exhibition brings together two of Japan’s most exciting midcareer artists. Yamashiro is known for videos offering incisive commentary on life in Okinawa, while Shiga’s surreal photographic practice is grounded in the area of Japan that was devastated by the Tohoku earthquake and tsunami of March 2011.

**Art Week Tokyo’s** line-up of galleries provides a broad overview of the city’s vibrant, homegrown scene. They include the historic Tokyo Gallery + BTAP, Japan’s first contemporary art gallery, marking its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, and SCAI The Bathhouse, which since its founding in 1993 has been an incubator for subsequent generations of both artists and gallerists. Other participants that helped to build up the gallery scene in the 1990s include Taka Ishii Gallery, Tomio Koyama, Gallery Koyanagi, and Taro Nasu. Galleries that emerged in the early 2000s are represented by Misako & Rosen, Mujin-to Production, Nanzuka Underground, Take Ninagawa, and Takashi Murakami’s Kaikai Kiki Gallery.

The city’s history of contemporary art also includes the contribution of a unique group of art spaces created by leading corporate sponsors including the Shiseido Gallery founded in 1919, Ginza Maison Hermès Le Forum established in 2001, Chanel Nexus Hall which opened in 2004 and Espace Louis Vuitton which was launched in 2011 and will participate in Art Week Tokyo for the first time.

Reflecting Japan’s unparalleled photography scene, galleries that specialise in or regularly exhibit photography also feature in Art Week Tokyo. These include MEM, PGI, and Poetic Scape. Meanwhile, multinational galleries with long-term commitments to the Japanese art scene include Blum, Fergus McCaffrey, and Perrotin.

Art Week Tokyo will also feature special platforms, including the curated AWT Focus exhibition, the AWT Video screening programme and AWT Talks, which will include a headlining symposium as well as online talks, tours, and other community engagement events.

AWT Focus is a curated sales platform, hosted by Okura Museum of Art. The exhibition in 2025 will be curated by Zurich based curator, author and editor, **Adam Szymczyk**, His AWT Focus exhibition will build on more than three years of research into the Japanese art scene while also responding to current trends in international art.

AWT Video is a free screening programme of works selected by guest curator, **Keiko Okamura**, one of Japan’s most accomplished curators, which will be screened in a special pavilion set up in the Marunouchi area of Tokyo.

**Pritzker Prize-winning architect Kazuo Sejima** will contribute to Art Week Tokyo as architectural advisor to the AWT Bar, a pop-up bar in the heart of Tokyo’s most fashionable district. Sejima will select an emerging architect to design a multi-sensory space where visitors can enjoy newly commissioned edible creations and artist designed cocktails and participate in events.

A new visual identity is launched this year designed by Art Week Tokyo’s new Art Director, one of Japan’s most talented emerging designers, **Yuri Uenishi**.

The curatorial team is led by **Art Week Tokyo Founder and Director, Atsuko Ninagawa**, also owner of Take Ninagawa Gallery.

**Atsuko Ninagawa, Art Week Tokyo Founder and Director, said:** “Conceived as a community-driven initiative to support the local art ecosystem, Art Week Tokyo continues to grow organically with each edition. Last year we saw the strongest lineup of exhibitions yet, while new initiatives—from meet-ups to music performances—helped broader communities access the event. The response from stakeholders and public alike confirms Art Week Tokyo’s place as a forum for cultural exchange in Tokyo, and we look forward to building on that foundation with this year’s edition. The positive reception of Art Week Tokyo’s unique format, particularly from our international guests, highlights its ability to offer an unparalleled experience—seamlessly connecting the city’s vibrant gallery scene with its rich cultural fabric. As Art Week Tokyo grows, it further solidifies Tokyo’s position as a must-visit destination on the global art map.”

Art Week Tokyo is organised in collaboration with Art Basel. Art Basel stages the world’s premier art shows for modern and contemporary art, sited in Basel, Miami Beach, Hong Kong, and Paris. Bringing its expertise in organising world-class art events, Art Basel shares Art Week Tokyo’s mission to support the growth of Tokyo’s art ecosystem and to establish Tokyo as a convening point for regional and international art professionals and art lovers alike.

**Vincenzo de Bellis, Director, Fairs and Exhibition Platforms, Art Basel, said:**

“This initiative nurtures Tokyo’s flourishing arts ecosystem and showcases Japan’s exceptional artistic and cultural heritage. This enduring relationship reflects our deep commitment to our galleries and the sustainable growth of the arts ecosystem that supports them.”

Entry to all galleries is free of charge, while participating museums offer discounted admission to Art Week Tokyo visitors. AWT Focus requires ticketed admission. The hop-on, hop-off AWT Bus service is free to ride, with multiple routes connecting all participating venues.

For the latest updates, follow Art Week Tokyo on Facebook, Instagram, and X.

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**NOTES TO EDITORS**

**About Art Week Tokyo**

An annual showcase of the creativity and diversity of Tokyo’s contemporary art scene, Art Week Tokyo is organised by Japan Contemporary Art Platform in collaboration with Art Basel, with support from Japan’s Agency for Cultural Affairs. Art Week Tokyo’s infrastructural development initiative, the Art Week Tokyo Mobile Project, is co-organised by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government and the Art Week Tokyo Mobile Project Organizing Committee. Art Week Tokyo held a soft-launch edition in November 2021 under pandemic conditions, and held its first full-scale edition in November 2022. Last year’s edition, which took place 7–10 November 2024, featured 53 participating institutions, galleries, and art spaces and attracted more than 50,000 visitors.

**About Atsuko Ninagawa**

Atsuko Ninagawa is Co-founder and Director of Art Week Tokyo and Owner and Director of Take Ninagawa, Tokyo. Established in 2008, Take Ninagawa is dedicated to promoting emerging and historically significant Japanese artists in a cross-generational, international framework and to organising projects by international artists in a Japanese context. Atsuko Ninagawa is a member of the selection committee of Art Basel in Basel and is one of the founders of Japan Contemporary Art Platform. She has also contributed to peer-led initiatives such as South South and Galleries Curate. She has been included in the *ArtReview* Power 100, an annual ranking of the most influential people in art, every year since 2022. She has also been featured in the Artnet Innovators List, which spotlights innovators who are cultivating the market centres of the future.

**About Adam Szymczyk**

Adam Szymczyk is a curator, author, and editor based in Zurich. He is currently a curator at the Büro für geistige Mitarbeit at Kunsthaus Zürich. From 2014 to 2017 he was Artistic Director of documenta 14 in Athens and Kassel, and from 2003 to 2014 he was Director and Chief Curator of Kunsthalle Basel. In 2022 he founded Verein by Association, a nonprofit association for contemporary art and culture in Zurich. Recent exhibition projects include “Tirana Patience” (cocurated with Nataša Ilić) at the National Gallery of Arts, Tirana (2019); “Yannis Tsarouchis: Dancing in Real Life” at Wrightwood 659, Chicago (2021); “Other Voices, Other Rooms” at the Criminal Investigation Department of the Zurich Municipal Police (2021); “Life, Without Buildings” at gta exhibitions, Zurich (2022); “Ahlam Shibli: Dissonant Belonging” (cocurated with Vassilis Oikonomopoulos) at Luma Arles (2023); and “Wilhelm Sasnal: Painting as Prop” at the Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam (2024).

**About Keiko Okamura**

Keiko Okamura is a curator at the Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo (MOT), where she previously worked from 1995 to 2007. From 2007 to 2021 she was a curator at the Tokyo Photographic Art Museum. During her time there she oversaw the inaugural edition of the annual Yebisu International Festival for Art and Alternative Visions in 2009 and contributed as either director or curator to every subsequent edition through 2021. She also curated exhibitions including “Fiona Tan: Terminology” (2014), “Her Own Way—Female Artists and the Moving Image in Art in Poland: From 1970s to the Present” (2019), and “Yamashiro Chikako: Reframing the land / mind / body-scape” (2021). Okamura is currently preparing the exhibition “Aki Sasamoto’s Life Laboratory,” which opens at MOT in August 2025.

**About Kazuyo Sejima**

Kazuyo Sejima is one of Japan's leading architects. She established Kazuyo Sejima & Associates in 1987 before founding SANAA in 1995 together with Ryue Nishizawa. In 2010 she was artistic director of the 12th Venice Architecture Biennale. Sejima has won numerous accolades for her work as both an individual architect and through SANAA. These include the Golden Lion at the Venice Biennale, the Japan Architecture Award, the Officier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, the Pritzker Architecture Prize and, in 2025, the Royal Gold Medal of the Royal Institute of British Architects. She is currently a professor at Politecnico di Milano, emeritus professor at Yokohama National University and director of the Tokyo Metropolitan Teien Art Museum. Her major architectural projects for SANAA include the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa; the Rolex Learning Center, Lausanne, Switzerland; and the Louvre-Lens in France.

**About Yuri Uenishi**

Yuri Uenishi is an art director and graphic designer based in Tokyo. She graduated from the Department of Graphic Design at Tama Art University in 2010 and joined Dentsu, Japan's largest advertising agency, that same year. In 2021 Uenishi founded her own design studio, hokkyoku. She has led projects for clients including 21\_21 Design Sight, Goldwin, Hakuhodo, the Japan Graphic Design Association, Laforet, Mori Building Company, and TV Tokyo. Her accolades include awards from the Art Directors Club of New York, Cannes Lions International Festival of Creativity, the Clios, D&AD, and the Japan Graphic Design Association. She was the subject of a solo exhibition, "Yuri Uenishi: Now Printing," held at ginza graphic gallery in 2024. Uenishi is an avid mountain climber and traveler who has now visited some 45 countries and territories.