



News Release  
NHK International Inc.

**Project of Participation in an Overseas Media Arts Festival /  
Japan Media Arts Festival Curated Program Held by  
Six Young Japanese Filmmakers at  
International Contemporary and Video Art Festival Waterpieces 2013**

The Project of Participation in Overseas Media Arts Festivals is organized by the Agency for Cultural Affairs and administrated by NHK International Inc. It offers cultural exchange through partnerships with overseas festivals in the same field, wide communication about activities of media and arts festivals, and overseas communication of new forms of expression developed in the field of arts and media in Japan.

At the International Contemporary and Video Art Festival Waterpieces 2013 to be held in Riga, the capital of Latvia, from August 15 to 17, the Agency for Cultural Affairs will conduct a curated exhibition, movie screening, and live performance program “Seeking the form of *Anima*” featuring young Japanese filmmakers to introduce the creativity budding among current Japanese media art works. This event is being jointly planned by young domestic curators and festival organizers while giving consideration to the future development of human resources in the field of arts and media.

\*Please see the next page for details about the Japan Media Arts Festival sponsored by the Agency for Cultural Affairs.

■ **Festival overview**

**Festival: Waterpieces 2013**

**Held at: Riga, Latvia**

**Period: August 15-17, 2013**

**Venue: NOASS, Betanovuss (AB-Dambis 2, Riga, LV-1048, Latvia)**

**Admission: Free**

■ **Program outline**

**Exhibition, Screening + Live Program: “Seeking the form of *Anima*”**

**Related screening: Japan Media Arts Festival 2013 Video program**

**Organizer: Non-Governmental arts and culture organization NOASS**

**Co-Organizer: The Agency for Cultural Affairs**

**Planning Director: Junya Yamamine (Curator, Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography)**

**Advisor: David d’Heilly (CEO, 2dk Co., Ltd.)**

**Administration: NHK International, Inc.**

**Official URL: <http://jmaf-promote.jp/global/en/index.html>**

[Inquiries]

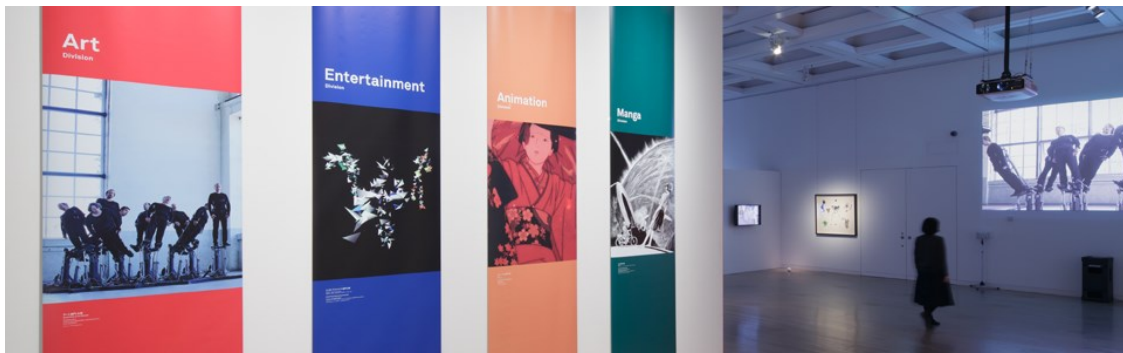
NHK International, Inc.

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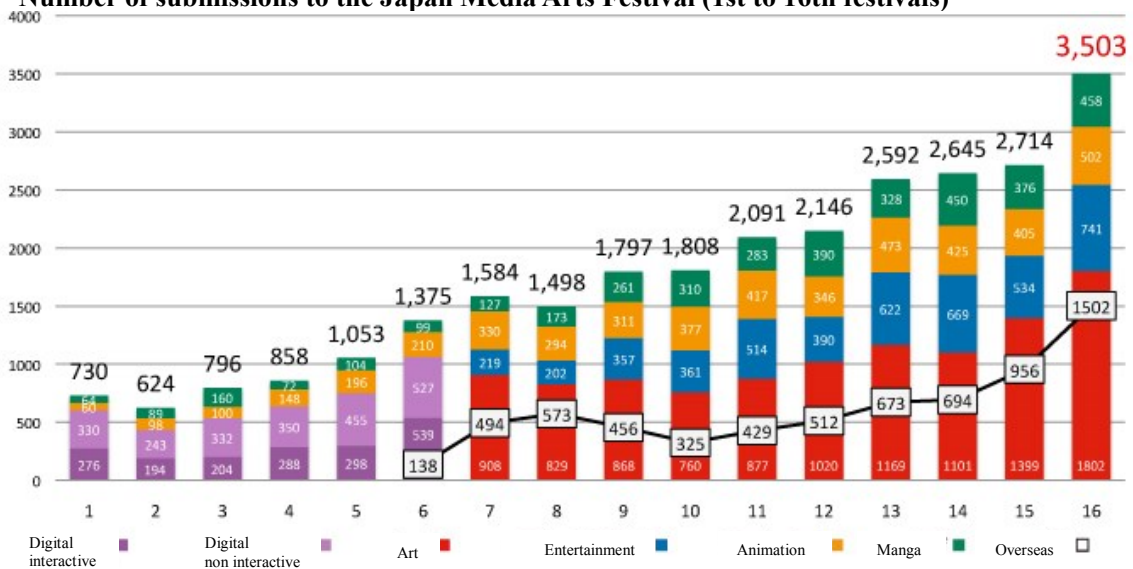
## [About the Japan Media Arts Festival]

The Japan Media Arts Festival is a comprehensive festival of Media Arts (=Media Geijyutsu) that honors outstanding works from a diverse range of media--from animation and comics to media art and games. The festival gives awards in each of its four divisions: Art, Entertainment, Animation, and Manga. It also provides a platform for appreciation of award-winning and other notable works. Since its inception in 1997, the festival has recognized significant works of high artistry and creativity, and, in addition to a yearly Exhibition of Award-winning Works, has held other events, such as symposiums, screenings, and showcases. Last year the 16<sup>th</sup> (=2013) Festival received a record 3,503 entries from 72 countries and regions around the world, demonstrating its continuing evolution as an established annual international festival.

Award-winning works are exhibited both within Japan and abroad through various projects and events organized by The Agency of Cultural Affairs which aims to promote the creation, development and understanding/awareness/appreciation of Media Arts.



Number of submissions to the Japan Media Arts Festival (1st to 16th festivals)





JAPAN  
MEDIA ARTS  
FESTIVAL

Participation in  
Overseas Media Arts Festivals

### [About Waterpieces 2013]

This will be the 13th time the International Contemporary and Video Art Festival Waterpieces has been held. Starting with a discussion of media and video expression, it is currently the arts festival with the longest history in Latvia after independence from the USSR in 1991, as an established event held every year in August in Riga. Efforts are made to make the event more widely known and deepen specialization while the event is being held, through programs for the general public and programs for specialists and art students.

As this year marks the 15th year since the establishment of the sponsoring organization NOASS, it is expected to be an even livelier event than usual.



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NHK International Inc. has been entrusted with the planning and operations of Participation in Overseas Media and Arts Festivals, a project that is related to the Japan Media Arts Festival organized by the Agency for Cultural Affairs, and in this manner it works to contribute to the development of media and arts in Japan.

## Japan Media Arts Festival Project of Participation in Overseas Media Arts Festival Curated Program “Seeking the Form of *Anima*”

Ever since the appearance of video during the 1960s, video art has continued to grow as a personal and distinctive form of visual expression. "Seeking the Form of *Anima*" is a curated program jointly planned with the Japan Media Arts Festival for the International Contemporary Video Art Festival Waterpieces 2013 organized by NOASS, whose activities have a central presence in Eastern Europe.

### [About "Seeking the Form of *Anima*"]

In the world of animation, many methods have been used to incorporate *Anima* (meaning life or soul in Latin), which serves as the root for this word, into video. The range of possible expressions has been expanded through the creation of these new narratives.

"Seeking the Form of *Anima*" will be presented by six young Japanese artists who are pursuing unique forms of expression. The video expression of these artists active in fields such as art, animation, and entertainment are expressed through various styles including exhibition, screenings, and live performances. While introducing the characteristics of the highly-varied Japan Media Arts Festival, these artists will present to the world the energy of Japan's young generation that will carry video expression into the future.

### Screening + live program

This program, which focuses on the relationship between the daily evolving forms of expression and techniques within this process, presents various means of expression, including hand drawn animation, cut paper animation, rotoscope, pixel images, and photo time-lapse. While incorporating the *Anima* of the six artists exploring unique video worlds, the program will introduce the joy of video expression including the interaction among the individual works.

Furthermore, following the screening, two of the participating artists will provide a live performance as musicians, with okamotonoriaki conducting a recital and Masashi Yokota performing as VJ.

Junya Yamamine (Planning Director / Curator, Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography)

Participating artists: okamotonoriaki, Masanori Okamoto, Ryu Kato, Yusuke Shigeta, Toshiaki Hanzaki, Masashi Yokota

Live Performance: okamotonoriaki (music) + Masashi Yokota (VJ)

Date: Friday 16, August from 21:00

Venue: Floating Art Gallery NOASS

ARTIST	TITE
okamotonoriaki	recorder (14th Japan Media Arts Festival Entertainment Division Jury Selection)
	I'm home
YOKOTA Masashi	Ikuemi
	kioku zenkei (12th Japan Media Arts Festival Art Division Jury Selection)
SHIGETA Yusuke	Narrative Kinetics
OKAMOTO Masanori	HO-HO "THE MESSAGE IS BOILING HOT"
	BONNIE (15th Japan Media Arts Festival Animation Division Jury Selection)
	I am alone walking on the straight road. (16th Japan Media Arts Festival Animation Division Jury Selection)
HANZAKI Toshiaki	Birthday (11th Japan Media Arts Festival Animation Division Jury Selection)
KATO Ryu	Around
	The Nighthawk Star



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「recorder」 ©okamotonoriaki



「I am alone walking on the straight road.」  
©Masanori OKAMOTO/ Tokyo University of the Arts



「kiokuzenkei」 © 2008 Masashi Yokota.

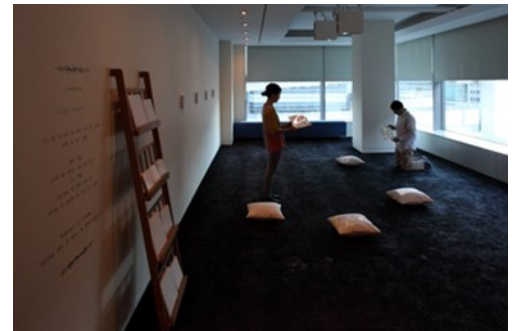
## Exhibition

One good example of the search for “*Anima*”, the video installation work “*Pixel Forest*”, will be presented. This is an animated video installation piece that uses pixel images to express the world of children's stories, fairy tales, and folk tales. Because there is no screen, viewers use a small book with blank pages as the screen to move the story along themselves while following the video.

Date: Thursday 15 – Sunday 1, September

Venue: Floating Art Gallery NOASS

Exhibited work: *Pixel Forest*, Yusuke Shigeta (16<sup>th</sup> Japan Media Arts Festival Art Division Jury Selection)  
Video installation



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### [Planning Director's Profile]

Junya Yamamine (Curator, Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography, Meiji Gakuin University Part-Time Lecturer)

Junya Yamamine was born in 1983. He graduated from the Film and New Media program of the Tokyo University of the Arts. When a student, in addition to video, theater, and media art productions, he also participated in various projects and learned video editing and shooting, theater direction, acoustics, and programming. Currently he serves as curator at the Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography. He has served as the curator for video-focused projects and international art festivals such as the exhibition "Quest for Vision" and the festival "Yebisu International Festival for Art and Alternative Vision," while editing free papers and planning events both overseas and in Japan.

## Related screening

### Japan Media Arts Festival 2013 Video Program

As a related event of "Seeking the Form of *Anima*", A 90 minute program consisting of 13 award-winning works and jury selections from the Japan Media Arts Festival 2013 will be screened officially.

Date: Saturday 17 August from 21:00

Venue: Open air Screen in front of the Floating Art Gallery NOASS