

Tokyo Biennale 2023 Weaving the Nihonbashi area with sound MSCTY × Nihonbashi Sound Walk Guide

“Weaving the Nihonbashi Area with Sound” is an art project that creates creative expression.

It’s a series of music that explores the various sonic aspects of the area and tells the story of this deeply rich culture and heritage, making it a highly dynamic and forward-thinking place in Tokyo.

Nine musicians and Nick Luscombe and James Greer of the sound art collective MSCTY Studio, will collect the sounds played by various long-established stores in Nihonbashi and convey their history and present as a soundscape through sound and music. . Each piece of music feels like part of a long-established foundation, and becomes entwined in our memories. When I think of that store, I hear music in my mind...and vice versa. You can listen to Soundscapes archived on the website from anywhere in the world, but please enjoy the world by visiting the actual long-established stores.

<https://www.mscty.space/project/mscty-x-nihonbashi>



(1) MSCTY Center (1-6-7 Nihonbashimuromachi, Chuo City) 11:00-18:00 / Open throughout the exhibition period

An information center will be set up in the center of the Nihonbashi area to “spun the Nihonbashi area with sound.” It will not only serve as a base for exploring the long-established stores and works that participated in the project, but will also feature a radio that will broadcast live interviews with artists and local people. •Broadcasting program MSCTY RADIO TOKYO will be a base where you can enjoy introductions to the sounds played by long-established stores, making-of videos, and soundscape works. The artist's sound tour will also start from here.

Nihonbashi Sound Weave, Artist: MSCTY Studio [Nick Luscombe + James Greer]

(2) Tagen / 田源 (2-3-8 Nihonbashihoridomecho, Chuo City) 10:00-17:30 / non-scheduled holiday

Although it's a little far from the MSCTY center, let's first visit Tagen, located on Orimono Chuo-dori, which is close to Ningyocho. Founded in 1816 by Hirotsugu Tanaka, the first generation, in Omi-Aichigawa,(Aichi District, Shiga Prefecture), the company opened a Tokyo store in 1897, and has continued to operate today as a leading kimono wholesaler in Nihonbashi. Since the first generation, we have adhered to the spirit of “Sampo Yoshi,” which is “good for the seller, good for the buyer, and good for society,” and have inherited the Japanese kimono culture and tradition. When you go up to the second floor of the shop, you can see the valuable tools and signboards used at that time. This is one of the Chuo Ward Machikado Museums, which introduce the history and culture of the town at nearly 30 locations. Please drop by as well.

<https://ichimasutagen.shopinfo.jp>

Silk, Artist: Ai Kakihiro

Chuo Ward Machikado Museums

<https://www.chuoku-machikadotenjikan.jp/>



Tagen



Machikado Meseums

(3) Edoya / 江戸屋 (2-16 Nihonbashiendenmachi, Chuo City) 9:00-17:00 / regular closing day...Saturday, Sunday, and National holidays
Let's leave Tagen and go back a little towards Showa-dori. On the old Nikko Kaido road that runs nearby, there is Edo-ya, a brush specialty store that has been around since the Edo period. During the era of the seventh Shogun Ietsugu, the first Toshihei Konoe was appointed as the “brush maker” of the shogun family, and in 1718 was given the trade name “Edo-ya” and established as a store specializing in Edo brushes. He continues to pass on the “Edo brushes,” which are handmade using natural materials such as horses and pigs, and have a “beauty of use.” The building, which was rebuilt after the Great Kanto Earthquake and has been designated as a nationally registered tangible cultural property, also tells the story of that era.

On Ebisu Street to the north, there is Takarada Ebisu Shrine, which protects this area, and the “Bettara Ichi-Market” is held every year on October 19th and 20th as its annual festival. There are about 400 open-air stalls lined up and it is very crowded. Please come and visit us on these days.

<https://www.nihonbashi-edoya.co.jp/index.html>

Edoya, Artist: Takeshi Nishimoto



(4) Ozu Washi / 小津和紙 (Ozu Honkan Bldg., 3-6-2 Nihonbashihonchō, Chuo City) 10:00-18:00 / regular closing day...Sunday

When you join Showa Dori, you will see the Ozu Washi building. In 1653, Ozu Seizaemon Nagahiro left Ise Matsuzaka and opened a paper business in Edo Odenma-cho under the trade name “Ozuya.” At our current store, we are particular about Japanese handmade washi paper, and we carry washi paper from all over Japan. The Ozu Historical Museum, which also serves as the Machikado Museum, tells the history of Ozu washi paper and is a must-see. In addition, we have a washi paper making experience, classrooms, and a gallery, all of which allow us to pass on the diverse washi culture to this day.

<https://www.ozuwashi.net>

Japonism, Artist: Logic Sytem



(5) Nihonbashi Kiya / 日本橋木屋

(COREDO Muromachi 1st floor, 2-2-1, Nihonbashimuromachi, Chuo City)

11:00-19:00, Saturday, Sunday, and National holidays 10:30-19:00 / non-scheduled holiday

When you leave Ozu Washi and return to Chuo-dori Street, you will find yourself in the center of Edo's merchant town, which was painted by various artists. Kiya, a store specializing in cutlery and everyday utensils, is said to have been founded in 1792, as depicted in the “Ushidai Shoran” that depicts the bustle of Nihonbashi. It is said that the first generation Isuke Kato opened his own store after opening a shop called “Norenwake” from the original wood shop, and has been selling cutlery in Nihonbashi for over 230 years. It is said that the original Kiya was a general trading company in the Edo period, selling haberdashery, lacquerware, and candles, but when it became independent, it began to sell cutlery because it could no longer handle the same products.

<https://www.kiya-hamono.co.jp/>

Hotori, Artist: Moshimoss



(6) Ninben / にんべん

(COREDO Muromachi 1st floor, 2-2-1, Nihonbashimuromachi, Chuo City)

11:00-19:00, Saturday, Sunday, and National holidays 10:30-19:00 / non-scheduled holiday

There is Ninben next to Nihonbashi Kiya. Founded in 1699 (Genroku 12). It all began when Ihei Takatsu, the founder of the company, set up a doorboard and began selling dried bonito flakes and dried salted fish at Dotejura in Nihonbashi Yokkaichi (currently Nihonbashi 1-chome). In 1705, the store's trade name was changed to “Iseya Ihei,” and the noren seal (trademark) took the letters of Iseya and Ihei, and a curved shaku (kane) was added to ensure steady business. Together with this, we named it “Kaneninben.” Edo townspeople who saw this started calling the store “Ninben.” When you enter the store, there is also a corner where you can shave bonito flakes, and the entire store is filled with the delicious aroma of dashi stock.

<https://www.ninben.co.jp/>

All You Need is Umami, Artist: Ken Nishikawa



(7) Yubendo / 有便堂 (1-6-6 Nihonbashimuromachi, Chuo City)

10:00-18:00 / regular closing day...Saturday, Sunday, and National holidays

There is Yubendo on the street across Chuo Dori, in front of Nihonbashi Mitsukoshi. It all began in 1912, when Yuzo Ishikawa I first started selling Japanese paper, brushes, ink, and other items wrapped in furoshiki from Kudanshita, Tokyo. The shop has been in Ueno since 1912, and has been loved by numerous calligraphers, painters, and literary figures, including Saneatsu Mushakoji, Toson Shimazaki, Tsuguharu Fujita, and Shiko Munakata. After the war, we resumed business in Nihonbashi, and together with our craftsmen, we continue to pass on Japanese culture such as calligraphy, paintings, paints, and frames. Inside the store, bottles of mineral pigments are lined up in beautiful colors, creating a dignified and tranquil space amidst the bustle of Nihonbashi.

<https://www.yubendo.com/>

For Yubendo, Artist: the sleeping beauty



(8) Nihonbashi Mitsukoshi / 日本橋三越 (1-4-1 Nihonbashimuromachi, Chuo City) 10:00-19:00 / non-scheduled holiday

As you head towards Nihonbashi from Ninben, you will find Nihonbashi Mitsukoshi,(日本橋三越) an imposing building. Echigoya was founded by Takatoshi Mitsui in 1673. After that, it became the Mitsui Kimono Store, which took the Mitsui family's surname, and in 1904, it changed to the Mitsukoshi Kimono Store, taking the “三(Mitsu)” and “越(Koshi)” characters, and became the current “Mitsukoshi.” In 1683, shortly after our founding, we advocated a “no cash value in front of the store” and began selling genuine notes for the first time in the world, and since then we have always operated in a way that was ahead of the times. The 90-year-old pipe organ installed on the second-floor balcony of the store's central hall plays performances mainly on weekends, so be sure to enjoy another soundscape during your sound walk.

<https://www.mistore.jp/store/nihombashi.html>

A Dream of Mitsukoshi, Artist: MSCTY_Studio + Noah



(9) Eitaro Sohonpo / 榮太郎總本舗 (1-2-5 Nihonbashi, Chuo City) 10:00-18:00 / regular closing day...Sunday, National holidays

If you cross Nihonbashi from Muromachi and enter the street on the right, you will see Eitaro Sohonpo. In 1818, Tokubei Hosoda, who was a confectionery merchant in Hanno, Saitama Prefecture, moved to Edo. He founded Izutsuya in Kudanzaka. After that, Tokubei's great-grandson, the third generation Yasubei Hosoda (childhood name Eitaro), opened a food stall here on the side of Nihonbashi. It all began in the 4th year of Ansei when he opened a store in Nihonbashi Nishikawagicho (currently Sohonpo) and changed the name to “Eitaro” after his own childhood name. There is even a cafe inside the store, so you can rest your tired feet with a sound walk.

<https://www.eitaro.com>

Liquid Candy, Artist: Coppé



(10) Nihombashi Takashimaya S.C. / 日本橋高島屋S.C. (2-4-1 Nihonbashi, Chuo City) 10:30-19:30 / non-scheduled holiday

The Sound Walk has finally become its last stop. Nihombashi Takashimaya S.C.. It is a representative long-established department store along with Nihonbashi Mitsukoshi. In 1831, the first generation Shinshichi Iida founded a used clothing cotton business in Kyoto. He took the name “Takashimaya” from Takashima County, Omi Province, where his father-in-law was from.

In 1855, he became a kimono merchant, and after opening a store in Osaka, he moved to Tokyo in 1900. In 1933, after the Kanto-Daishin-sai earthquake, the store opened in Nihonbashi in a new building designed by architect Teitaro Takahashi, with architect Togo Murano in charge of designing the extension. In 2009, this building became the first department store building to be designated as an important cultural property. The building of the department store, which was created by a famous architect, and the presence of an elevator girl who operates an old-style manual elevator stand out. In addition, the concierge conducts tours of important cultural properties on the second Thursday of every month, so if you would like to learn more, please apply.

<https://www.takashimaya.co.jp/nihombashi/>

Urban Oasis, Artist: MSCTY_Studio + Yumiko Morioka



【notice】

MSCTY RADIO TOKYO / During the Tokyo Biennale, every Saturday from 17:00 to 22:00, the MSCTY center in Nihonbashi will host a public radio program broadcast all over the world, with MSCTY's Nick Luscombe and James Greer serving as navigators. We will invite musicians participating in this project and artists working on art projects at Tokyo Biennale 2023 to conduct soundscapes and live interviews to convey the fun of Tokyo Biennale 2023(www.mixcloud.com/MSCTY_RADIO_TOKYO).

On October 14 (Sat) and 28 (Sat), professional guide yoko_tokyo will take you on a special tour of the Nihonbashi area, guiding you through the history of the area while you listen to the music at each store. For details, please visit the Tokyo Biennale 2023 official website.