

浅田政志 だれかのベストアルバム



Overview

Exhibition Title: Asada Masashi: Somebody's Best Album

Dates: Saturday, February 19 – Sunday, May 8, 2022

Open Hours: 10:00-18:00 (last admission 17:30)

Venue: Contemporary Art Gallery, Art Tower Mito

Closed on Mondays except for March 21, and Tuesday, March 22

Admission: ¥900 (¥700 for group of more than 20 people)

Free of charge for High school student, seniors over 70, the disabled and one accompanying attendant.

→ Student card or other identification with age required.

- One-year Pass: ¥2,000 for a one-year pass

- "First Friday" special discount for students and senior citizens

→ Student card holders and seniors 65 to 69 get a discount rate of ¥100 each first Friday (March 4, April 1, May 6)

Organizer: Mito Arts Foundation

Support: Kenko Professional Imaging Co., Ltd., Canon Marketing Japan Inc., Suntory Holdings Limited.

Curator: Takehisa Yuu (Artistic Director, Contemporary Art Center, Art Tower Mito)

Outline of the Exhibition

This exhibition invites visitors to trace the oeuvre of Asada Masashi from the origin of his creative activities to his latest works guided by words by the photographer himself, whose themes have consistently been “family” and “memorial photo.”

Since the publication of *Asada-ke (The Asadas)* in 2008, Asada’s own family members have been his subject matter. He utilizes the technique of setup, in which he and his family play diverse situations, integrating how his family changes over time. He has also produced works where he worked with publicly recruited families to shoot their photographs, making the act of taking a photograph itself “memorial.” In the wake of the Great East Japan Earthquake, Asada was involved in a volunteer activity to clean photographs caught in the tsunami—an experience that propelled him to be engaged in the activity of communicating the importance of creating and leaving behind photo albums.

In addition to Asada’s entire series, this exhibition presents his latest work, the Ibaraki edition of *My Family*, and follows the latest development of the photo-returning activity in Noda Village in Iwate Prefecture. In *My Family*, participants are regarded as both objects of photography and collaborators. By focusing on their family memories and emotions, Asada’s photography and the participants’ text render family stories.

With the restrictions that the novel coronavirus pandemic has brought about, we found ourselves facing “family” more than ever. Moreover, natural disasters, which have become increasingly frequent in recent years, have sparked the following question: “How can we keep our indispensable memories?” Through the diverse perceptions of family that Asada renders, we invite you to reflect upon somebody’s best album, as well as your own.

Artist’s Biography

A photographer born in 1979 in Mie Prefecture, Asada Masashi won the 34th Kimura Ihei Photography Award with his family photo book *Asada-ke* (AKAaka Art Publishing). Asada has been actively engaged in activities such as art projects involving photographing ordinary people in various parts of Japan, as well as the promotion of photography. His main exhibitions include “Tsu Family Land—Asada Masashi’s Photography” (2010, Mie Prefectural Art Museum, solo exhibition), “Hachinohe Review” (2011, Hachinohe



Portal Museum “hacchi”), “Memorial Photo That Makes Memorial Day” (2011, Fukuoka Camera Museum, solo exhibition), “All You Need Is LOVE: From Chagall to Kusama and Hatsune Miku” (2013, Mori Art Museum), “You reach out – right now – for something : Questioning the Concept of Fashion” (2014, Art Tower Mito and Marugame Genichiro-Inokuma Museum of Contemporary Art), “Hobo Kazoku (Almost Family)” (2016, Irie Taikichi Memorial Museum of Photography Nara City, solo exhibition), “Asada Masashi Photography Exhibition: Family Photo Tree” (2020, Kanaz Forest of Creation, solo exhibition), “Asada Studio” (2020, PARCO MUSEUM TOKYO, solo exhibition), and “Watashi no Kazoku (My Family)” (2020, Hankyu Umeda Gallery, and 2021, Mitsubishi Estate Artium, solo exhibition). His publications include *Asada-ke*, *NEW LIFE* (AKAaka Art Publishing), *Kazoku Shinbun (Family Newspaper)* (Gentosha Literary Publication), *Hachinohe Review* (BIJUTSU SHUPPAN-SHA), *HOMEWORK: GRADUATION PHOTOGRAPH* (AKAaka Art Publishing), *Album no chikara* (AKAaka Art Publishing), *Asada Studio Mannen* (Seigensha Art Publishing), and *Asada Studio Sennen* (AKAaka Art Publishing). The movie *The Asadas*, based on his *Asada-ke* and *Album no chikara*, was released in 2020.

Highlights of the Exhibition

- All of Asada Masashi's series in one exhibition—the largest solo exhibition ever in his career.

In addition to his representative work *The Asadas* (2003–2008), this exhibition brings together *NEW LIFE* (2008–2010), *The Asadas: All Japan Edition* (2011–), *All Family* (2007–2019), *Power of an Album* (2011–2021), *Sennen* (2020), *Mannen* (2020), *Itten* (2020), and *My Family* (2021–). Moreover, a question-and-answer from Asada to his family members will be displayed, helping us to explore his activities through his relationships with his family members.

- Starting with his childhood stories, Asada's own words guide you through the exhibition.

Asada's text introduces the works that he has produced with his family in a humorous manner, such as a summer event from his childhood that became the source of his artistic activities. In addition, Asada shares the concept behind the memorial photo works he produced in collaboration with a variety of families from all around Japan.

- Asada produced his latest work, the Ibaraki edition of *My Family*, with five families who live in Ibaraki Prefecture, presenting it for the first time in this exhibition.

His latest series, *My Family*, is not a collection of ordinary family photos, in which all family members face the camera together. Instead, a perception of the family from one person is represented via multiple photos by Asada as well as the participant's text. In this series, the participants are not only objects of photography but also collaborators who represent their memories of and emotions regarding their family. All *My Family* series, which updates the relationship between the photographer and the objects of photography to create a more reciprocal one, are exhibited.

- This exhibition follows the photo-returning activity after the Great East Japan Earthquake, which triggered Asada to think about ways in which to “pass on photography.”

After the disaster in Noda Village in Iwate Prefecture, Asada took part in the activity of washing photographs salvaged from the debris stemming from the tsunami, then returning them to the owner. Through this activity, Asada was struck by how indispensable photographs—in which memories with loved ones are materialized as images—are, leading him to rethink about what it means to “leave behind” photographs. He then began to encourage people to produce photo albums. This exhibition introduces the current situation of photo returning activity in Noda Village. In addition, the works produced by the participants of a workshop we conducted about leaving behind photos, *A Photograph of My Pick*, will be exhibited in the venue.

- A photoshoot spot where visitors can freely take photos is set up.

The artist unit known as magma arranges typical photoshoot props found in an early-Meiji-era photo studio (circa the late 19th century) in a contemporary way, producing a photo studio found only in Asada's exhibitions to welcome visitors.

【Related Programs】

1. Artist Talk

Asada Masahi will talk about his own activities.

Date: Saturday, February 19 ①11:00-12:00/②14:00-15:00 (Doors open 30 min prior.)

Venue: Conference Hall, Art Tower Mito

Capacity: 40 persons each session *reservation required. First-come, first-serve basis/Reservation opens on Tuesday, January 25.

Fee: free *exhibition ticket is required.

2. Special Event for the Museum Closure Day:

Models Wanted for the Exhibition's Documentation Photo by Asada Masashi!

Asada Masashi will direct the production of this exhibition's documentation photographs as setup photography with models!

Date: Monday, February 21 ①10:30-12:00/②14:00-15:30

Venue: Contemporary Art Gallery, Art Tower Mito

Capacity: 10 persons each session *decided by drawing

Application period: Wednesday, January 5 - Monday, January 31

Participation fee/ model fee: free *completed catalog of this exhibition will be given.

Note: Produced photographs will be used for the record of this exhibition and will also be published in print or on the internet as part of our activities.

3. With Asada Masashi, Let's Take Your "Photography of the Deceased" Before You Become Deceased!

By taking your best portrait of yourself, one of your worries will be eliminated, and the rest of your life will be all yours to enjoy! Dress as yourself. This will be a bust-shot portrait with mini hair makeup included.

Date: Wednesday/holiday, May 4, 9:30-16:30 *1 hour per person including preparation

①9:30-10:30/②10:00-11:00/③10:30-11:30/④11:00-12:00/⑤11:30-12:30/⑥13:30-14:30/⑦14:00-15:00/
⑧14:30-15:30/⑨15:00-16:00/⑩15:30-16:30

Venue: Workshop Room, Contemporary Art Gallery, Art Tower Mito

Eligibility: 40 years old or older

Capacity: 10 persons *selected by the artist

Application period: Tuesday, March 1 - Thursday, March 31

Fee: 6,000 yen (one photo mount board and one photo data included) *exhibition ticket is required.

4. Asada Masashi Aims to Take the Best Portrait of Your Child in 2022!

With your favorite outfit and the most important object to you, you will be photographed alone. Family members, please cheer up!

Date: Thursday/holiday, May 5, 10:00-16:00 *30min per person

①10:00-10:30/②10:30-11:00/③11:00-11:30/④11:30-12:00/⑤13:00-13:30/⑥13:30-14:00/⑦14:00-14:30/
⑧14:30-15:00/⑨15:00-15:30/⑩15:30-16:00

Venue: Workshop Room, Contemporary Art Gallery, Art Tower Mito

Eligibility: 5 years old – elementary school (sixth grade)

Capacity: 10 persons *decided by drawing

Application period: Tuesday, March 1 - Thursday, March 31

Fee: 3,000 yen (one photo mount board and one photo data included)

*exhibition ticket is required for an accompanying adult.

5. Autograph Session

Asada Masashi will autograph the purchased exhibition catalogs!

Date: Sunday, May 8, 13:30-15:30

Venue: Art Tower Mito

Capacity: 100 persons *reservation required. First-come, first-serve basis. Reservation opens on Friday, April 1.

Fee: free *exhibition ticket is required.

【OTHER PROJECTS】

Criterion 98 Satoshi Nishizawa

Satoshi Nishizawa creates photographs and videos by using the camera to document the lives of individuals and the social and economic aspects that erode and reflect on the ordinary sceneries. In recent years, his interest has turned to the monuments across the county, working with the symbolic motifs such as memorial and tourism facilities, iconic statues, and the areas in the process of post-disaster recovery. Through his photographs Nishizawa questions our ways of seeing these monuments that represent the commemoration yet induce oblivion.



Tomiokamachi, Futaba-gun, Fukushima, 2018

[Reference Image]

In addition to his ongoing subject matters, Nishizawa will present photographs of landscapes that he has been working on since 2019 that offer glimpses of behavior changes and invisible constraints that have become part of everyday life.

Dates: Saturday, February 19 – Sunday, May 8, 2022

Venue: Gallery 9, Contemporary Art Gallery, Art Tower Mito

Organized by: Mito Arts Foundation

Curator: Goto Oko(Curator, Contemporary Art Center, Art Tower Mito)

*Criterion comes from the Latin “criterion,” which means a standard. Every exhibition is formed jointly by the artist and the curator.

* Entrance fee for Criterion is included in the admission of the exhibition.

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 exhibition, contact Takehisa Yuu (Artistic Director, Contemporary Art Center, Art Tower Mito).

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

For public relations and publicity of photographs, contact Torii Kaori (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 Torii Kaori a copy of the VTR, newspaper or magazine for our archives.
5. For interviews with an artist or to photograph the exhibition, please contact Torii Kaori 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 ¥3,890 / local one-way ¥2,310 (as of January 2022)

For reservation and timetable, contact East Japan Railway Company (JR) at 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: ¥2,120. Round-trip (twin ticket): ¥4,000 (as of January 2022)

For details, contact Ibaraki Kotsu (Transport) at 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 near the crossing of route #349.

Pay parking is available on the basement level of Art Tower Mito. The gate is at the east end of the north side 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, refer to E-NEXCO Drive Plaza "DoRaPuRa" at 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. from *Graduation Work*, 2000-2001, 2. *The Asadas/Firefighter*, 2006, 3. *The Asadas: All Japan Edition/Hyogo Prefecture*, 2021
4. from *My Family/Yokokawa Aya*, 2021, 5. from *My Family/Tonouchi Kana*, 2021, 6. from *Power of an Album*, 2011-2021