

PRESS RELEASE

NHK international, inc.

The Japan Media Arts Festival Special Exhibition at JCC Singapore
Landscapes: New vision through multiple windows

The Agency for Cultural Affairs, Government of Japan organizes participation in various overseas media arts festivals and other events through projects planned and managed by NHK international, Inc. The aim is to introduce outstanding works in such fields as media art, videos, the websites, videogames, animations and comics. Exhibitions, screenings, presentations and other activities are arranged at foreign festivals and other venues with their focus on award-winning works from the Japan Media Arts Festival.

The Japan Creative Centre at the Japanese Embassy in Singapore will host a special exhibition from Friday, 3rd-18th February, 2017. The exhibition's directors are the artist exonemo's Kensuke Sembo and Yae Akaiwa, who have engaged in many experimental projects since starting out in 1996. This exhibition at the Japan Creative Centre, the hub for disseminating Japanese culture in Singapore, takes 'Landscapes: New vision through multiple windows' as its theme, and selected art works are displayed. Japanese feature animation films will also be screened at Shaw House Lido Theatre.

The Japan Media Arts Festival Special Exhibition at JCC Singapore
Landscapes: New vision through multiple windows

Venue: Japan Creative Centre (4 Nassim Road, Singapore)

Period: Friday, 3rd to Saturday 18th February, 2017 Tue-Sat (10:00 – 18:00)
Opening at 19:00 on 3rd February

Screening venue: Shaw Theatres Lido 5 (350, Orchard Road, 5th Floor, Shaw House, Singapore)

Date: Sunday 5th and 12th February, 2017

Admission: Free

<http://jmaf-promote.jp/global/en/>

<https://www.facebook.com/JMAF.JCC.SINGAPORE/>

Organizer: Japan Media Arts Festival / Agency for Cultural Affairs, Government of Japan

Co-organizer: Japan Creative Centre, Embassy of Japan in Singapore

Planning Director: exonemo (SEMBO Kensuke, AKAIWA Yae)

Project Advisor: FURUKAWA Taku (Animation artist)

MOURI Yoshitaka (Professor, Graduate School of Global Arts, Tokyo University of the Art)

Administration: NHK International, Inc.

[Inquiries]

Office of Project for Participation in Overseas Media Arts Festivals (c/o NHK international, Inc.)

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The Japan Media Arts Festival Special Exhibition at JCC Singapore

Landscapes: New vision through multiple windows

Singapore is actively promoting cultural and artistic endeavors as a national goal to develop as an international city of culture and the arts. It is now the heart of the Asian art market and a venue for diverse art events year-round. This exhibition will introduce 12 art works from leading Japanese artists and world-class media artists including Singapore.

Theme

Planning director: exonemo (SEMBO Kensuke, AKAIWA Yae)

In recent years, we have become connected to the world through our computer and smartphone displays, discovering reality through these screens. It is as if the display screens are “windows” onto new landscapes. Thinking about windows, however, we realize that the conventional media of television as well as printed materials such as photographs, paintings, and actual windows in walls likewise have the function of connecting the viewer to a “landscape beyond”. In particular, the miniaturization/portability of devices in recent years and practicality of continuous Internet connection have drastically increased the time we spend gazing through these windows and the images of the world outside that we picture in our minds are being reset accordingly. The Internet has made the spreading world beyond (such as Japan as viewed from Singapore) seem as close as if we have actually been to these places ourselves. But how far are the landscapes we see through these digital windows actually linked to the real world? This exhibition reexamines the modern global landscapes now viewed not from windows on our walls but through windows in our pockets. This is an experiment in which we seek to discover the whereabouts of the world we sense to be real by



reconsidering the landscapes spreading out before our eyes. By gathering works which examine this moment in time and interpret the future from wide-ranging perspectives, this exhibition reveals the diverse possibilities of the media arts.

exonemo (SEMBO Kensuke, AKAIWA Yae)

The artist unit *e x o n e m o* was formed in 1996 by SEMBO Kensuke and AKAIWA Yae. Their experimental projects are typically humorous and innovative explorations of the paradoxes of digital and analog computer networked and actual environments in our lives. Their *The Road Movie* won the Golden Nica for Net Vision category at Prix Ars Electronica 2006. They have been organizing the IDPW gatherings and *Internet Yami-Ichi* since 2012. They live and work in New York and a member of the first museum-led incubator NEW INC since 2015. <http://exonemo.com>.

Artists

EBIHARA Shoko [Japan]

Photographer, Artist. Born in Tokyo.
Lives and works in Tokyo.
<http://shokoebihara.com/>

ISO Mitsuo [Japan]

Animator, Director. Born in Aichi, 1966.
Original work and director of *Den-noh Coil*.
<http://www.lares.dti.ne.jp/~iso-000/>

IWAOKA Hisae [Japan]

Manga artist.
Made her debut in 2002 with *Yume no Soko*,
which won the Honorable Mention Prize in the
Kodansha Afternoon Four Seasons Award.
In 2005, her *Saturn Apartments* manga began
to be serialized in the monthly magazine *Ikki*.
<http://moinmoin.fc2web.com/>

SHINTSUBO Kenshu [Japan]

Photographer. Born in Tokyo in 1968.
Together with video, still photography and field
recordings, SHINTSUBO also crosses the
borders into architecture, literature, music,
computer design and other sectors in diverse
collaborative documentary works.
<http://www.kenshu-shintsubo.com/>

TAKAMINE Tadasu [Japan]

Artist, Artistic director. Born in Kagoshima in
1968. Associate professor, Akita University of
Art. TAKAMINE works in diverse media such
as installation, sculpture, video etc. Currently
he's also active as a stage director.
<http://www.takaminet.com/>

TSUDA Michiko [Japan]

Born in 1980.
Lives and works in Kanagawa and Tokyo.
Completed PhD of Film and New Media Studies
at Tokyo University of the Arts in 2013.
<http://2da.jp/>

Angelica VERDAN [United States]

Video artist. Born in 1992 in Washington DC,
currently living in Virginia.
Angelika Verdán is interested in the integration
of the digital and physical world and how
people interact with the interface.
<https://angelicaverdan.wordpress.com/>

Jens SUNDHEIM [Germany]

Freelance photographer, visual artist.
Born in 1970 in Germany.
Lives and works in the Ruhr area, Germany.
<http://www.jens-sundheim.de/>

Joe HAMILTON [Australia]

Born in 1982 in Tasmania, Australia.
Lives and works in Melbourne.
Joe Hamilton makes use of technology and
found material to create intricate and complex
compositions online, offline and between.
<http://joehamilton.info/>

Rafaël ROZENDAAL [Brazil]

Born in 1980. Dutch-Brazilian.
Lives and works in New York.
Rafaël Rozendaal is a visual artist who uses the
internet as his canvas. His artistic practice
consists of websites, installations, lenticulars,
lectures and haiku.
<http://www.newrafael.com/>

Sarah CHOO Jing [Singapore]

Multidisciplinary fine artist.
Born in 1990. Focusing on the relationship
between space and time, Choo's work depicts
identifiable moments and characters within
contemporary society.
<http://www.sarahchoojing.com>

EXHIBITION

■ *The souvenir photographs*, EBIHARA Shoko

[2015 / Graphic art / 19th Art Division Jury Selection]

The artist hires a professional photographer from each local area to take her picture in a suit on the platforms used for group photographs of travelers in sightseeing areas. Neither negatives nor data remain as the artwork is the process of ordering, purchasing, and receiving a touristic picture. The artist looks like an icon in these photographs, all of which have essentially the same basic structure, and inserts herself into various landscapes all over Japan.



©Shoko EBIHARA

* Souvenir photos of Singapore will be shown alongside the Japanese photo exhibition

■ *Double Click to Open*, Angelica VERDAN [2015 / Video work / 19th Art Division Jury Selection]

Double Click to Open analyzes the form and function of the cursor by removing it from the digital world and placing it in the physical one. The video shows a cursor projected on an image of a closed door, but the doors do not open even if double-clicked. The film explores the human relationship with technology and interface, revealing how we have come to expect various interactions with all types of interfaces. (3 min. 41 sec.)

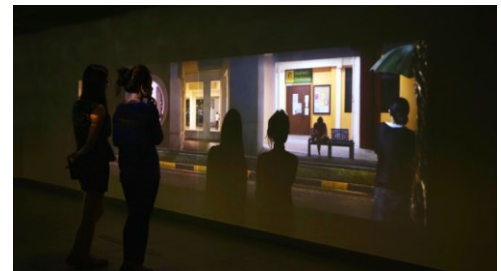


©2015 Angelica Verdán

■ *Waiting for the Elevator*, Sarah CHOO Jing

[2015 / Video installation / 19th Art Division Jury selection]

Waiting for the Elevator is a multimedia installation that depicts a composite of documented events, projected across the Esplanade Tunnel in Singapore. Building on normally unnoticed, trivial and repetitive actions, the artist reflects upon the social purposes of the “void decks” in Singapore. The composited panorama ultimately exists as a non-space; an accumulation of fragments over time. (5 min. 22 sec.)



©SARAHCHOOJING

■ *landscape* [2012 / Digital photo]

SHINTSUBO Kenshu [Artist selected at 14th Art Division Jury selection]

Each landscape is a present space which bears the accumulated traces of those who live within it; a layer laid down by their actions. Networks connect deposited memories by invisible lines of sight using various landscape photographs, computer-made maps and desktop archives generated from individual viewpoints.

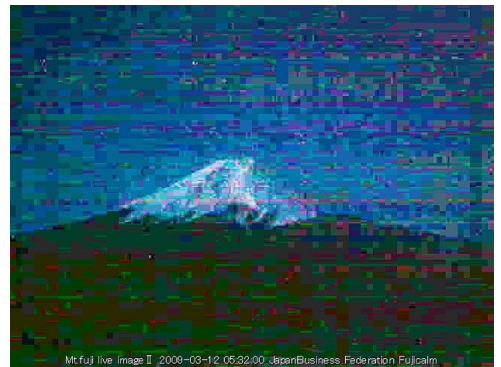


© Kenshu Shintsubo

■ *100100 views of Mount Fuji* [2008-2010 / Digital photo]

Jens SUNDHEIM [Artist selected at 9th Art Division Jury selection]

The work *100100 Views of Mount Fuji* reverts to webcams available on the Internet. From 2008 to 2010 I archived the image data of a camera, which transmits every three minutes a live image of Mount Fuji. The images appear as a modern version of the images of Hokusai, a version of the 21st century: a fast, unmistakable and unfiltered live transmission.



©Jens Sundheim

■ *Popular Screen Sizes*, **Rafaël ROZENDAAL** [2011 / Installation]

Rafaël Rozendaal is interested in how mirrors retain both metaphorical and literal meanings for reflection as well as pertain a transience and reliance upon light and movement. *Popular Screen Sizes* (60", 55", 46", 40", 32", 27", 24", 21", 17", 15", 13", 10", 7", 3.5") by Rafaël Rozendaal operates as a reflection on contemporary lifestyles and the extent to which these involve our interface with screens, as well as a mirror to the immediate environment and the viewer.



©Rafaël Rozendaal

■ ***Stream 2014*, Joe HAMILTON [2014 / Video work]**

Stream is a work that explores the well known analogy of water flow and the flow of data on the internet. The structure and movement in the browser window becomes a rigid framework that contains and shifts an array of found images and video of water. Waterfalls, torrents, rivers, creeks and streams of data flow down the screen. An interplay of fluidity and rigidity.



©Joe Hamilton

(1 min. 20 sec.).

■ ***Untitled*, TAKAMINE Tadasu [2011, Reconstruction 2017]**

This work consists only of a picture frame made from an oil-based modeling clay. It was displayed as a displaced frame together with a blanket laid out like a canvas at the big *Too Far to See* exhibition at the Yokohama Museum of Art. Whereas picture frames traditionally have the role of highlighting and completing a picture, this work uses modeling clay which, with its flexible and unfixed shapes, is more usually chosen for the preliminary models. Everyone has used it in their childhood and this application of a clay which retains clear finger imprints thereby focuses the attention on the frame to question the nature of both media and the work itself.

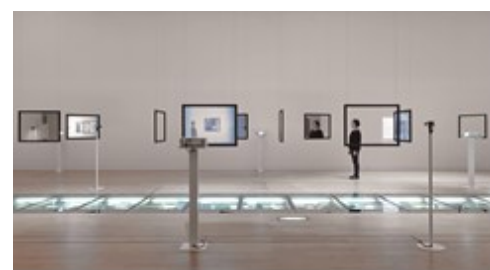


©Tadasu Takamine
Photo: Tomoki Imai

■ ***You would come back there to see me again the following day.*, TSUDA Michiko**

[2016 / Installation]

The frames hung in the air from the ceiling look like those of paintings or photographs but do not have such images inside. When you get closer to the frames, you find there are three different structures in these frames. Some have mirrors inserted, some have screens onto which the live view of the exhibition space captured by video cameras is projected, and some have nothing inside. Each frame is hung in a position according to a geometric rule.



©Michiko Tsuda Photo : Tadasu Yamamoto

Once you enter the space, you will get confused and be unable to recognize where you are, standing surrounded by all these frames. You will see the other corner of the exhibition space in the back of a frame. Beside another frame, you may find someone who should not be there. Or you will find yourself inside the other frame. Welcome to the labyrinth where images swap with one another, between here and there.

■ ***Fluttering Frame*** [2013 / Video Work]

exonemo [Artist selected at 16th Art Division and 17th Entertainment Division Jury selection]

Fluttering Frame is a crowd-sourced video work created by 54 participants from 31 countries. It was aired on Japanese public broadcasting NHK's program *Techne - The visual workshop*. NHK typically airs a video of a Japanese flag at the end of each broadcasting day. The artists asked participants from all over the world to air this footage in their living rooms, and collected these video pieces including the living rooms, animating the flying flag by combining fragments from each video. The project started with as a simply query about the relevance of projecting a national framework like this in the age of the internet.



© exonemo

■ ***Saturn Apartments***, IWAOKA Hisae [2011 / Manga / 15th Manga Division Grand Prize]



©IWAOKA Hisae

The story is set in a time when the whole of the Earth has been designated as a nature reserve and it is not permitted to descend to the Earth's surface, so humans live in buildings high up in the sky, at a level of 35,000 meters. The protagonist, Mitsu, was born and raised in this gigantic ring system, which is divided into upper, middle and lower levels. Just as Mitsu graduates from junior high school, he takes the same job as his late father, "ring system window cleaner." It is a meticulously-depicted story of Mitsu's growth as he gains in confidence and pride in his work through encounters with his workplace mentor, his neighbors and his clients.

■ ***Den-noh Coil***, ISO Mitsuo [2007 / Animated TV series / 11th Animation Division Excellence Award]



© MITSUO ISO / TOKUMASHOTEN,
Den-noh COIL SEISAKUINKAI

The scene is Daikoku-shi in the near future, 202X. A wearable computer denno megane through which the wearer can enjoy a cyber world has a great run among children. In these circumstances, Yuko Okonogi who is moved into Daikoku-shi experiences a series of strange incidents.

SCREENING: *Den-noh Coil SP* (90 min.)

Date & Time: Saturday 11th and 18th February 14:00—15:30

Place: JCC exhibition space

■ **Japanese Landscapes from Manga and Animation**

Comic and animation appreciation space will be in the JCC Library to introduce Japanese landscapes through comics and animations.

SCREENING: Japanese Scenery in Animation

Screening venue: Shaw Theatres Lido 5 (350, Orchard Road, 5th Floor, Shaw House, Singapore)

Date: Sunday 5th and 12th February Admission: Free

The screenings will feature a rich program of renowned, full-length animation films set in beautiful, timeless Japanese town and landscapes, all made for cinema release by popular Japanese directors. This is an animation journey through the Japanese landscape.

■ ***Your Name.*** [2016 / Animated feature film]

SHINKAI Makoto [Artist selected at 6th, 9th, 17th Animation Division Jury selection]

Date: Sunday 5th February 12:30-



© 2016 TOHO / CoMix Wave Films / KADOKAWA / JR Kikaku / AMUSE / voque ting / Lawson HMV Entertainment

Two high school students Mitsuha and Taki have never met each other and live at different places in Japan. One day, Mitsuha wakes up in a body of a young man and believes that she is dreaming. The next day, she turns normal and finds out from her friend that she has been behaving very strangely yesterday. On a certain day of the week, she finds herself waking up in the body of the same young man, and after a series of events, she concludes that she and the boy, who is actually Taki, have

been switching bodies quite often. They try to find out the mysterious cause behind their body swap and soon discover that there is an important life-changing reason for it. (1 h. 46 min.)

■ ***Sarusuberi: Miss Hokusai,*** HARA Keiichi

[2014-2015 / Animated feature film / 19th Animation Division Jury selection]

Date: Sunday 5th February 14:50-



©2014-2015 Hinako Sugiura·MS.HS / Sarusuberi Film Partners

This is a feature-length adaptation of the manga *Sarusuberi* by Hinako Sugiura, a researcher of Edo Era customs. It is set in the town of old Edo, a community in Edo that is always emotionally turbulent, including fires and troubles with fairies. The story centers on O-Ei (later known as Oi Katsushika), the daughter of leading ukiyoe woodblock print artist Hokusai Katsushika, and depicts the lives of people in Edo that also have relevance for us today. (1 h. 29 min.)

■ *Giovanni's Island*, NISHIKUBO Mizuho

[2014 / Animated feature film / 18th Animation Division Excellence Award]

Date: Sunday 5th February 16:50-



©2014 JAME

The setting is 1945 on Shikotan, a tiny island off the coast of Hokkaido, which has remained virtually untouched by the rage of war. There innocently live ten-year-old Junpei and his seven-year-old Kanta. But with Japan's defeat on August 15th, great change comes to their lives. While everybody on the island is expecting American troops to arrive anytime, it is the Red Army that Island on Shikotan instead. Before

they know it, the national borders have changed and for the Japanese community, a new life with the Soviet citizens who have moved onto the island begins. The film follows the absurdity and tragedy of war through Junpei's eyes, depicting friendship among children blossoming beyond language and cultural barriers. Based on true events, this animated feature film was made by an international team including people from Japan, Russia, Argentina, South Korea, Estonia, United States and Italy. (1 h. 41 min.)

■ *In This Corner of the World* [2016 / Animated feature film]

KATABUCHI Sunao

[Excellence award winner at 14th Animation Division and artist selected at 5th Jury selection]

Date: Sunday 12th February 15:00-



©Fumiyo Kono / Putabasha / Kono Sekai no Katasumi ni Project

Original manga *In This Corner of the World*, KOUNO Fumiyo
[13th Manga Division Excellence Award]

In This Corner of the World tells the story of the adolescent Suzu, who in 1944 moves to the small town of Kure in Hiroshima to live with her husband's family. Suzu's life is thrown into chaos when her town is bombed during World War II. Her perseverance and courage, however, underpin this heart-warming and inspirational tale of the everyday challenges faced by the Japanese in the midst of a violent, war-torn country. (2 h. 9 min.)

■ *The Garden of Words*, SHINKAI Makoto

[2013 / Animated feature film / 17th Animation Division Jury Selection]

Date: Sunday 12th February 17:40-



©Makoto Shinkai / CoMix Wave Films

One rainy day Takao, a high school student aiming to become a shoemaker, encounters Yukino, an enigmatic older girl, drinking a can of beer alone in Japanese garden. Without commitment, they continue to meet only on rainy days, gradually forming a bond... With modern-day Tokyo as its stage, this is a subtle drama telling a tale with an expressive style only achievable through animation. (46 min. 2 sec.)

RELATED EVENT

Venue: Japan Creative Centre

■ **Artists' Talk: Session 1 [Landscapes of Japan and Singapore]**

Artists: **EBIHARA Shoko × Sarah CHOO Jing**

Date & Time: Saturday 4th February 13:00—14:30

A talk by two artists of the same sex and generation, one from Japan and the other from Singapore, who each view their own country and city from new perspectives.

■ **Artists' Talk: Session 2 [Landscape from unstable window]**

Artists: **TAKAMINE Tadasu × exonemo**

Date & Time: Saturday 4th February 15:00—16:30

Tadasu Tamakime exhibits a picture frame made from an unfixed material, modeling clay; exonemo, *Fluttering Frame*, an unstable, flickering video frame. What do they see through this shared theme of the unstable window? A talk by two artists who take a critical approach to the media and its frames.

■ **SCREENING: *Den-noh Coil SP***

Date & Time: Saturday 11th and 18th February 14:00—15:30 Place: Exhibition space

■ **Guide Tour by Planning Director, exonemo**

Date & Time: Friday 3rd February 19:30—

REFERENCE

JAPAN MEDIA ARTS FESTIVAL

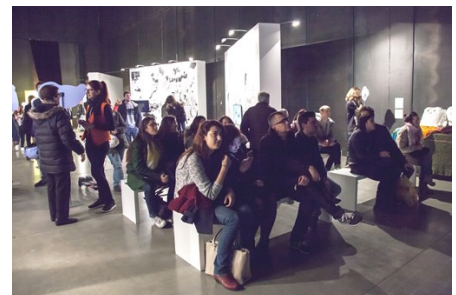
The Japan Media Arts Festival is a comprehensive festival of Media Arts (Japanese: *Media Geijutsu*) that honors outstanding works from a diverse range of media - from animation and comics to media art and games. The festival gives awards in each of its four divisions: Art, Entertainment, Animation, and Manga. It also provides a platform for appreciation of the 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 19th Festival received 4,417 entries from 87 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, Government of Japan which aims to develop and promote the creation of Media Arts by focusing primarily on the new generation of artists.



The 19th Japan Media Arts Festival, 2015

■Project for Participation in Overseas Media Arts Festivals

The aim is to introduce outstanding works in such fields as media art, video, the websites, videogames, cartoons and comics. Exhibitions, screenings, presentations and so on are arranged at overseas media arts festivals and other facilities with their focus on award-winning works from the Japan Media Arts Festival.



Exhibition View of the Madrid, Spain, 2016

20th Japan Media Arts Festival

Announcement of Award-winning Works: Mid-March 2017

Awards Ceremony / Exhibition of Award-winning Works: September 2017

Website: <http://festival.j-mediaarts.jp/en/>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/JapanMediaArtsFestival>

Twitter: @JMediaArtsFes_e

