

**PUBLICNESS
OF THE
ART CENTER**
PHASE I
March 2 – May 6 2019
Contemporary
Art Gallery
Art Tower Mito

OPEN HOURS:
10:00 – 18:00
CLOSED on Mondays
*open on April 29
FREE ADMISSION
*except for some programs

創作と対話のプログラム 第1期
アートセンターをひらく
2019年3月2日(土) – 5月6日(月・祝)
水戸芸術館現代美術ギャラリー

【開館時間】
10:00 – 18:00
【休館日】
月曜日
※ただし、4/29は開館
【入場料】
無料
※一部プログラムを除く

水戸芸術館
ART TOWER MITO

【主催】
公益財団法人水戸市芸術振興財団
【後援】
ブリティッシュ・カウンシル
【助成】
グレートブリテン・ササカワ財団
公益財団法人三菱UFJ信託地域文化財団
アンステイチュ・フランセ
【協力】
アサヒグループホールディングス株式会社
【企画】 竹久信 (水戸芸術館現代美術センター主任学芸員)

ORGANIZER:
Mito Arts Foundation
AUSPICES:
British Council
GRANT:
The Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation
The Mitsubishi UFJ Trust Cultural Foundation
Institut Français
SUPPORT:
Asahi Group Holdings, Ltd.
CURATOR: Yuu Takehisa
Senior Curator,
Contemporary Art Center, Art Tower Mito

Overview

Program Title: Publicness of the Art Center – Phase1
Venue: Contemporary Art Gallery, Art Tower Mito
Dates: March 2 (Sat.) - May 6 (Mon), 2019
Closed on Mondays (except April 29, public holidays)
Open Hours: 10:00 - 18:00
Admission: Free *except for some programs
Organized by: Mito Arts Foundation
In Association with: Embassy of France/Institut français du Japon, British Council
Grant: Institut français, The Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation,
The Mitsubishi UFJ Trust Cultural Foundation
Supported by: Asahi Group Holdings, Ltd.
Curated by: Yuu Takehisa (Senior Curator, Contemporary Art Center, Art Tower Mito)

Summary

In 2020 marking 30 years since its opening, Art Tower Mito's Contemporary Art Center presents "Publicness of the Art Center," a new program exploring from various perspectives the role required of an art center in today's changing society. Based on the Contemporary Art Center's unusual status in Japan as a *Kunsthalle*-style cultural institution implementing its own programs and working with artists to produce artworks, the first phase of "Publicness of the Art Center" will address the theme of creation and dialogue through employing the Center's gallery space for work created during artist residencies and a long-term workshop series, as well as for a program of public events and a cafe. Admission is free with some exceptions.

During the program, artists will stay at the venue and create new work, while visitors can also participate in various activities and discussions. Through these pillars of creation and dialogue, the program aims to search with visitors for notions about what kind of "publicness" the art center should have. The results of the first phase will be presented during the second phase of the program. Further details will be announced from April.

Highlights

The first phase of “Publicness of the Art Center” will consider the roles expected of an art center beyond its conventional functions through utilizing the gallery space in the following experimental ways.

Opening up the art center as a place for creativity

The Contemporary Art Center’s gallery will be open to the public not only as a place for viewing completed works of art, but also the site and process of artistic creation, thus sharing with visitors the way art is made.

Opening up the art center as a place for dialogue

Against a backdrop of the spread of social media and rapid changes in our means of communication today, there is renewed attention on public spaces where people actually come face to face and exchange words. The gallery will aim to create a polyphonic space where people with diverse ideas can engage in dialogue about art and the social phenomena that surround us.

Opening up the art center as a “third place”

The special cafe installed inside the Contemporary Art Center’s gallery every spring since 2004 has transformed into a platform for people with diverse values to intersect, and for people to have encounters with others. During “Publicness of the Art Center,” this cafe will function more fully as a so-called third place (that is, a place that is neither the home nor a school or workplace), as a realm of social connections where individuals and families, regardless of age or ability, can spend time however they like.

Opening up the art center as a place for cultivating independent activities and initiatives by visitors

Various workshops about making and mending things will explore practical ways to live creatively by one’s own hands as an alternative to only consuming. The club activities will involve a range of age groups and allow participants to pursue projects independently.

Three Key Programs

(1) Artist Residencies & Long-term Workshop Series

The Contemporary Art Center’s gallery will be opened up as a place for artists to work in ways that also allow part of that creative process to be shared with visitors.

Artist Residencies

Artists will create new work while staying in Mito for one month, researching the public locality of the Contemporary Art Center and its spatial characteristics as well as the surrounding area. Three artists will stay for a month at a time, with a total of six artists participating in the program. The works

produced during the first phase will be exhibited in the form of a group exhibition during the second phase.

Long-term Workshop Series

The dancer and choreographer Osamu Jareo will organize a long-term project on the theme of metamorphosis, discussing with participants about injury, aging, disability, and sex/gender, and converting this into physical expression. Following an information session in January 2019, workshops will start in March and continue at a rate of once or twice a month until the results are presented in January 2020.

(2) Public Program (Saturdays, Sundays, public holidays)

Encompassing art, film, music, dance, and more, this series of events will offer opportunities for members of the public to reflect on the kind of place they need while watching, listening, and discussing. Details about all the events, including schedules, are available upon request.

(3) Cafe (every day, except when the Contemporary Art Gallery is closed)

High School Student Weeks is an education program implemented by the Contemporary Art Center to create opportunities for high school students to come into contact with art. As part of this, a cafe has appeared in the workshop room inside the gallery every spring since 2004. For its fifteenth year, the cafe will take inspiration from the fact that high school students now receive year-round free admission to the gallery, and open as a place more accessible to a broader range of ages and uses.

The cafe will feature a family-friendly zone, an area for drawing and painting, recommended books and publications related to artists taking part in residencies, and tools for sewing and handicrafts. In this way, while helping themselves to coffee and tea, visitors can spend time in the space however they like. The cafe will also serve as a venue for hosting artist performances, breakfast meetings, club activities, and more.

NOTES

Contact:

Contemporary Art Center, Art Tower Mito

1-6-8, Goken-cho, Mito City, Ibaraki, 310-0063, Japan

Tel: +81 (0)29 227 8120 / Fax: +81 (0)29 227 8130, <https://arttowermito.or.jp/>

Regarding the program, contact Yuu Takehisa (Senior Curator).

Regarding educational programs, contact Junko Moriyama, Maiko Sato (Educational program coordinators)

For public relations and publicity of photographs, contact Kaori Torii (PR).

Email: cacpr@arttowermito.or.jp

Information is available on ATM twitter account http://twitter.com/MITOGEI_Gallery

Requests regarding publication of information:

1. Please make sure to use the official title of the exhibition, along with the exhibition dates.
2. When using photographs, please put captions, credits and any other information attached to a photograph adjacent to the photo.
3. The phone number of Art Tower Mito to be published is 029-227-8111 only.
4. Please send Kaori Torii a copy of the VTR, newspaper or magazine for our archives.
5. For interviews with an artist or to photograph the exhibition, please contact Kaori Torii in advance. Requests may not be accepted under some circumstances.

ACCESS

Train:

Take the Limited Express on the Joban Line from Ueno Station (also from Shinagawa and Tokyo Station), Tokyo, and get off at Mito Station. The Express runs every 30 min. The ride takes 65-85 min.

From Mito Station, take a bus from stop no. 4, 5, 6 or 7 at the North Exit bus terminal and get off at "Izumi-cho 1-chome," the fourth stop. Walk toward the direction of the bus and cross the street (route #50) on the first crossing. Walk ahead in a narrow lane in parallel to the crossing. It is a 2-min. walk to Art Tower Mito.

Ticket: Super express one-way ¥3,820 / local one-way ¥2,270 (as of June 2018)

For reservation and timetable, please contact East Japan Railway Company (JR):

Tel: 029-221-2836 <http://www.jreast.co.jp/>

Highway Bus:

Take a highway bus bound for Mito (via Akatsuka route or Ibarakidaigaku route) from the stop no. 4 at the highway bus terminal located at the Yaesu South Gate of Tokyo station.

The ride takes approx. 100 min. Get off at the "Izumi-cho 1-chome" stop. It is a 2-min. walk to

ATM.

Bus tickets are available at a ticket vending machine at Yaesu South Gate, Tokyo Station, and North Gate bus ticket counter at Mito Station.

Ticket: One-way between Tokyo and Mito: ¥2,080.

Round-trip (twin ticket): ¥3,900 (as of June 2018)

For details, contact Ibaraki Kotsu (Transport), Tel: 029-251-2331 <http://www.ibako.co.jp/>

Car:

Get off at Mito IC on Joban Highway, and drive toward the city center on the route #50 for about 20 min. ATM is on the crossing of route #349.

Pay parking is available on the basement level of Art Tower Mito. The gate is on the north side of the east end of the ATM building.

Free for 30 min., ¥200 for an hour and ¥100 for every additional 30 min.

Open from 7:00 to 23:00.

For highway tolls and routes, please refer to:

E-NEXCO Drive Plaza “DoRaPuRa” Tel: 0570-024-024 <http://www.driveplaza.com/>

Press Image Stock The images are available for press purpose. Please contact Torii at the office.

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1. Harold Offeh,
Selfie Choreography: Performing with the Camera, 2017

Photo: Holly Revell (DARC collective)

2. Yuko Mohri, *Parade*, 2011-17

Photo: Jacqueline Trichard

3. Emmanuelle Lainé, *It Seems that The Background of Being is Changing?*, 2015

Photo: Blaise Adilon

4. Haji Oh, *Ama's home/boat floating on memory with the colour of emptiness (detail)*, 2018

5. Fuminao Suenaga, *Tangram Painting (Schedule on Blackboard)*, 2015

6. Ishu Han, *Musical Chairs (detail)*, 2015

7. Osamu Jareo, *Totsu Totsu Dance part.2 - Lesson of Love*, 2014

Photo: Mariko Mori