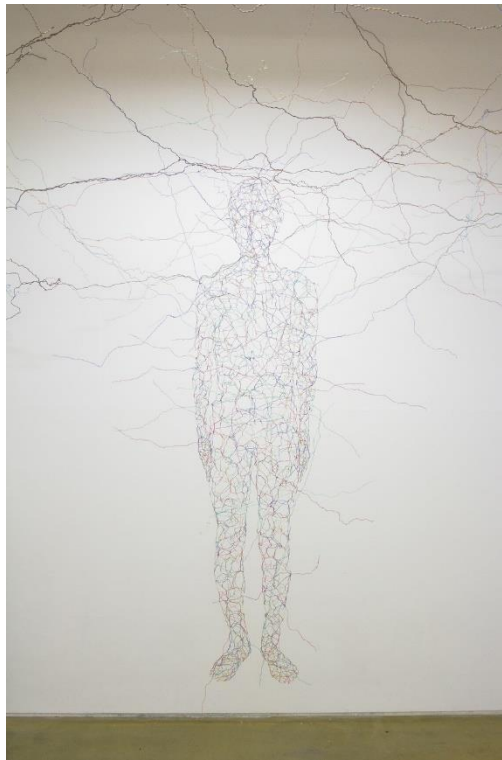


## ***Imamura Hajime: The Whereabouts of the Late***



*Return to the light, HITO, 2017, Gallery Nomart Osaka*

### **Overview**

Exhibition Title: Imamura Hajime: The Whereabouts of the Late

Dates: November 3, 2023 - January 28, 2024

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

Venues: Contemporary Art Gallery, Entrance Hall, Art Tower Mito

Artists: Imamura Hajime

Closed on Mondays (except for January 8), December 27-January 3 and January 9

On December 9 and 10, the museum is closed due to the G7 ministers' meeting held in the vicinity.

Admission Fee: ¥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 (November 3, December 1, January 5)

Organized by Mito Arts Foundation

Grant: The Japan Arts Council 

Supported by : Nakagawa Chemical Inc., Suntory Holdings Limited.

Curator: Iseki Yu (Senior Curator, Contemporary Art Center, Art Tower Mito)

## Outline of the Exhibition

Contemporary artist Imamura Hajime is known for his style with light and diaphanous images at first glance having humorous forms, but they suddenly evoke a profound world, which is in unity with the ordinary, as he adds a little gap to unnoticed mundane things, making it upside down or flipping it over. He uses light materials usually unsuitable for sculpture such as cardboard, styrene foam, plaster, wire and vinyl, and makes “sculpture” which is full of floating quality. At the root of his works lies a world of mushrooms that stretch around mycelium underground below woods and come aboveground occasionally. It is a world not seen by humans, but it certainly coexists with the world, and Imamura’s thoughts on fungi that support the world expanded beyond an individual realm and got connected with the energy of life that continues. Imamura started his creative work in the first half of the 1980s in Kyoto, and his unique philosophical style unlike others attracted attention in the early days. This exhibition is the contemporary artist’s solo exhibition at an art museum in ten years.

## Imamura Hajime’s Biography

Born in Osaka in 1957 and based in Kyoto. He graduated with BA in sculpture, Department of Fine Arts, Kyoto City University of Arts in 1981, and completed a master’s course in sculpture, Graduate School of Arts, Kyoto City University of Arts in 1983. He worked mainly in the Kansai area and used ordinary materials from daily life making two-dimensional works and prints using colored wires and installations in which sculptures are connected with wire. His philosophical works having humorous forms show us a profound world that is the flip side of the same coin with the ordinary. His recent solo exhibitions include *Streaming / Staying* (Gallery Nomart, Osaka, 2021) and *Para Para Para* (ARTZONE, Kyoto, 2018). Group exhibitions he participated in include *Thoughts on Sparseness and Density* (the Museum of Modern Art, Wakayama, 2021), *TAD Best Selection: Museum Collection + How Would You View It?* (Toyama Prefectural Museum of Art & Design, 2020), *Starting Points: Japanese Art of the '80s* (21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, 2018 / Takamatsu Art Museum, 2018 / Shizuoka City Museum of Art, 2019), *Culture City of East Asia 2017 Kyoto, Asia Corridor Contemporary Art Exhibition* (Nijo-jo Castle / Kyoto Art Center, 2017).

He was awarded Good Prize at the 35th Nakahara Teijiro Award in 2007 and the 28th Kyoto Bijutsu Bunka (art and culture) Award in 2015. Imamura’s works are included in the collection of the National Museum of Art, Osaka; Itami City Museum of Art; Hyogo Prefectural Museum of Art; the Museum of Modern Art, Wakayama, etc.

## ▼ Highlights of the Exhibition

### - **Imamura’s first solo exhibition in the Kanto region and one in 10 years at art museum**

Imamura, who is based in Kyoto, has been mainly introduced in the Kansai area. Imamura’s unique philosophical style which is unlike others attracted attention early and his works have been recognized by not only art-related people but also many artists. His large-scale exhibition is held after 10 years since *Shizubi Project 3—Symbiosis: Dissolving Myself Like a Mushroom*, Hajime Imamura held at Shizuoka City Museum of Art in 2013, and this is the first solo exhibition held in the areas north of Kanto. It introduces his creative activities with nearly 60 works from the past and the latest pieces made for this exhibition.

### - **A huge parasitic mushroom appears in the Art Tower Mito entrance hall**

The huge mushroom sculpture “*Parasitism, Mushroom –2019*” that Imamura presented in Reborn Art Festival 2019 held around Ishinomaki City, Miyagi Prefecture and the Oshika Peninsula in the summer of 2019 appears again in the entrance hall of Art Tower Mito. Please take a look at the huge mushroom that is parasitic to the

building designed by Isozaki Arata.

## ▼Related Programs

### Artist Talk

Appearance: Imamura Hajime

Moderator: Iseki Yu (Senior Curator, Contemporary Art Center, Art Tower Mito)

Date: Friday, November 3, 15:00-16:00

Venue: Workshop room, Contemporary Art Gallery

Capacity: 40 persons \* No reservation required. First-come, first-served basis

Fee: free \*exhibition ticket is required.

### Dance and Live Performance “Collaboration between site, movement and sound”

“Dynamics” dancer Sumi Masayuki who is based in Kansai and is active in and outside Japan collaborates with sara of improvisational music unit “.es (dot esu)” which usually performs at Gallery Nomart, contemporary art gallery in Osaka.

Appearance: Sumi Masayuki (dynamics dance), sara (.es) (improvisational music unit)

Date: Friday, November 3, 13:30-14:30

Venue: Contemporary Art Gallery

Fee: free, \*exhibition ticket is required.

### Fieldwork for the invisible world accompanied with Imamura Hajime

Participants visit experts in mushrooms, plants and fermented food with Imamura-san and learn about the networks expanding in the invisible world.

Date: ①Saturday, November 18 Ibaraki Kinoko Hakase-kan (Ibaraki Mushroom Museum)

②Sunday, November 19 Mito botanical park

③Saturday, December 16 DarumaNatto, Yoshikubo Brewing

Number of participants: 15 each time (Prior application is required.)

Fee: ¥500

\*Please refer to the Art Tower Mito website.

### Workshop “Let’s make mushrooms”

Participants make mushrooms using materials at hand and wire with Imamura-san. This is an experience of sneaking into the world of mushrooms that spreads in the invisible world.

Date: Sunday, December 17, 10:30-12:30 / 14:00-16:00

Venue: Contemporary Art Gallery

Age of participants: elementary school students and up (First and second graders should be accompanied by guardians.)

Number of participants: 15 each time (Prior application is required.)

Fee: ¥500 \*exhibition ticket is required.

### Gallery Tour for Family with Babies

The staff or volunteers guide visitors through the exhibition. A workshop is held for children and their

parent(s).

Dates: November 12 and 15, 10:30-12:00

Venue: Contemporary Art Gallery

Participants: Pre-school children and their parent(s)

Fee: ¥1,500 per adult (including the admission for the exhibition)

### **Gallery tour with a person with visual impairment “session!”**

Since 2010, Art Tower Mito has been organizing gallery tours with a blind art appreciator, Kenji Shiratori, as the navigator, where people with sight and without sight talk together while appreciating the exhibition. This time, we will organize a special edition featuring a free talk with Tohru Nakazaki after the gallery tour.

Date: Sunday, December 3, 10:00-12:00/14:30-16:30

Venue: Contemporary Art Gallery

Fee: ¥1,500, which includes exhibition admission.

### **Weekend Gallery Talk**

CAC (Contemporary Art Center) gallery volunteer talkers guide visitors to explore the exhibition together.

Dates: Saturdays from November 18 onwards, starting at 14:30, approx. 40min.

Venue: Contemporary Art Gallery

Fee: free \*exhibition ticket is required.

### **▼Other Events During the Exhibition**

#### **HIBINO Katsuhiko “Asatte Asagao Project 2023 Mito” Harvest Festival**

Seedlings of asagao (morning glory) were planted with participants before the rainy season and refreshing flowers were in bloom during the summer. Now it is time for the harvest. Together participants will harvest the seeds filled with memories of Mito while thinking of asatte (the day after tomorrow) or next year as well as other places where the same project takes place. It is planned to make large Christmas wreaths with asagao vines.

Date: Saturday, November 11, 2023 / 10:00-17:00

The event will go ahead in case of light rain. In case of heavy rain, the event will be postponed to the following day.

Venue: Plaza, Art Tower Mito

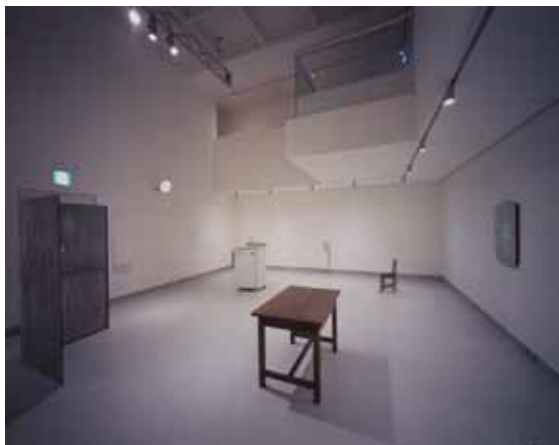
Admission: Free

Organized by: Asatte Asagao Project Mito Executive Committee, Mito Arts Foundation,  
Keisei Department Store, Mito City Civic Center

Supported by: Mito 21 Group, Ibaraki Prefectural Daigo Seiryu High School, Suntory Holdings Limited

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

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1. **2002-11 *ie***, Shiseido Gallery Tokyo, Photo: Sakurai Tadahisa
2. ***Streaming / Staying ver. Terra-S***, 2022, Kyoto Seika University Gallery Terra-S Kyoto, Photo: Takano Tomomi, Image provided: Kyoto Seika University Gallery Terra-S
3. ***Parasitism, Mushroom***, Reborn-Art Festival2019, Oshika Peninsula Miyagi
4. **1997-7**, Utsunomiya Museum of Art Tochigi
5. ***Return to the light, HITO***, 2017, Gallery Nomart Osaka

## NOTES

### CONTACT

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Regarding the exhibition, contact Iseki Yu (Senior Curator, Contemporary Art Center, Art Tower Mito).

Regarding educational programs, contact Moriyama Junko, Nakagawa Yoshihiro (Educational Program Coordinators)

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

Email: [cacpr@arttowermito.or.jp](mailto:cacpr@arttowermito.or.jp)

Information is available on ATM X(twitter) account [http://twitter.com/MITOGEI\\_Gallery](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 Mito station 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.

For details, 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.

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 near 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/>