

## PROFILES OF THE GUESTS

●Festival／Music

“Music Weeks in TOKYO”, Chorus Master

### **Roberto Gabbiani**

The Teatro Regio di Torino, Chorus Master

Mr. Roberto Gabbiani received his diploma in pianoforte and composition from the “Luigi Cherubini” Conservatory in Florence. From 1990 to 2002 Maestro Gabbiani was called by Riccardo Muti to direct the Chorus of the Teatro alla Scala of Milan, where he also conducted the Orchestra and Philharmonic Chorus of La Scala. He successfully presented the annual commission of a choral composition, conducting the world premières. Until now, he collaborated with the world renowned conductors such as Claudio Abbado, Carlos Kleiber, and Lorin Maazel, gaining enormous credibility with them. In July 2008 he was named Chorus Master of the Teatro Regio di Torino.



●Festival, Kids／Traditional Performing Art

“Tokyo Traditional Arts Program” Executive Committee, Chair

### **Man Nomura**

Noh actor (Important intangible cultural property holder)

Japan Council of Performers' Organizations, Chairman

In 1997, Mr. Nomura received the honor of designation as an Important Intangible Cultural Property (a “living national treasure”), as the greatest figure in the representational art form of Japan, Kyōgen. Born Tarō Nomura, the oldest son and apprentice of the late sixth-generation Manzō Nomura (also a “living national treasure”). 1956, his nōgaku group has taken part in a multitude of public performances abroad, introducing kyōgen to wide audiences overseas and striving for its popularization. Today, in addition to his busy engagements with the stage, he commits himself to rearing the younger generation and devotes his energy to the advancement and development of culture and the performing arts, as chairman of the Japan Council of Performers' Organizations. Awards and recognitions received include, among others, the Purple Ribbon Medal, Member of the Japan Art Academy, and Person of Cultural Merit.



●Tokyo Artpoint Project／Art program

“Tokyo in Progress”

### **Tadashi Kawamata**

Artist

Mr. Kawamata, born in 1953, is an artist and a professor at the École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts in Paris.

He started working as an artist in 1977 and was selected for participation as an artist in the Venice Biennale at a young age of 28. Since, he has participated in the “documenta” and has constantly won international acclaim in Europe and the U.S. Moving beyond the existing context of art, he developed a unique methodology of art production called “work in progress”. His activities encompass architecture, urban planning, history, sociology, communication, and healthcare.



●Festival/Theater

“Festival/Tokyo”, Program Director

**Chiaki Soma**

NPO Arts Network Japan



©Nobuyuki Kagamida

Born in 1975. After graduating from Waseda University, Ms. Soma took a postgraduate degree at the Lyon Lumiere University in France. She has been working for the Art Network Japan since 2002. In 2006 she founded the “Steep Slope Studio”, where she is currently the representative director. From 2007 to 2010 she was an invited lecturer of the Global COE (Educational Program supported by Theatre Museum) of the Waseda University. After having held the position as the program director of the 2008 Tokyo International Arts Festival, she is assigned the same position at Festival/Tokyo.

In my view, F/T gives us the opportunity to scrutinize what is “immediately before our eyes” and produce something. We could simply use the term “expression”, but it actually requires a lot of effort to confront the reality, find the necessary approach to an act by trial and error, and present a work or an act for all to see. We could say that F/T is a gathering of a number of people who gave this effort. And I hope that we can share with the people who gather at F/T the extraordinary joy and new discoveries that await at the end of all these efforts.

●Festival/Arts, Film

“Roppongi Art Night” Committee, Secretary General

**Takashi Takemura**



After working for a production company, Mr. Takemura joined Mori Bldg. Ryutsu System Co., Ltd. in 1989, where he has been involved in the planning and production of events and management of halls in Laforet Museum. He was additionally assigned to Mori Building Co., Ltd.’s Town Management Department in 2004, where he has been working for the planning and production of various events held in the Roppongi Hills Arena in the Roppongi Hills complex.

The second Roppongi Art Night was even more successful than last year’s. Watching the visitors mirthfully promenade about the city as a greater number of them kept pouring in as the night wore on, I had a sense that the “one-night city festival of art” had already captured the minds of a large number of people.

●Festival/Arts, Film

“Tokyo Art Meeting ‘Transformation’ ”

“Trans-Cool TOKYO Contemporary Japanese Art from MOT Collection”

**Yuko Hasegawa**

Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo (MOT), Chief Curator



Ms. Hasegawa is a Chief Curator of the Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo (MOT) and also a professor of the Department of Art Science, Tama Art University in Tokyo. She was a Founding Artistic Director of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa. Since 2001, she serves as an International Arts Advisory Council for the Wexner Center for the Arts. And from 2008 she is the member of Asian Art Council at Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum (US), the board member of the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority (HK), and the Artistic Director of Inujima House Project (JP).

Tokyo Art Meeting is a project in which expressions in a variety of genres and fields of specialization meet through the medium of art. In the first Tokyo Art Meeting on the theme of transformation, we explore the human potential for visualization and imagination with anthropologists.

●Festival/Art, Film

“Yebisu International Festival for Art & Alternative Visions”

**Michiko Kasahara**

Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography, Chief Curator



Ms. Kasahara, born in 1957, served as the chief curator of Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography from 1989 to 2002. After working as the curator of Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo (2002–2006), she was appointed to the current post in 2006. Exhibitions she organized include “Ishiuchi Miyako, Mother’s 2000–2005, Traces of the Future”, in the role of commissioner of the Japanese pavilion at the 51st Venice Biennale in 2005, and “On your body, Japanese contemporary photography” (Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography, 2008).

Yebisu International Festival for Arts & Alternative Visions is a festival of art and visual images based in Yebisu for all of the world to see. Instead of restricting ourselves in how we define visual images, we will attempt to redefine the diverse forms of expression and reception of visual images. The works are displayed in a multistratified manner within the Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography, and visitors will discover various forms of artistic expressions of visual images originating in a high-quality world. I hope many people will come and visit the festival.

●Kids/Theater

“Performance Kids Tokyo”

**Yasuhiko Tsutsumi**

NPO Children Meet Artists, Representative



In 2000, Mr. Tsutsumi launched the ASIAS (Artist’s Studio In A School) project in which contemporary artists are sent to primary schools to hold workshops for students. The project was awarded the Asahi Breweries Arts Award in 2003. Based in Nishi-Sugamo Arts Factory in a former school in Toshima, Tokyo, he is currently promoting kids’ projects in two fields of school education and community building.

New expressions are created when contemporary artists on the cutting edge of dance, theater, and music come face to face with kids who hold the future in their hands. We will hold workshops to bring out kids’ creativity, diversity, and intercommunication, and create original theater productions. Kids are in the main cast, but that does not mean we will not be bringing out authentic productions. We need to convey to today’s city kids what real, physical artistic expressions mean!

●Kids/Music

“Music & Rhythms TOKYO KIDS”, Secretary General

**Kimihiko Kitamura**

NPO Bamboo Orchestra, Chief Director



Mr. Kitamura participated in all of the activities since the establishment of Bamboo Orchestra, and successfully turned it into an official Nonprofit Organization at the beginning of 2004. He also plays traditional Japanese instruments. Finished master course of Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music. Always thinking about Bamboo Orchestra’s future and realizing their dreams. Grateful of having the opportunity to meet many people through their activities!

The intense look on children’s faces as they cut bamboo sticks to make their original musical instruments and the smile they show when they have completed always fill me with new strength. And the music they play with their instruments is their unique music that no one can copy. I am constantly enthralled by their power. The future of this country is bright! Join us and play your music in Tomin Hiroba.

●Kids/Theater

“TACT/FESTIVAL”

### **Hiroshi Takahagi**

Tokyo Metropolitan Art Space, Vice Director



As a university student, Mr. Takahagi participated in the foundation of the theatrical company Yume no Yuminsha. After leaving the company, he was involved in the management of Japan Festival 1991 in the U.K., Tokyo Theater Fair, and Tokyo International Arts Festival. After serving as manager of the Panasonic Globe Theater and as director of the production department of Setagaya Public Theater, he was appointed to the current post. He is also a visiting professor at Tama Art University.

We have chosen productions that underscore the theatrical characteristic of allowing “artists and audience to share the same space and time”. They include the Theatre Arts for Children and Teens Festival (TACT/FESTIVAL) for families, the works of young Japanese dramatists with potential international appeal, a joint production between young Thai and Japanese theatrical companies, and *The Blue Dragon* directed by Robert Lepage of Canada as part of their world tour. These are works that come from all over the world and works of those in the theater who are about to expand their horizons to the rest of the world.

●Kids/Music

“Tokyo Bunka Kaikan Open Rehearsal for Students”

### **Tatsuaki Matsumoto**

Tokyo Bunka Kaikan, Vice Director



Mr. Matsumoto was born in Kumamoto Prefecture in 1952. After graduating from a university and working in a private company, he joined the Tokyo Metropolitan Government (TMG) in 1979. From 1990 to 1992, he worked in TMG’s Paris office. He was appointed the vice director of Tokyo Bunka Kaikan in 2007. In the same year, he was also appointed the managing director of the Association of Public Theaters and Halls in Japan.

Our program offers young people the chance to encounter and experience the world’s highest standard of art. In this second year, the number of applicants and audience is increasing at a faster pace than last year. Many of our participants have shown interest in participating again and would like to see an increase in the number of these programs.

This year, our programs will feature the world’s celebrated companies, including The Royal Ballet, The Royal Opera, and The Australian Ballet. We hope that the encounter with genuine art will lead to the future creation and dissemination of art and culture.

●Tokyo Artpoint Project

Art Program / Human Resources Program

“TERATOTERA” “Tokyo Art Research Lab”

**Nozomu Ogawa**

Art Center Ongoing, Director



Mr. Ogawa established the art complex Art Center Ongoing in Kichijoji, Tokyo, to constantly break existing barriers in culture and present new creations to the world. He is currently the representative of the art complex. He is also the chief director of the TERATOTERA art project, which is being carried out in the area between Koenji Station and Kichijoji Station on the JR line.

TERATOTERA is an encounter with the community, while Art Project 0123 is an encounter with undiscovered talent. We hope that the two projects will work in concert to propel Tokyo into a new, unexplored dimension.

●Tokyo Artpoint Project / Art Program

The House of Atreus, Sumida-ku, Tokyo. (“Bokuto Machimise 2010”)

**Kaku Nagashima**

Mixt Media Product



As one of the few dramaturges in Japan, Mr. Nagashima is responsible for creation of the concepts of plays and the editing and composition of scripts, a role dealing with words as they relate to the actors’ physical presence and voice. He has translated the plays of Samuel Beckett, Sarah Kane, and Jon Fosse, and has worked with various directors and theatrical companies. In February 2010, he directed *Electra* in a house in Yanaka, Tokyo.

Fiction has the power to make us oblivious to reality as well as the power to make us see reality more clearly. The idea that characters in a Greek tragedy would take abode in Sumida is obviously fictional. Nevertheless, what does this unlikely combination has to show us? I look forward to promoting this project with the local community.