



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.

Two artists, **Shiga Lieko** and **Takeuchi Kota**, were selected as recipients of the third TCAA. In addition to a monetary prize, they received funding for overseas activities in the year following the award, and now, in the final year of a multi-year program of support, we are pleased to present the TCAA 2021-2023 Exhibition at the Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo.

This exhibition transcends the simple framework of a venue where each of the award recipients displays their works. It was organized through a series of dialogues between the artists, which included deciding on the exhibition title and exchanging opinions during the process of producing works and thereafter. In conjunction with the opening of the exhibition, a monograph (in Japanese and English) will be published, featuring past works by both of the recipients as well as new works created for this exhibition.

■ Exhibition Information * Subject to alteration according to the state of the COVID-19 infection.

Exhibition Title: Waiting for the Wind
Tokyo Contemporary Art Award 2021–2023 Exhibition

Artists: SHIGA Lieko, TAKEUCHI Kota

Period: 2023/3/18 (Sat.) - 6/18 (Sun.)

Venue: Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, Exhibition Gallery 3F
(4-1-1 Miyoshi, Koto-ku, Tokyo 135-0022)

Open Hours: 10:00-18:00

Closed: Mondays

Admission: Free

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

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

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■ Highlights

■ Exhibition Layout Emerged from Dialogues Between Artists

This exhibition featuring Shiga Lieko and Takeuchi Kota, winners of the third TCAA, is titled *Waiting for the Wind*. This term emerged from dialogue between Shiga and Takeuchi that began at the award ceremony, and could be described as the only collaboration between the two artists featured in the exhibition, as well as an invocation of inner realms of the human experience. The works of these two artists, who are based in Miyagi and Fukushima—both of which suffered devastating and lasting damage in the Great East Japan Earthquake—take different creative directions, but they share a common understanding found through dialogue, and the exhibition layout is such that their works interact and resonate in some parts of the venue.

■ Primarily Features New Works Produced with Award Support

Shiga's new work, with video as its central medium, reinterprets the experience of a colossal wave of restoration projects in diverse fields that were suddenly launched after the 2011 earthquake and tsunami in terms of the basic human activity of walking. Using a map of the coastal region extending from Tokyo northeast to Sanriku and the tip of Aomori (Honshu's northernmost prefecture) on the Pacific Ocean side as a basis, Shiga has endeavored to render visible the 12 years since the disaster, including her own ever-changing inner thoughts and feelings, through a large-scale collage bringing together photographs, drawings, and notes.

Takeuchi has been engaged in ongoing research into “balloon bombs” released by the Japanese military toward the end of World War II, and following further research in the US, he presents a new installation incorporating an actual-size balloon replica comprising many interconnected photographs of the earth's surface at a site where balloons fell. Also on view will be his *Demolition of Mihako Theater* (2013), which focuses on the razing of the Mihako Theater in Iwaki City in the aftermath of the 2011 earthquake and tsunami despite efforts to preserve it. The experience of this exhibition is one of a “chain of possession” connecting past events, artists, and viewers, in which art is created when artists are possessed by past events, and works of art gain validity when viewers are possessed by viewing them.

■ Related Events

■ Artists' Talk

Date: March 19 (Sun.), 14:00~15:30 (Doors open at 13:30)

Participants: SHIGA Lieko, TAKEUCHI Kota, Carol Yinghua LU (Director, Beijing Inside-Out Art Museum / TCAA 2021-2023 Selection Committee)

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

Venue: Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, B2F Auditorium

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

Events of various types are also scheduled. Details to be announced at a later date on the TCAA website.

■ About the Monograph

In conjunction with the opening of the exhibition, a monograph (in Japanese and English) is published for each artist that includes images of their works in addition to the artist's own texts about their work and creative process, and contributions from experts. The monographs are available in part as downloadable PDF files from the TCAA website around the end of March 2023. *The monographs are not for sale.

ARTISTS



SHIGA Lieko

Born in Aichi in 1980. Lives and works in Miyagi.

Shiga moved to Miyagi in 2008, and while getting to know the people of the region, she created works dealing with subjects such as the relationship between human society and nature, perspectives on life through the lens of imagined death, and memories that go back countless generations. The way society ceased to function after the Great East Japan Earthquake, and experiences governed by the harsh laws of nature, led to her being overwhelmed by déjà vu-like echoes of Japan's reconstruction following World War II, and she has subsequently pursued the primal roots of the human spirit through a range of artistic endeavors.

Recent exhibitions: "Collection Exhibition 2: BLUE," 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, 2021, "Compassionate Grounds: Ten Years on in Tohoku," Composite, Melbourne, Australia, 2021, "Reborn-Art Festival 2021-22," Oshika Peninsula (Kozumi), Miyagi, 2021, Solo Exhibition "Shiga Lieko: Human Spring," Tokyo Photographic Art Museum, 2019, Solo Exhibition "CANARY," Foam Museum, Amsterdam, 2013, etc.

[Artist Statement]

For the past two years I have invited a wide variety of people to my studio in the town of Misato, Miyagi Prefecture for talks, lectures, and workshops, and these have formed the basis of my practice. Through opening up my workspace, which is also my living space, I have been blessed with a range of experiences and many new encounters that I never would have imagined. These experiences have caused me to view the past 12 years of reconstruction following the Great East Japan Earthquake of 2011, characterized by the overwhelming forces of capital and state planning which are virtually impossible to resist, not only as a modern-day form of oppression, but also as a process that suggests possibilities for new ideas, different perspectives, diverse paths and sometimes conflicting forces to emerge along the way, and for these to closely interconnect. With only my own body as a mirror, I hope to present an exhibit that illuminates and reflects into the gallery the accumulation of events that have occurred during this time.



1. Still from *Bipolar*, 2022



2. Still from *Bipolar*, 2022



3. Still from *Bipolar*, 2022



4. Still from *Bipolar*, 2022

Winner's interview

Interviews conducted in September 2021 can be viewed on the TCAA website.



ARTISTS



TAKEUCHI Kota

Born in 1982. Lives and works in Fukushima.

Takeuchi develops his practice across temporal and spatial divides, focusing on the themes of parallel bodies and possession. Engaging with people's memories through buildings, monuments, sculptures, archives, and interviews with local historians and eyewitnesses, he explores the relationship between media and human beings from multiple perspectives using means such as maps, live streaming video, and UAV (drone) cameras.

Recent exhibitions: "MOT Collection: Journals," Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, 2021, Solo Exhibition "Body is not Antibody," SNOW Contemporary, Tokyo, 2020, and 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, "Japanorama. A new vision on art since 1970," Centre Pompidou-Metz, France, 2017, etc.

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

[Artist Statement]

Last year, using Google Maps and American military archives, I was able to identify one of the landing sites of the "balloon bombs" that Japan released to target the US during World War II. With travel support from TCAA I visited that location, which is near the Hanford Site (once the site of a plutonium production reactor; now a center for scientific research and development) in Washington State. In September 2022, I worked with museums in Iwaki City, Fukushima Prefecture, one of the places from which balloons were released, to organize a walk for residents to explore history. Daily news reports show that while humanity has developed means of instantaneous communication across oceans, we have not stopped sending soldiers and bombs across borders. I am now working on drawings while envisioning the ground over which the balloons once flew.



5. *Sigh of A Ground*, 2022, installation
Photo: KAWAGOE Kenta



6. *Shooting (Cold Creek)*, 2022, photo



7. *Demolition of Mihako Theater*, 2013,
video installation, 33min. 23sec.



8. Attu Island, Alaska from *Sight Recovery/Balloon Possession*, 2022, ink on paper, C-print

Winner's interview

Interviews conducted in September 2021 can be viewed on the TCAA website.



I About TCAA

The Tokyo Contemporary Art Award (TCAA) is a contemporary art prize for mid-career artists active or based in Japan whose work inspires expectations of potential for even greater achievements, including development of their careers overseas. 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 (in Japanese and English).

Winners

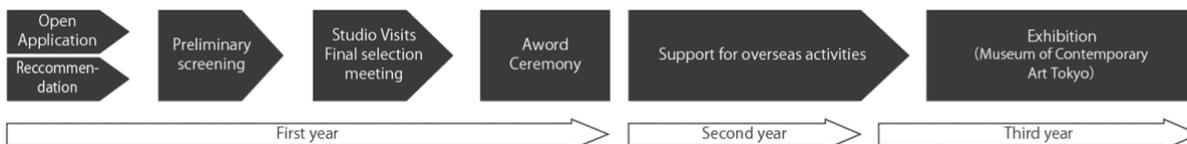
1st	TCAA 2019–2021	KAZAMA Sachiko	/	SHITAMICHI Motoyuki
2nd	TCAA 2020–2022	FUJII Hikaru	/	YAMASHIRO Chikako
3rd	TCAA 2021–2023	SHIGA Lieko	/	TAKEUCHI Kota
4th	TCAA 2022–2024	Saeborg	/	TSUDA Michiko

I About TCAA 2021-2023

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



International Selection Committee

*Positions and titles current as of the time of the 2020 selection process.

Sofía Hernández Chong CUY [Director, Kunstinstituut Melly]

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]

Selection Secretariat

Arts Initiative Tokyo [AIT]

I Concurrent Exhibitions at Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo

“Christian Dior: Designer of Dreams”

“MOT Collection”

*For details about concurrent exhibitions, please contact the public relations section of the Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo.

<Press Contact>

Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo / Public Relations
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**Tokyo Contemporary Art Award 2021-2023 Exhibition
Application Form for Image Data**

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Email : **press@tokyoartsandspace.jp**

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

I would like to receive data for the following images

(Please check the number of the images you would like to receive):

- 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 **TCAA 2021-2023 Logo Mark**
 Shiga Lieko's Portrait **Takeuchi Kota's Portrait**

Name of publication (name of feature or section): _____

TV Radio Newspaper Freesheet Web magazine Other (_____)

Date when article is scheduled to appear: _____

Name of company: _____

Writer's name: _____

Tel: _____

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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 item (one) or copies (three). For websites, please send us the URL when it is published.

<Press Contact>

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