

ACT (Artists Contemporary TOKAS) Vol. 8

Of the Land



— Questioning Our Connection with the Land Through the Work of Three Artists

Tokyo Arts and Space (TOKAS) is pleased to present ACT (Artists Contemporary TOKAS) Vol. 8 “Of the Land,” a group exhibition exploring the connection between people and the land. Nature offers blessings and, at times, unleashes overwhelming force, shaping both the physical and spiritual lives of those who inhabit it. This exhibition considers how we might retain a sense of our intrinsic bond with the land in an age when the landscape is shifting rapidly, and losing its distinct identity.

Each of the three participating artists explores the concept “being of the land” from their individual perspectives. **Akahane Fumiaki** evokes a subterranean world and how his inner world resonates with this through painting. **Kukita Akane** investigates the relationship between nature and humans through sculptural works inspired by ornamentation. **Yamada Sanae** uses video to examine how natural disasters and human responses reveal our connection with the land.

Through the practices of these three artists, this exhibition invites viewers to reconsider how our lives and the land we inhabit are interconnected.

*ACT (Artists Contemporary TOKAS) is a special exhibition introducing artists who practice notable activities, including those who have previously participated in other Tokyo Arts and Space (TOKAS) programs.

Information

Exhibition Title : ACT (Artists Contemporary TOKAS) Vol. 8 “Of the Land”

Artists : AKAHANE Fumiaki, KUKITA Akane, YAMADA Sanae

Period : Feb 28 (Sat) - Mar 22 (Sun), 2026

Venue : Tokyo Arts and Space Hongo (2-4-16 Hongo, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo)

Open Hours : 11:00 - 19:00 (Last entry 18:30)

Closed : Mondays

Admission : Free

Organizer : Tokyo Arts and Space (Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture)

Cooperation : CAVE-AYUMI GALLERY

URL : <https://www.tokyoartsandspace.jp/en/archive/exhibition/2026/20260228-7493.html>

< Press Contact >

Funabashi (Ms.), Ichikawa (Ms.), Takechi (Ms.) PR section

Tokyo Arts and Space (Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture)

4-1-1 Miyoshi, Koto-ku, Tokyo 135-0022

(Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture)

TEL: +81-(0)3-5245-1142 / FAX: +81-(0)3-5245-1140 E-mail : press@tokyoartsandspace.jp

Outline

Since ancient times, people have expressed their connection to the land through myriad forms, including rites and festivals as a form of nature worship, clay figurines made to pray for good harvests, and ornamental patterns that reflect views of nature and beliefs. These representations reveal how nature—both nurturing and destructive—has shaped the bodies and minds of those who inhabit a place. Today, with cities routinely being torn down and rebuilt, and rural areas becoming increasingly homogenized through suburbanization, regional landscapes are in constant flux, and the distinct identities of places are being eroded. Despite this, we continue to sense our presence in specific environments through scents in the air, the wind on our skin, and the sensation of the ground beneath our feet—perhaps because we possess an innate attachment to the land we live upon in the form of spiritual connection.

Taking this idea as a starting point, the exhibition focuses on the theme of connection between people and the land, with each participating artist exploring “of the land” from a different perspective, through soil, plants, and natural phenomena.

Akahane Fumiaki paints a subterranean world where slime molds and microorganisms teem and pulsate with life. Born into a farming family and accustomed to getting his hands dirty in the soil since childhood, Akahane found himself grounded to the land, and his inner world began to attune to the subterranean realm. As this attunement deepened, he began depicting images as though he were slipping into the soil or into the depths of his own mind.

Kukita Akane is drawn to stylized ornamentation fashioned by deconstructing and reassembling plants. She creates sculptural works in ceramic, acrylic, and metal, reworking ornamental forms rooted in everyday life through the architecture and craft of the land. Through these ornamental forms, which embody local beliefs and views of nature, Kukita explores the bonds between humans and the natural world.

Yamada Sanae's video work presents natural disasters and the people who confront them. Volcanic eruptions and earthquakes are natural phenomena arising from the Earth's internal energy, yet they become “disasters” when people become part of the land, and their livelihoods are under threat. Yamada investigates this phenomenon—which is inseparable from mental and physical existence—through multidimensional perspectives in her work.

Through these practices, the exhibition seeks to rediscover how we, as beings *of the land*, are inextricably bound to it, and reconsider what that relationship means.

Related Events

[Opening Events]

Artist Talk

Date: Feb 28 (Sat), 2026 16:00-17:30

Artists: AKAHANE Fumiaki, KUKITA Akane, YAMADA Sanae

*Available only in Japanese

*No booking required

Sound performance by AKAHANE Fumiaki

Date: Feb 28 (Sat), 2026 15:30-

Performers: AKAHANE Fumiaki, ASADA Erika

*No booking required

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

AKAHANE Fumiaki

Participated in “IMAGINARY MUSEUM of the O-collection - magical museum tour Room 6” (2008).

Captivated by the world beneath the soil, Akahane Fumiaki uses painting to depict a realm alive with fungi, slime molds, and insects, together with his inner world that resonates with it.

Describing his production process as “diving into his own inner depths,” Akahane allows amorphous, organic forms—suggestive of both animals and plants—to surface in his paintings. For Akahane, the subterranean world represents a place of freedom, unconstrained by established values or power; it is a site for exploring alternative possibilities and expanding creativity. His practice extends to three-dimensional structures combining materials such as wood, fabric, and sand.

This exhibition will feature an installation composed of large-scale paintings and sculptural works, comprising new pieces. Together, they evoke an underworld governed by fungi, Akahane’s own inner psyche, and the interior of a body—an unknown world into which viewers may enter and dissolve. Akahane will present a sound performance on the opening day of the exhibition.

< Profile >

Born in Nagano in 1984. Lives and works in Nagano. Graduated with a BFA in Department of Painting from Musashino Art University in 2008.

Recent solo exhibitions: “Life and Circulation,” Informel Nakagawamura Museum, Nagano, 2024, “Soil Psychedelia,” CAVE-AYUMI GALLERY, Tokyo, 2023, “Fumiaki Akahane SOILS AND SURVIVORS,” Suwa City Museum of Art, Nagano, 2023. Other activities: “Residency Program,” Casa Wabi, Puerto Escondido, Mexico, 2025, “VOCA The Vision of Contemporary Art 2023,” Ueno Royal Museum, Tokyo. Recent award: “Izumi Kato Prize x Fundación Casa Wabi 2024 – 2025,” Recipient.



1. *cell/skin/hole*, 2023

Wood, steel plate, camping tent, eyelets, wire, cotton, burlap bag, hemp string, glue, gel medium, acrylic, sand, jute fiber, beeswax, cotton water thread, sisal, carabiner

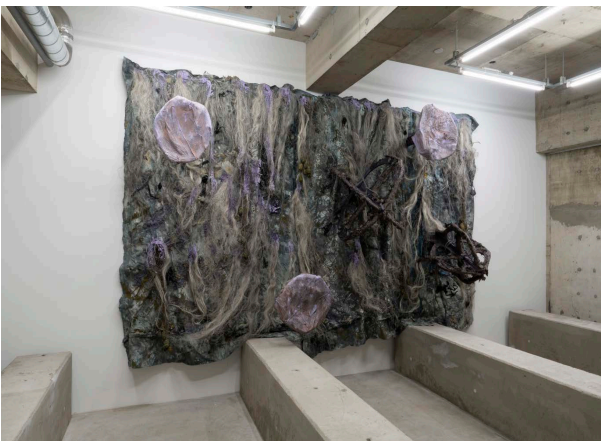
Photo: ITAMI Go Courtesy of CAVE-AYUMI GALLERY ©2025 AKAHANE Fumiaki



2. *Soil Psychedelia*, 2023

Linen, oil paint, beeswax, cotton, jute fiber, sand

Photo: AKAISHI Takaaki Courtesy of CAVE-AYUMI GALLERY ©2025 AKAHANE Fumiaki



3. *fungi/seed/ground*, 2023

Cotton cloth, wood, wire, acrylic, glue, beeswax, cotton, burlap bag, jute fiber, sand, rope, steel plate, carabiner

Photo: AKAISHI Takaaki Courtesy of CAVE-AYUMI GALLERY ©2025 AKAHANE Fumiaki

KUKITA Akane

Participated in “TOKAS-Emerging 2021,” “Local Emerging Creator Residency Program 2024.”

Kukita Akane is interested in the ornamentation found in architecture and craft, creating sculptural works derived from these decorative patterns.

Stylized ornaments made by deconstructing and reassembling plant motifs reflect local beliefs and worldviews of nature, embodying the bond between humans and the natural world. By extracting these motifs from their original context and reconstructing them through various materials, including ceramic, metal, and acrylic, Kukita invites new ways of seeing these forms.

In recent years, Kukita has explored the theme of “generative ornamentation,” considering the repeated plant patterns in ornamentation as living forms that spontaneously generate themselves, and attempting to recreate that energy within her work.

For this exhibition, Kukita presents a new installation inspired by the ornaments of Shirone and Niigata Buddhist altars. Her interest in these forms developed whilst researching scrolling arabesque design in Buddhist art. The exhibition also features works that reflect on natural order and the power of repeating forms. Unfolding from the entrance into the depths of the gallery like a descent into the roots of a plant, the exhibition creates a space where the forms and order of ornamentation become a path to contemplating a more primal and spiritual relationship between humans and nature.

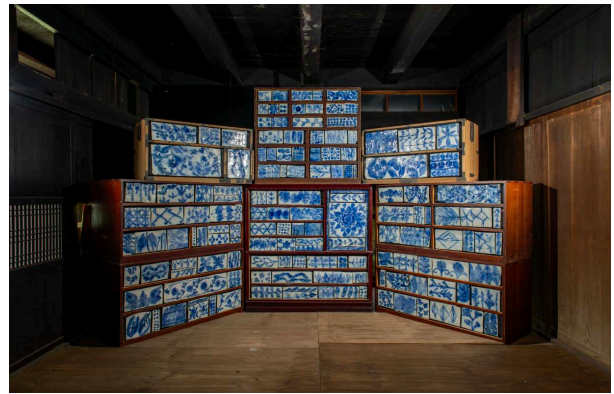
< Profile >

Born in 1987, grew up in Aichi. Lives and works in Chiba. Earned her PhD in Intermedia Art from Tokyo University of the Arts in 2025.

Recent solo exhibitions: “TOKAS-Emerging 2021 ‘Distorted Symmetry,’” Tokyo Arts and Space Hongo, “one leaf, one Loop,” ART TRACE Gallery, Tokyo, 2017. Other activities: “Independent Activity Program 2025 Summer,” YUI-PORT, Niigata, “Local Emerging Creator Residency Program 2024,” Tokyo Arts and Space Residency, 2025, “ART TRACE GALLERY 2004 – 2024,” ART TRACE GALLERY, Tokyo, 2025, “Trolls in the Park 2024,” Zenpukuji Park, Tokyo, “Nakanojo Biennale 2023,” Yamase, Gunma.



4. *Ornament of life*, 2021
Ceramic, negatives, wood
Photo: MIYAMOTO Kazuyuki



5. *Ornament Pattern of Natural Plants*, 2023
Ceramic, chest, etc.
Photo: MIYAMOTO Kazuyuki



6. *Ornament Line*, 2024
Old Japanese banknotes, UV print on acrylic, oil-based pen

YAMADA Sanae

Participated in "TOKAS-Emerging 2022."

Yamada Sanae conducts research and fieldwork on land and natural disasters, exploring the relationship between people and the natural environment through video and installation.

"Topophilia," a term Yamada once borrowed for an exhibition title, is a neologism coined by geographer Yi-Fu Tuan to describe the affective ties people have with a particular place. Disasters, however, force inhabitants to reexamine the terrain and the environment, bringing to light the depth of their connection to the lives they lead there. What inner forces compel people to stay, even while knowing the dangers? Yamada incorporates everyday images of disaster, including evacuation drills, simulation tests, and scenes turned into media spectacles, to encourage us to rethink what it means to be of the land, or for the land to inhabit us.

For this exhibition, Yamada presents a new installation inspired by the *jishin-mushi* (earthquake creature) and the *namazu* catfish from Japanese folklore, featuring a single-channel video and video work displayed across multiple monitors. The work reflects on disasters—which have influenced human activity and exposed the structures of an era or a society—through the lenses of history, geography, and the psychic dimensions of human experience.

Support: Toshiaki Ogasawara Memorial Foundation

< Profile >

Born in Gunma in 1987. Lives and works in Tokyo. Graduated with an MFA in Design course from Tokyo University of the Arts in 2012.

Recent solo exhibitions: "Topophilia," Tomioka City Museum / Fukuzawa Ichiro Memorial Gallery, Gunma, 2023, "TOKAS-Emerging 2022 'A Fire on My Palm'," Tokyo Arts and Space Hongo, "The Pioneers," VIENTO ARTS GALLERY, Gunma, 2020. Other activities: "Tunnel (Art Event Produced by 《neru》)," OAG Art Center Kobe, 2025, "The 14th MAEBASHI MEDIA FESTIVAL 2024 plus," re/noma, "Minikino Film Week 8, Bali International Short Film Festival," Bali, Indonesia, 2022. Recent grant/award: "Contemporary Art Research Grant," Toshiaki Ogasawara Memorial Foundation, 2025, "Image Forum Festival 2018," Nominated.



7. *Before It Happens*, 2022
HD video, sound



8. *An Emergency Drill for Forgetful Me and Us*, 2025
Two-channel video installation, sound



9. *Becoming Neighbors*, 2025
Two-channel video installation, sound, ball

**ACT (Artists Contemporary TOKAS) Vol.8 “Of the Land”
Application Form for Image Data**

Email : press@tokyoartsandspace.jp

To: Public Relations Section, Tokyo Arts and Space

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 Web banner

*Images can be downloaded from the link >> <https://www.tokyoartsandspace.jp/en/press/form/25>

Name of publication (name of feature or section):

TV Radio Newspaper Free Newspaper Web Magazine Other (_____)

Date article is scheduled to appear: _____

Name of company: _____ Writer's name: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Date and/or time you would like to receive image data: _____

*Personal information entered above will only be used to respond to questions and requests.

*For urgent inquiries, please send an email or call us.

Please note:

*Image data may not be used for purposes other than those applied for. Please refrain from using images for purposes other than publishing or broadcasting. Please submit another application if you plan to use the images for a purpose other than the originally applied-for medium, resale, etc.

*Image data will be sent via email. Please note that it will take around one to two days (excluding weekends and public holidays) to receive it.

*Please use the full artwork image, without trimming it or adding text. Make sure to include the prescribed caption, etc.

*Promptly dispose of the provided images after usage. When posting them on a website, please use copy protection or clearly specify that they may not be reproduced to ensure they are not used by a third party without permission.

*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.

< Press Contact >

Funabashi (Ms.), Ichikawa (Ms.), Takechi (Ms.) PR section

Tokyo Arts and Space (Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture)

4-1-1 Miyoshi, Koto-ku, Tokyo 135-0022

(Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture)

TEL: +81-(0)3-5245-1142 / FAX: +81-(0)3-5245-1140 E-mail : press@tokyoartsandspace.jp