



“Roppongi Art Night 2023 : Urban Life Encyclopedia” An Art Extravaganza to Illuminate Roppongi.

May 27 (Sat) – 28 (Sun), 2023

Featuring Takashi Kuribayashi + Cinema Caravan and Tomoko Konoike,
This year’s edition will show case variety of artworks by emerging artists
throughout the area of Roppongi.

The Roppongi Art Night Executive Committee will hold “Roppongi Art Night 2023”, an art festival staged throughout the city of Roppongi, for two days from Saturday, May 27 to Sunday, May 28, 2023. “Roppongi Art Night”, now in its 12th year* since its inception in 2009, has become a leading art festival in Tokyo, aiming to create a pioneering model for urban development in the metropolis.

We welcome as this year’s featured artists Takashi Kuribayashi + Cinema Caravan and Tomoko Konoike, both of whom are contemporary artists active in Japan and abroad. Under the theme of “Urban Life Encyclopedia”, the works on display throughout Roppongi will look to the great movements and cycles of the natural world to imagine the lives that exist within the city, sparking new and diverse connections that visitors may not have previously been aware of. The event will present contemporary art, design, video, performance, and online content from the featured artists along with other emerging artists.

During “Roppongi Art Night 2023”, art museums and other cultural facilities, large complexes, and shopping districts will collaborate to offer special programs and extended opening hours for the exhibitions. Roppongi is a place where arts from Japan and international points assemble together, and where visitors can enjoy gourmet food, shopping, and movies. We hope you will enjoy the colorful city of Roppongi, which is full of surprises, excitement, and encounters.

*The 2011 event was cancelled due to the Great East Japan Earthquake, and the 2020 and 2021 events were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

■ Message for Roppongi Art Night 2023



Photo by Akinori Ito

Over the past several years, we have been thinking deeply about “living” and the existence of all forms of life. As we consider how to become a sustainable society, we have also become more aware of the global environment as a whole. Against this social backdrop, “Roppongi Art Night 2023” will explore, through visual arts and performance, how not only humans, but also animals, insects, plants, and other living creatures nurture life and coexist within the ecosystem of Roppongi, one the major metropolitan areas of Tokyo. The title of the event is “An Illustrated Book of Urban Creatures.”

As one of the main artists, Takashi Kuribayashi + Cinema Caravan, who participated in the world’s largest art festival Documenta in 2022, will exhibit a large-scale project at Roppongi Hills Arena focusing on the theme of energy and its circulation around the world. Main artist Tomoko Konoike will exhibit large-scale artworks at The National Art Center, Tokyo, and Tokyo Midtown, drawing from her innovative perspective on the natural world and the relationship between animals and humans. Visitors will be able to discover a variety of life forms in the city, including mysterious and cute animals.

By looking to the great movements and cycles of the natural world to imagine the lives that exist within the city, we can find new and diverse connections that we were not previously aware of. We hope that you will feel the energy for positive living that fills the space of Roppongi.

Mami Kataoka, Roppongi Art Night Executive Committee Chair (Director, Mori Art Museum)



■ Main Program Artists

Takashi Kuribayashi + Cinema Caravan

Since his early career in Germany, shortly after the reunification of East and West, Takashi Kuribayashi has been presenting a range of works, with a particular focus on large-scale installations centered on the theme of “boundaries.” He has maintained an active career while traveling back and forth between Japan and Indonesia, and has been invited to participate in exhibitions both in Japan and internationally. Cinema Caravan, which began working with Kuribayashi in 2009, was founded by members of the first Zushi Beach Film Festival (2010), held in Zushi, Kanagawa Prefecture. The diverse collective includes photographers, fabricators, and chefs, and extends beyond film to serve as a medium for connecting people and cultures and creating shared experiences. Last year, the group participated in Documenta fifteen in Germany, where they held various events based on their exhibited work *Outside of Mosquito Net*.



Kuribayashi received the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology’s Art Encouragement Prize at Documenta fifteen in 2022 for his work *Genki Rōgen Unit 4*, presented by Takashi Kuribayashi + Cinema Caravan.

Comments on Participating in Roppongi Art Night

When I was in my twenties, I took a boat trip to the Great Barrier Reef in Australia. Besides it being my first time diving, I was mesmerized by a crystal-clear world teeming with nearly two-meter-long sharks and a remote island full of hundreds of monitor lizards. Among these many experiences, there was one particular landscape and location that had a strong and vivid impact on me. It was the graveyard of ships. I was told that this was a place where shipowners, looking to cash in on insurance money, intentionally ran their old ships aground to receive compensation. Dozens of large tankers lie stranded and abandoned in the middle of the ocean, where there is nothing to be seen for a full 360 degrees. Among these was an old wreck that looked like a ghost ship from *Pirates of the Caribbean*, and against the setting sun it made for a strange world that seemed unreal. That moment set off my imagination, eventually becoming the impetus for this project. I imagined those tankers becoming unmoored from their resting places by storms and typhoons, left to wander the world’s oceans. Migratory birds would stop to rest, and the creatures and plants they brought with them would put down roots and eventually become a forest that would overtake the entire ship. Flora and fauna from all over the world would continue to grow on the tanker, creating a large and self-contained ecosystem. It is with this grand and detailed fantasy that the tanker project began.

Example Projects



ZUSHI BEACH FILM FESTIVAL,
photo Cinema Caravan



《*Outside of Mosquito Net*》, Cinema Caravan & Takashi Kuribayashi, documenta fifteen, Karlswiese, Kassel,
photo Takashi Kuribayashi



《*Outside of Mosquito Net*》”, Cinema Caravan & Takashi Kuribayashi, documenta fifteen, Kassel, Friedrichsplatz, photo Rai Shizuno

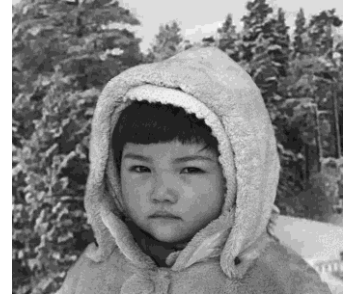
■ Main Program Artists

Tomoko Konoike

Tomoko Konoike continues to question the fundamentals of art through a variety of media including painting, sculpture, and performance, as well as site-specific expressions realized through travel.

Recent solo exhibitions include *Fundamental Violence* (2016), Kanagawa Prefectural Hall, The Museum of Modern Art, Gunma / Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Art Encouragement Prize; *Fur Story* (2018), Leeds Arts University; *Hunter Gatherer* (2018), Akita Museum of Modern Art, Japan; *Chukagari* (2020), Artizon Museum / Mainichi Art Prize; *Birth of Miru* (2022), Takamatsu City Museum of Art.

Group exhibitions include *Temporal Turn* (2016), Spencer Museum of Art / University of Kansas Museum of Natural History; *Japan-Spirits of Nature* (2017), Nordic Akbar Museum of Art; *ECHOES FROM THE PAST* (2018), Sinka Art Museum; *Story-makers* (2022), Japanese Cultural Centre Sydney. Her publications include *Animal Words* and picture books (Hatori Shoten).



Comments on Participating in Roppongi Art Night

You never know if you will see the stray cat you just met on the street again tomorrow. So, just to be safe, I whisper in my heart, “See you later,” but only we humans can make promises with words. We part as we are, and chances are we will probably never see each other again. However, one day, unexpectedly, our paths may cross. When this happens, people say that there is a “karmic connection.” The cat that disappeared will sometimes show up unexpectedly on the side of the road. There is no promise, no trust, only fate that connects the two violently like a storm. Language cannot control it. At times like this, I feel that “karma” is the most untranslatable and animalistic of all human languages. In many ways, art is very similar. It seems that we still harbor much of nature’s unknowability in our animal qualities. How much of us is human and how much of us is animal? Are we insects, birds, wind, grass, soil? Roppongi Art Night can become a topography where these boundaries and classifications become blurred as “animal languages” flourish.

Related Works



《Musashino BLACK KITE》, 2021,
Collection of Kadokawa Culture Promotion Foundation



《Wolf Bench》, 2022



《Earth Baby》, 2009

■ Roppongi Art Night 2023 Details

Official Name: Roppongi Art Night 2023
Dates: May 27 (Sat) – 28 (Sun), 2023
Location: Roppongi Hills, Mori Art Museum, TOKYO MIDTOWN, Suntory Museum of Art, 21_21 DESIGN SIGHT, The National Art Center, Tokyo, Roppongi Shopping District, in addition to other participating institutions and public spaces throughout Roppongi.
Official YouTube Channel 【RAN TV】 : https://www.youtube.com/c/rantv_roppongiartnight
Admission/Viewing Fee: Free (However, some programs and museum exhibitions may require a fee)
Contact: Roppongi Art Night Executive Committee Phone: 050-5541-8600 (9:00 – 20:00)
Supported by: Tokyo Metropolitan Government*, Arts Council Tokyo(Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture)*, Minato City*, Roppongi Art Night Executive Committee (The National Art Center, Tokyo, Suntory Museum of Art, TOKYO MIDTOWN, 21_21 DESIGN SIGHT, Mori Art Museum, Mori Building, Roppongi Shopping District Promotion Association)

*Tokyo Metropolitan Government, Arts Council Tokyo(Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture), and Minato City support will be confirmed when the general account budget for FY2023 is approved by each of the organizations that will vote on the budget.

Website: <https://www.roppongiartnight.com/>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RoppongiArtNight/>
Twitter: https://twitter.com/r_artnight
Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/roppongi_art_night_official/
YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/c/rantv_roppongiartnight
TikTok: <https://www.tiktok.com/@roppongiartnight>

*The details of the event may be changed or cancelled without prior notice for various reasons. Any changes will be announced on the official website and social media channels. More details about the event and information on participating artists will be announced as they are confirmed. Please check the official website and social media channels for the latest information.

< For Press Inquiries >

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Images for publicity can be downloaded here:
<http://bit.ly/3YbLdDK>