



October 3rd, 2018

For Immediate Release

**Art Fair Tokyo 2019**  
**Announcing Theme of “Art Life”**  
**Expanding the area, a new section "Crossing" appeared. Two international exhibitions of cooperation project with embassies in Japan and collaboration with Japanese art schools are held simultaneously.**

Art Tokyo Association will hold Art Fair Tokyo 2019, the largest international art fair in Japan, at Tokyo International Forum from March 7 to March 10, 2019.

The 14th edition of Art Fair Tokyo is themed “Art Life.” In addition to taking place in the Tokyo International Forum Lobby Gallery across an area twice the size of last year and including the new Crossing section offering exhibits for sale, the 2019 fair will hold the Projects section once again featuring up-and-coming artists in a series of solo exhibitions, while the two special exhibitions that enjoyed a strong reception at the last fair, “World Art Tokyo” in partnership with embassies and “Future Artists Tokyo” in partnership with Japanese art colleges, will return in newly expanded versions.



## **Fair Theme: Art Life**

The relentless forward march of technology knows no bounds. Virtual networks now pervade every corner of our lives, forming the core of our society today. On the other hand, nature constantly threatens to wipe away the order that human wisdom has built up since ancient times, while also simultaneously continuing to function as our primitive source of healing and food.

We live through times always pursuing efficiency and economy. And yet, we also aim to improve our lifestyle by returning to nature and proactively adopting “slow living.” In this way, we endeavor to find and practice the lifestyle that best matches us. However, what is required of us today is surely rather to refine our personal sensibilities towards the diverse self-expression of others or to re-examine ourselves through dialogue. As such, Art Fair Tokyo 2019 will explore the theme of “Art Life.”

When we come face to face with art, it provides the chance to rethink our own ideas and ways of living by examining our interests and thinking, and questioning what makes the artwork appealing or attractive. As values continue to diversify and industry and culture intersect in ever more complex ways, art can take on the role of influencing our lives and showing us the future.

Art Fair Tokyo 2019 aspires to serve as a platform for encounters and dialogue with visitors, and form an opportunity to enrich people's lives.

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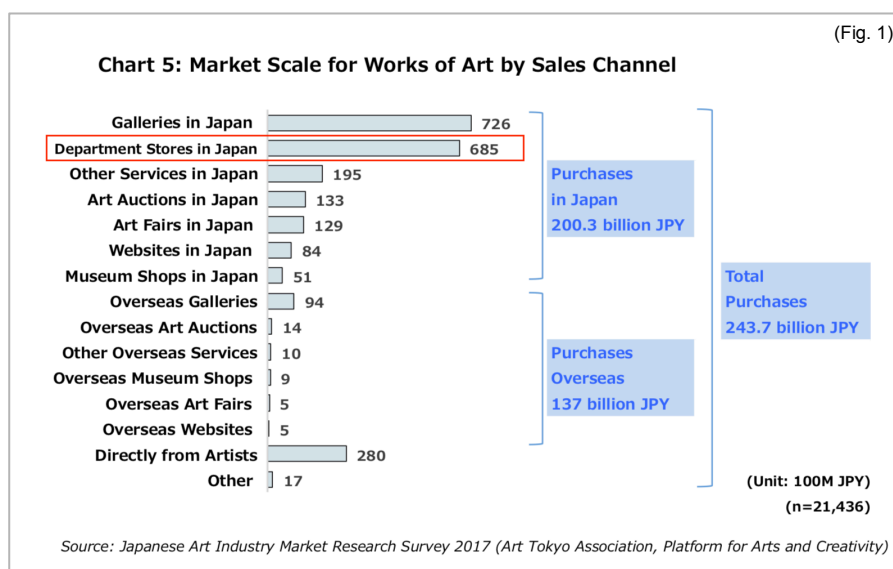
## New Fair Section: Crossing

A newly launched section called Crossing will appear at the entrance to the fair, taking place in an area of the Tokyo International Forum venue that is free to the general public and this year doubled in size. At the “crossing” where a wide range of art intersects, visitors can experience the very latest trends from Japan’s incredible varied art scene. Highlights include booths by leading Japanese department stores, regional crafts bodies that convey the current state of culture around the country as well as traditions hundreds of years old, and outsider art and celebrity artists’ work expressed through diverse values.

The practice in Japan of buying and selling artworks at ordinary department stores comparatively unusual from an international viewpoint and surely demonstrates that art exists in society as something familiar and accessible to Japanese people. According to the Japanese Art Industry Market Research Report 2017 (Fig. 1), department stores account for the second highest number of artwork sales in the market after domestic galleries. At the booths presented by department stores, visitors will see exhibits harnessing each store’s distinctive character.

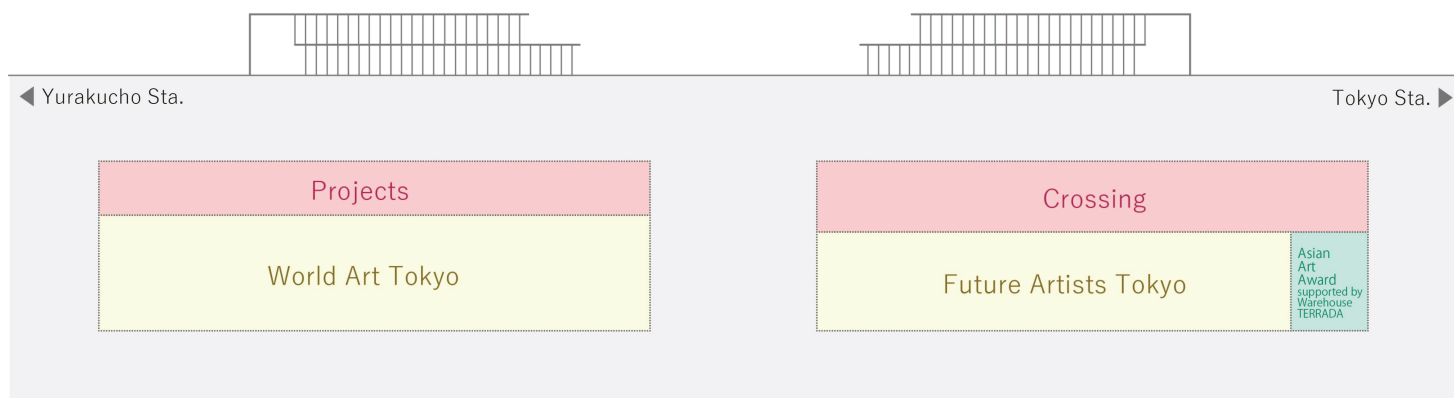
The regional crafts organizations create contemporary art that can connect traditions, culture, and techniques with the future. They disseminate monozukuri such as Kagawa lacquerware and Kanazawa crafts in ways that are accessible for the present day. Visitors can encounter examples of superb Japanese crafts that can easily fit into our everyday lives and lifestyle environments.

In addition, at the Tokyo International Forum Lobby Gallery on the first basement floor, the Projects section will return with a showcase of up-and-coming artists in solo exhibition formats.



Art Fair Tokyo 2018  
Photo: YosukeTakeda

### ▲ Hall E





## **World Art Tokyo: Showcasing the Global Art Scene from Tokyo**

### **An International Exhibition of Artists Recommended by Ambassadors from 33 Countries, Innovatively Curated by Two Tokyo University of the Arts Graduate Students**

“World Art Tokyo” is an international exhibition of artists recommended by ambassadors at embassies in Japan. Last year’s inaugural exhibition featured nine countries and eight artists, including a winner from the Swiss Art Awards 2016. For the 2019 fair, the exhibition will expand to 33 nations from across Asia, Oceania, Central and South America, Africa, the Middle East, and Europe. The exhibition of these highly individual 33 artists is curated by two students majoring in art studies and curatorial practices at the Graduate School of Global Arts, Tokyo University of the Arts. “World Art Tokyo” emerges from the perspectives of these artists and curators that transcend national boundaries while deepening the links between different countries. In this way, it is a space for visitors to experience the diversity created by incredibly varied artworks that go beyond the borders of nations.

#### **【33 Participating Embassies】**

Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in Japan / Embassy of the Argentine Republic in Japan / Embassy of the Republic of Benin in Japan / Embassy of the Plurinational State of Bolivia in Japan / Embassy of Brazil in Japan / Embassy of the People’s Republic of China in Japan / Embassy of the Republic of Colombia in Japan / Embassy of the Republic of Croatia in Japan / Embassy of the Republic of Cuba in Japan / Embassy of the DR Congo in Japan / Embassy of Finland in Japan / The Finnish Institute in Japan / Ambassade de France / Institut français du Japon / Villa Kujoyama / Embassy of the Republic of Honduras in Japan / Embassy of Hungary in Japan / Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Japan / Embassy of Israel in Japan / Embassy of Italy in Japan / Embassy of Jamaica in Japan / Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Japan / Embassy of the Republic of Macedonia / Embassy of the Republic of Madagascar in Japan / Embassy of the Maldives in Japan / Embassy of Mexico in Japan / Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Japan / New Zealand Embassy, Tokyo / Embassy of the Republic of Panama in Japan / Embassy of the Republic of Paraguay in Japan / Embassy of the Republic of Serbia in Japan / Embassy of the Republic of South Africa in Japan / Embassy of Spain in Japan / Embassy of Switzerland in Japan / Embassy of the Republic of Tunisia in Japan / Embassy of Ukraine in Japan (2018/10/02)



## **Future Artists Tokyo**

### **Exhibition Planned and Organized by 45 Students from 19 Art Colleges Nationwide Transcend Institutions and Faculties**

“Future Artists Tokyo” is an exhibition led by a team of students from Japanese art colleges. The second edition of the exhibition will present work by students from 19 art colleges and universities around Japan, increasing from the six featured in the first exhibition at last year’s fair. The event is led by a team of curators comprising students from the same colleges, supervising everything from the choice of artworks to the exhibition concept statement and the arrangement of the venue and displays. Universities from around Japan will create a place for fresh stimulation and inspiration through exchange between students in ways that transcend the differences of their faculties. The exhibition offers visitors the chance to witness the next generation of Japan’s artists and curators show off their talents.

#### **【19 Colleges】**

Aichi University of the Arts (Aichi Prefecture), Akita University of Art (Akita Prefecture), Onomichi City University (Hiroshima Prefecture), Kanazawa College of Art (Ishikawa Prefecture), Kyushu Sangyo University (Fukuoka Prefecture), Kyoto City University of Arts (Kyoto Prefecture), SAGA UNIVERSITY (Saga Prefecture), Joshibi University of Art and Design (Tokyo Metropolitan Government), Tama Art University (Tokyo Metropolitan Government), University of Tsukuba (Ibaraki Prefecture), Tokyo University of the Arts (Tokyo Metropolitan Government), Tokyo Zokei University (Tokyo Metropolitan Government), TOHOKU UNIVERSITY OF ART & DESIGN (Yamagata Prefecture), TOKOHA University (Shizuoka Prefecture), Nagoya Zokei University (Aichi Prefecture), Nihon University College of Art (Tokyo Metropolitan Government), Hiroshima City University (Hiroshima Prefecture), Musashino Art University (Tokyo Metropolitan Government), Yokohama University of Art and Design (Kanagawa Prefecture)





## Art Fair Tokyo 2019 Overview

**Organizers:** Art Tokyo Association

**Dates and Hours:** Thursday, March 7 - Sunday, March 10, 2019 (4 days)

|              |                   |               |
|--------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Press View   | Thursday, March 7 | 1p.m. – 2p.m. |
| Private View | Thursday, March 7 | 2p.m. – 4p.m. |
| Vernissage   | Thursday, March 7 | 4p.m. – 8p.m. |
| Public View  | Friday, March 8   | 11a.m – 8p.m. |
|              | Saturday, March 9 | 11a.m – 8p.m. |
|              | Sunday, March 10  | 11a.m – 5p.m. |

**Venues:** Tokyo International Forum Hall E (3-5-1 Marunouchi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo)

**Admission Fee:** 1DAY Advanced Free Pass JPY 4,000 / 1DAY Free Pass JPY 5,000

\* Children below elementary school are free (They must be accompanied by adults)

**Cooperation:**

Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in Japan  
Embassy of the Argentine Republic in Japan  
Embassy of the Republic of Armenia in Japan  
Embassy of the Kingdom of Bahrain to Japan  
Embassy of the Kingdom of Belgium in Japan  
Embassy of Belize in Japan  
Embassy of the Republic of Benin in Japan  
Embassy of the Plurinational State of Bolivia in Japan  
Embassy of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Japan  
Embassy of the Republic of Botswana in Japan  
Embassy of Brazil in Japan  
British Council  
Embassy of Brunei Darussalam in Japan  
Embassy of the Republic of Bulgaria in Japan  
Embassy of Burkina Faso in Japan  
The Royal Embassy of Cambodia in Japan  
Embassy of the Republic of Cameroon in Japan  
Embassy of the Republic of Chile in Japan  
Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Japan  
Embassy of the Republic of Colombia in Japan  
Embassy of the Republic of Croatia in Japan  
Embassy of the Republic of Cuba in Japan  
Embassy of the Czech Republic in Japan  
Royal Danish Embassy in Japan  
Embassy of the Republic of Djibouti in Japan  
Embassy of the Dominican Republic in Japan  
DR Congo Embassy in Japan  
Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Japan  
Embassy of the Republic of El Salvador in Japan  
Embassy of the State of Eritrea in Japan  
Embassy of the Republic of Fiji  
The Finnish Institute in Japan  
Embassy of France in Japan  
Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany  
Embassy of the Republic of Ghana in Japan  
Embassy of the Republic of Guatemala in Japan  
Embassy of the Republic of Guinea in Japan  
Embassy of the Republic of Haiti in Japan  
Embassy of Honduras  
Embassy of Hungary in Japan  
Embassy of the Republic of Iceland in Japan  
Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Japan  
Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran  
Embassy of Ireland  
Embassy of Israel  
Embassy of Italy in Japan  
Embassy of Jamaica in Japan  
Embassy of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in Japan  
Korean Cultural Center Korean Embassy in Japan  
Embassy of the Kyrgyz Republic in Japan  
Embassy of the Kingdom of Lesotho in Japan  
Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania in Japan

Embassy of the Republic of Macedonia  
Embassy of the Republic of Madagascar in Japan  
Embassy of the Republic of Malawi in Japan  
Embassy of Malaysia in Japan  
Embassy of the Republic of Maldives in Japan  
Embassy of the Republic of Mali in Japan  
Embassy of the Republic of the Marshall Islands in Japan  
Embassy of Mexico in Japan  
Embassy of the Republic of Moldova in Japan  
Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco  
Embassy of the Republic of Mozambique in Japan  
Embassy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in Japan  
Embassy of the Republic of Namibia in Japan  
Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Japan  
New Zealand Embassy in Japan  
Embassy of the Republic of Nicaragua in Japan  
Embassy of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in Japan  
Norwegian Embassy  
Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman  
Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Japan  
Embassy of the Republic of Palau in Japan  
Embassy of the Republic of Panama in Japan  
Embassy of the Republic of Paraguay in Japan  
Embassy of the Republic of Peru in Japan  
Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines in Japan  
Embassy of Portugal in Japan  
Embassy of the Independent State of Samoa in Japan  
Embassy of the Republic of San Marino in Japan  
Embassy of the Republic of Senegal in Japan  
Embassy of the Republic of Serbia in Japan  
Embassy of the Republic of Singapore in Japan  
Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Japan  
Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia in Japan  
Embassy of the Republic of South Africa in Japan  
Embassy of Spain in Japan  
Embassy of the Republic of the Sudan in Japan  
Embassy of Switzerland in Japan  
Embassy of the Syrian Arab Republic in Japan  
Royal Thai Embassy in Japan  
Embassy of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste  
Embassy of the Republic of Togo in Japan  
Embassy of the Kingdom of Tonga in Japan  
Embassy of the Republic of Tunisia in Japan  
Embassy of the Republic of Uganda in Japan  
Embassy of Ukraine in Japan  
United States Embassy  
Embassy of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay in Japan  
Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in Japan  
Embassy of the Republic of Yemen in Japan  
Embassy of the Republic of Zambia in Japan  
Embassy of the Republic of Zimbabwe in Japan

**Partner Events:** ART in PARK HOTEL TOKYO 2019, 3331 Art Fair 2019, Asian Art Award supported by Warehouse TERRADA

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### What is ART FAIR TOKYO?

ART FAIR TOKYO is the largest international art fair in Japan, held in Tokyo every spring. Over 150 galleries from Japan and overseas participate in the fair, offering works for display and sale in a wide variety of genres including antiques, crafts, Nihonga (Japanese painting), modern and contemporary art. During the event, there are historically significant Japanese art works on display as well as special exhibitions attempting to communicate the "now" of Tokyo's art scene and market, and related symposia and parties held at locations around the city. The international and diverse art market platform, ART FAIR TOKYO, is a place not only for art fans and art industry people, but also ambassadors from various countries, government officials, and business leaders to exchange information and engage socially. (60,026 attendees in 2019)

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