

【The Art Project Originating in Local Areas of Tokyo】

Tokyo Biennale 2025 "Wander for wonder"

**39 Artists from 8 countries gather to
bring art to life within Tokyo's cultural landscape.**

— This autumn, come witness new expressions born from the joy of “wandering.”—



Held every two years, the Tokyo Biennale is an international art festival that sets the city of Tokyo as its main stage. The festival aims to dig deep into the city, as it is created together with the area's local citizens, as well as a wide variety of artists and creators from around the world. The theme of the Tokyo Biennale 2025 is "Wander for wonder." The festival period runs from October 17 to December 14, 2025, with various pre-events taking place in the lead-up to the opening.

Exploring Six Diverse Areas of Northeastern Tokyo

Tokyo Biennale 2025 will be held in numerous facilities and public spaces in Chiyoda, Chuo, Bunkyo and Taito wards across the northeastern part of Tokyo. Based around two main exhibition venues—Etoile Kaito Living Building and Toei Kan'ei-ji Temple (both requiring admission)—visitors can enjoy exhibitions and events held in six distinct areas (most of which offer free admission), each with its own history and culture.



<https://tokyobiennale.jp/tb2025/>

Ueno/Okachimachi Area

Toeizan Kan'ei-ji Temple was found in the Edo period and will celebrate its 400th anniversary in 2025. In addition to the main hall of Kan'ei-ji Temple, the Tokyo Biennale 2025 will make use of the Kiyomizu Kannon-do and Bentendo halls in Ueno Park, as well as the nearby Kaisan-do, as its base exhibition venues. Here, visitors will be able to experience exhibitions thoughtfully composed in dialogue with each site's unique character. In addition, sound artist Akio Suzuki will be carrying out his signature project *o to da te* in various nearby locations.* Like the "nodate" tea ceremony, he will select outdoor spots where you can listen carefully and open up your senses.

*Akio Suzuki's *o to da te* will also be set up in other areas.

Participating artists

Nobuyuki Fujiwara, Mami Kosemura, Gaku Kurokawa, Juniichi Mori, Akio Suzuki



Reference Image: Gaku Kurokawa,
Listening to Stone, 2022. Photo by
Yosuke Suzuki



Reference Image: Nobuyuki Fujiwara,
Memory of Odunpazari 'Assemblage', 2018

Kanda/Akihabara Area

The Billboard Architecture Project* will be held among the historic buildings that remain in Kanda, paying homage to Tokyo's foundational culture while considering the future. At one of these buildings, Ebihara Shoten, the International Collaborative Project will be carried out in partnership with Tenthaus, a Norwegian art collective, and The OVEN Network, a transnational group of artists from Bangkok, Seoul, Jakarta, and Singapore. The team will use the site as a base for translocal actions, workshops, and research (see also p. 5). Artist Juri Akiyama, known for her beeswax works, will also take part in activities in the Kanda-Akihabara area. In the Sotokanda area, adjacent to Akihabara, the city of electronics and pop culture, sound artist Akio Suzuki will be carrying out his signature project, *o to da te*.*

*Billboard Architecture (Japanese: "Kanban Kenchiku") refers to a Japanese form of architecture that spread during reconstruction after the Great Kanto Earthquake (1923), made up of both living and business quarters, with a signature shopfront façade and billboard.

*Akio Suzuki's *o to da te* will also be set up in other areas.

Participating artists

Juri Akiyama, Akio Suzuki, Tenthaus Art Collective and the Oven Network



Reference Image: Juri Akiyama
Noli Me Tangere, 2021 (detail)



<https://tokyobiennale.jp/tb2025/>

Nihonbashi/Bakurocho Area

Nihonbashi is a town of commerce and culture that developed as the home of the Edo Shogunate. It is characterized by a rich streetscape in which long-established stores retaining their historic atmosphere coexist with new facilities. For the Tokyo Biennale 2025, the Sukima Project (tentative) will be held, in which participants will walk around the area to trace the art scattered throughout. Encountering works by eight artists that mimic potted plants in alleyways will allow participants to rediscover the area's margins and potential for creativity (See also p. 5).

The neighboring Bakurocho is an area where the activities of a historic wholesale district coexist with new trends in the fields of art and design. The Tokyo Biennale will make use of the long-established wholesaler Etoile Kaito Living Building as its base exhibition venue, offering artwork displays and project information.

Participating artists

[Nihonbashi]

Sukima Project / Nihonbashi-Muromachi, Honcho (See also p. 5) :

6lines studio + Yoshiharu Tsukamoto, Sumiko Iwaoka, Junya Kataoka and Rie Iwatake, Yoshiaki Kuribara, Milk Souko The Coconuts, Osamu Mori, Koko Terauchi, Shoko Toda

[Bakurocho (Etoile Kaito Living Building)]

Piotr Bujak (Poland), L PACK., Nguyen Phuong Linh and Truong Que Chi (Vietnam), Nozomu Kubota, Shingo Suzuki, Eiji Watanabe

Photography Project—Tokyo Perspective (See also p. 5) :

Naoya Hatakeyama, Mari Katayama, Chihiro Minato, Masato Nakamura, SIDE CORE, Risaku Suzuki, Yasuko Toyoshima

SOCIAL DIVE Project (See also p. 5) :

Nalaka Wijewardhane (Sri Lanka), Camila Svenson (Brazil), Mariam Tovmasian (USA), Adam Roigart (Sweden), Elke Reinhuber (German)



Reference Image: Eiji Watanabe
Garden of the Appellation, 2014 Installation view
at Hakone Open-Air Museum, Japan. Photo by
Eiji Watanabe



Reference Image: Truong Que Chi and Nguyen Phuong Linh,
Sourceless Waters: White. Shadow,
Installation view at Asian Art Biennial 2024, Taichung. Image
courtesy of the National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts.



Suidobashi Area

Suidobashi, home to Tokyo Dome City, is an area known for entertainment that attracts many visitors. Here, Tokyo Biennale 2025 will incorporate two art displays within Tokyo Dome City. On the digital signage over 100 meters long, visitors will be able to see a video work by Goro Murayama, and in the waterscape area, there will be a wall art piece by Hogalee. These will serve as part of the "Tokyo Dome City Art Project," that has been carried out by Tokyo Dome, Tokyo University of the Arts, and the Tokyo University of the Arts Art Creation Institute since 2022, under the theme of exploring the possibilities of combining Tokyo Dome City and art.

Participating artists
Hogalee, Goro Murayama

Hogalee
Re-sorti, 2024, Tokyo Dome City.
Photo by Yuka Ikenoya (YUKAI)

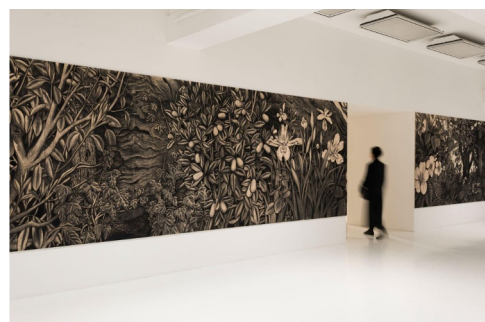


Otemachi/Marunouchi/Yurakucho Area

Otemachi, Marunouchi, and Yurakucho are the leading business districts of the Japanese economy, and are home to many museums and public art, as well as popular shops and restaurants. At the Tokyo Biennale 2025, works from Naoki Sato's series *There, It Has Grown* will be exhibited at the Gyoko-dori Underground Gallery and the 1st Floor of the Otemachi Park Building. The series, which involves drawing familiar plants on large plywood boards that are then connected, has been ongoing for over 10 years and has now reached a length of over 330 meters. Visitors can experience its continued growth within our city that is also constantly changing. In addition, a large-scale wall art piece by artist Fu Ouchi, who expresses that "drawing a picture is thinking about life," will be displayed on the wall of the Otemachi First Square Building.

Participating artists
Fu Ouchi, Naoki Sato

Reference Image:
Naoki Sato
First "There, It has grown," 2013,
Photo by Yoshie Atsush



Yaesu/Kyobashi Area

Tokyo Station is known as the gateway to Tokyo, where many different people come and go. A dynamic and detailed painting by Shun Yonaha will appear at the Yaesu Exit/North Exit (in front of the entrance to Daimaru Tokyo). Nearby, Kyobashi is known as a business district as well as a distinct antique and art district. Around the Artizon Museum, sound artist Akio Suzuki will carry out his signature *o to da te* project.* Like the "nodate" tea ceremony, he will select outdoor spots where you can listen carefully and open up your senses.

*Akio Suzuki's "o to da te" will also be set up in other areas.

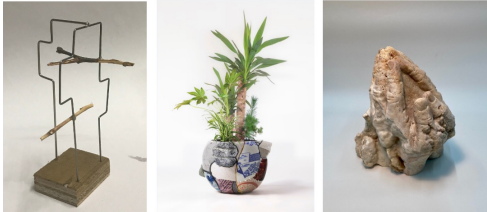
Participating artists
Akio Suzuki, Shun Yonaha

[👉https://tokyobiennale.jp/tb2025/](https://tokyobiennale.jp/tb2025/)



TB ART PROJECTS

During the Tokyo Biennale festival period, a variety of exhibitions and events will be held in various locations across Tokyo. One of these initiatives is *TB Art Projects*, in which multiple artists participate under specific themes.

Sukima Project / Nihonbashi-Muromachi, Honcho 	This project is an attempt to grasp the structure of the city from the perspective of its physical and conceptual “gaps,” and to utilize these small spaces between buildings as places for presenting artworks or as artworks themselves. This is a legendary project that Masato Nakamura, along with his artist initiative Command N, carried out in 1999. For the biennale, sculptures by eight artists and groups that mimic potted plants will seemingly thread these gaps of back alleys together to enrich the city’s marginal spaces.
Billboard Architecture Project  From left: Kamiya Goriten (former ice shop), Ebihara Shoten (former clothing store), Kakuchi Konpo (former packing store)	Many old wooden structures remain in central Tokyo, such as charming historic shops that represent “billboard architecture.” However, when they are demolished as part of the city’s metabolic system, they tend to fade from people’s memories. This project will make use of existing wooden structures, “Ebihara Shoten (former clothing store),” “Kamiya Koriten (former Ice shop),” and “Kakuchi Konpo (former packing store),” as festival venues that transmit the structures’ appeal and create opportunities for us to deepen our respect for Tokyo’s foundational culture. In addition, for this occasion we plan to hold lectures and walking tours led by architect and architectural historian Terunobu Fujimori.
International Collaboration Project  Tenthau Art Collective and the OVEN Network	This is a project that is being developed in collaboration with unique overseas art organizations. Presented by the Norway-based Tenthau Art Collective, this project will be developed and carried out by The Oven, a collaborative platform that explores new ways of gathering, sharing knowledge, and sustaining collective practice. Based at Ebihara Shoten (a former clothing store) in Kanda, the project will activate the space through a series of public interventions, workshops, and site-responsive actions.
“SOCIAL DIVE” Open Call for Overseas Artists  Reference Image: Adam Roigart, “FOR THE PUBLIC I-III,” Gröndal, Stockholm, Sverige, 2024	“SOCIAL DIVE” is a project that invites artists from overseas to dive into the city of Tokyo to gain insights into the unique traditions held by local people and bring forth new values. As the participating artists interact with society, they will uncover hidden connections across the city which, for those living in Japan, may be unexpected or so familiar that they go unnoticed. For this running of the biennale, five artists were selected to participate from a pool of over 1,400 applications.
Photography Project “Tokyo Perspective”  Mari Katayama during a photo shoot	Artists will wander around Tokyo and create photographs of the city today. The original prints will be exhibited at a special venue and published on an online digital map, allowing people to visit the locations where the photographs were taken and experience the actual scenery. In addition, there will be a system in place for printing these photographs conveniently on multi-copy machines at Seven-Eleven convenience stores, offering visitors new ways to enjoy viewing and collecting photographs.

Sanpo University (Wandering University)



Sanpo University's 1st Special Symposium "Wander for Wonder," 2025.
Photo by TADA (YUKAI)

This is a project that involves walking through this place we call "Tokyo", visiting towns, alleys, topographies, buildings, waterfronts, and more as we trace the overlapping layers of time and memory from the past to the present to interpret the everyday act of "walking" or "wandering" in an academic way. The program will also hold a series of special lectures while walking through the streets as fieldwork practice. Sociologist Shunya Yoshimi will serve as president, with architectural historian Hidenobu Jinnai as vice president of the university, through which they will host walking tours of the city and a series of guest lectures.

Wandering Art Map



Illustration: Kazuki Takahashi

Fragmentary, diverse, and sensory realizations will be discovered through taking walks. These are clues that help us to actively update our interpretation of the world around us. Through this project, in conjunction with the "Sanpo University" project, we will conduct fieldwork to create a new "art map" of Tokyo.

In addition to information on exhibitions for the Tokyo Biennale 2025, we are creating maps collecting data on public art and cultural facilities. These maps will be available online and exhibited at the Etoile Kaito Living Building during the Biennale. At the same time, the "This is Art Discovery Team," which collects interesting hidden aspects of the city, is an initiative open to everyone via social media.

Through the "Modernology Map" project, led by Modernology researcher Izumi Kuroishi, we explore the Nihonbashi/Bakurocho and Yaesu/Kyobashi areas to read traces of everyday life from the Edo period to the present and weave them into stories.



EVENTS

During the festival period, in addition to the exhibitions, various events by the artists will be held across the city. For more details, please visit the website.

For the Public – Sanpo: Exploring Forgotten Urban Spaces – Walking/Making/Hosting Together

With Adam Roigart

Roigart has long focused on overlooked corners of the city, exploring ways of intervening in these places through gatherings. In this project, participants will visit forgotten spaces scattered across Tokyo with him, assemble simple structures on site (such as tables or benches), and experience a form of temporary “hacking” and collective “hosting.”

These walks into what could be called “non-places” aim to share the latent potential of each site and open it up to new relationships. At the same time, they naturally question themes that Adam has consistently been interested in: caring for places, access from the public, hands-on design experiences, and the joy of working together.

Through this project, participants will engage with each site directly, while also sharing new experiences and stories with one another, creating connections between people and place.

Dates & Times

Sun 10/19, 14:00–16:00

Rewriting the City: A Guide to Imaginary Tokyo

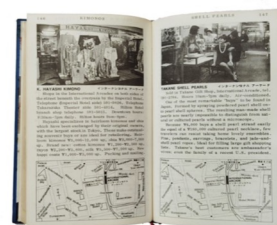
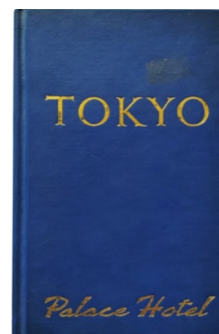
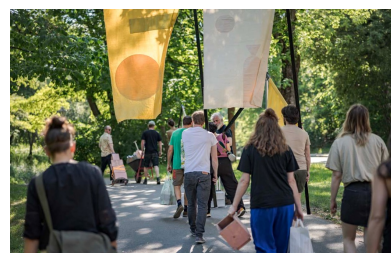
With Camila Svenson

This workshop invites participants to explore the concept of urban transformation through the lens of an old Tokyo travel guide. Using the guide as a starting point, we will investigate how tourist narratives shape our perception of cities and create spaces of imagination.

The day begins with a collective reading and discussion of selected passages, followed by the creation of an affective map that reinterprets these references in the local context. Participants will then engage in a performative walk, following instructions inspired by the guide while documenting the journey through photography, video, sound, and object collection. Returning to the workspace, each participant will produce a “guide page” that combines text, image, and found materials, blending fiction, memory, and observation. Together, these pages will form a collaborative, hybrid guide — a poetic translation of past visions into the present urban experience.

Dates & Times

Sat. 10/25/2025, 13:00–16:00



TICKETS

Experiences at Tokyo Biennale 2025

The Tokyo Biennale is an art festival where visitors can experience a wide range of events at venues scattered throughout the city. These programs take various forms, each offering experiences unique to its location. At Tokyo Biennale 2025, visitors can enjoy exhibitions, talks, workshops, tours, and more.

Tickets for the Base Exhibition Venues

Tickets are required to view exhibitions at the following venues (available on Artsticker). However, admission is free for high school students and younger.

Joint ticket for two venues:

Etoile Kaito Living Building and Toeizan Kan'ei-ji Temple

Ticket type	Adults	Students	High school students and younger
Advance (- Oct 16)	¥2,500	¥1,500	Free
Regular* (Oct 17-Dec 14)	¥3,000	¥1,800	

Tickets by Venue

*A discount of 100 yen will be offered for all regular tickets if you purchase tickets online (information to be announced soon).

- Admission is free for individuals with a disability certificate, along with one accompanying person. Please present the certificate at the ticket booth on the day of your visit.
- Students (including high school students) may be asked to present a valid student ID or other form of identification at the venue.

Regular tickets only*	Adults	Students	High school students and younger
Etoile Kaito Living Building	¥2,200	¥1,500	Free
Toeizan Kan'ei-ji Temple	¥1,200	¥500	

Inquiries

Tokyo Biennale Executive Office
Etoile Kaito Product Department Building 5F,
1-13-3 Higashikanda Chiyoda-Ku Tokyo
TEL: +81(0)3-5809-1653 FAX: +81(0)3-5809-1659 E-mail: info(at)tokyobiennale.jp
*Please replace (at) with @ when sending an e-mail.



MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL PRODUCER

To dive into Tokyo (the city) and engage deeply with society (people)

The Tokyo Biennale is a “social dive” type of international art festival that we build together by diving into various areas across Tokyo to discover the unique traditions and characteristics inherent in the people who live there while creating new values.

The theme for this running of the biennale, “Wander for Wonder,” describes our attempt to create a new form of “wandering” that brings us together softly and gently as we focus on points like “with whom” and “where” we wander.

Despite our world’s state of rising tension, even if we are strangers, the physical act of walking alongside someone becomes an opportunity to get to know each other, fostering our interest in the city and its culture to form the seeds of interaction. We wish to cherish the miraculous moment of “wandering together” considering our city of Tokyo that has nurtured a rich townscape upon its burnt ruins following events like the Great Kanto Earthquake and World War II. Most notably, it is important that we do not forget the existence of our foundational culture with its layers that include the city’s lifestyle, wisdom, faith, government, entertainment, and townspeople culture. Today, these are inconspicuously alive in every corner of the city and are important cultural resources that have the potential to become the soil for new creation. Using art projects, the Tokyo Biennale 2025 will take on the challenge of carefully picking up these hidden aspects of Tokyo’s foundational culture and connecting them to the future.

In doing so, through the imaginations and methodologies of artists, we will explore the potential of expression by intentionally wandering and actively taking detours around Tokyo. These art projects that weave new relationships through “wandering” will softly connect the city and people.

For example, when visitors go to see works like the installation at Toeizan Kan'ei-ji Temple, which is welcoming its 400th anniversary, or the artworks that are subtly placed in the city’s “gaps”, through casual exchanges between the scenery and people that happen along the way, discoveries await them that can only be made here and now. I invite visitors to stop and take a look when they come across something interesting. Here, they may find an unexpected moment that opens their heart.

By diving into Tokyo through the presentation of 14 exhibition venues, a diverse range of works by 37 participating artists, and a variety of “wandering” programs, the Tokyo Biennale 2025 will give rise to alternative art projects that connect deeply with the city.

Masato Nakamura
General Producer, Tokyo Biennale 2025



TOKYO BIENNALE 2025 THEME

Wander for Wonder

Freedom of movement and spirit, to and fro between the everyday and the extraordinary, traversing history—walking has brought mankind many benefits since ancient times. For modern urban dwellers living in constrained space and time, the act of “taking a walk” is becoming increasingly valuable.

Looking at the recent history of art, since the 1960s, artists have used their own bodies as a medium and expanded the practice of walking to reinterpret the world. Yoko Ono, Bruce Nauman, and Vito Acconci all successively turned “walking” into artworks, while Hamish Fulton continues his *Walks* series to this day. Walking has come to develop into a diverse range of expressions, including On Kawara’s *I Went*, in which he inscribed his daily movements on a map with red lines, Richard Long’s land art, Marina Abramović’s walk along the Great Wall of China, works by Janet Cardiff that reconstruct cities aurally, as well as the numerous projects by Francis Alÿs. Gabriel Orozco, an artist who walks through cities around the world, seems to treat the city as his studio, with the moment of discovery itself becoming a kind of work for him.

Following in the footsteps of these artists who have transformed the city into a place where art is generated from the moment of walking, the Tokyo Biennale 2025 will consider a walk as creation itself and the city as a place of expression, putting on exhibitions and projects that welcome people to “Tokyo” as an art studio for playing, wandering, detouring, encountering, contemplating, and discovering. While appreciating creative acts by each of the participating artists right in the city, the audience will have the opportunity to turn toward their own creative acts.

The aim of this art festival is to construct a circuit that will allow us to rediscover and share the latent resources in the city through the smallest act of walking against the backdrop of “Tokyo” as an enormous text. This biennale presents an opportunity for everyone to become somebody who creates while walking in the city, opening a new public horizon through the wonder that is brought by wandering.

Min Nishihara
Curatorial Member

いっしょに
散歩しませんか?
Wander
for wonder
TOKYO.
BIENNALE
2025
東京の地場に発する
国際芸術祭
Art Projects Originating in Local Areas of Tokyo



PRESS RELEASE



General Producer

Masato Nakamura

Artist. Tokyo University of the Arts professor. General Director of Tokyo Biennale 2020/2021 and 2023. General Director of Chiba City Arts Triennale 2025. Director of 3331.

Curetrial Member

Susumu Namikawa

Copywriter, poet, and programmer. Executive Creative Director at dentsu Japan.

Hiroyuki Hattori

Curator. Associate Professor at Tokyo University of the Arts. Director of the Aomori Contemporary Art Centre (ACAC), Aomori Public University.

Min Nishihara

Curator and clinical psychotherapist. Co-general Director of Tokyo Biennale 2023. Associate Professor at the Department of Intermedia Art, Tokyo University of the Arts. Director of Akita City Culture Creation Center.

Supervising Producer

Shinobu Nakanishi

Architect. Former Executive Director of The National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation (2015–21). Director at IDEAL COOP since 2021. Visiting Professor at the Future Vision Research Center, Tokyo University of the Arts since 2024.

Organizer: General Non-Profit Incorporated Organization Tokyo Biennale

Endorsement: Chiyoda City, Chuo City, Bunkyo City, Taito City, Chiyoda City Tourism Association, Chuo City Tourism Association, Bunkyo City Tourism Association, Embassy of the Republic of Armenia to Japan, Royal Danish Embassy, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Japan, Norwegian Embassy, Embassy of Brazil in Tokyo, Polish Institute in Tokyo

Special Support: Ishibashi Foundation

Support: Arts Council Tokyo (Grant for Accessibility) , The Japan Foundation



Sponsor:

Mitsui Fudosan Co., Ltd., Mitsubishi Estate Co., Ltd.,
Daimaru Matsuzakaya Department Stores Co, Ltd., Palace Hotel Tokyo, FUJIFILM Business
Innovation Japan Corp., YKK CORPORATION, The Art Hotel by PARK HOTEL TOKYO,
Wonder-Powered You Company, SEISOKUGAKUEN HIGH SCHOOL

Corporate Partners:

TOKYO DOME CORPORATION



Special Cooperation:

Toeizan Kan'ei-ji Temple, Etoile Kaito & C o., Inc.

Cooperation:

General Incorporated Association Kyobashi Saiku Area Management, NTT East,
Ebihara Shoten, Otemachi First Square Co., Ltd., commandA, LLC.,
Tokyo University of the Arts, TODA CORPORATION, East Japan Railway Compar



Subsidy:

Japan Cultural Expo 2.0 (Japan Arts Council / Agency for Cultural Affairs, Government of Japan)
/ This project is cooperated in support of the "All Welcome Tokyo" campaign, which aims to
create a Tokyo that everyone can enjoy regardless of disability, language, or cultural differences.

Key visual photo: Yusuke Sano