

Look at the world, once again Saitama Triennale 2023

The Saitama Triennale Executive Committee presents the Saitama Triennale 2023 from October 7 (Sat) until December 10 (Sun), 2023.

The general theme of this time's festival is "We." The idea behind this is to make the art festival an opportunity for looking at the world, along with its various problems – climate change, social disparity and division, etc. – once again in a new glance.

Under the direction of the Contemporary art team 目 [mé], a diverse array of artists from Japan and abroad participate in a number of events at the main venue (the Former Omiya Civic Hall). At the festival that revolves all around the keyword "We," various artists come together and show works that represent their respective unique views.



Photo: SHIRATORI Kenji

One of the main visuals that are used to symbolize the festival at large, is a work by the photographer SHIRATORI Kenji. The images that he captures through the medium of his own body and his white cane, inspire us directly to ask ourselves what exactly it means to "see."

Other visuals used for illustrating the festival were made by the members of 目 [mé] or other creators, unfolding in a number of different patterns to represent the festival's multifaceted nature.

During the festival, the Former Omiya Civic Hall that serves as main venue, may only be entered with a valid ticket. For detailed information on types of tickets and how to purchase one, please visit the Saitama Triennale website.

In addition to the main venue, events also take place at cultural facilities and in the streets all across Saitama City, including related programs in the form of Civic Projects and Cooperative Projects.

Saitama Triennale 2023

- Event period: Saturday, October 7 – Sunday, December 10, 2023
 - Theme: "We"
 - Venues: Main venue: Former Omiya Civic Hall
- In addition to the main venue, related projects take place at various cultural facilities and other locations in the streets of Saitama City.
- Website <https://artsaitama.jp/>
 - Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/artsaitama.skg/>
 - Twitter https://twitter.com/art_saitama/
 - Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/artsaitama/>

- Inquiries

Secretariat of Saitama Triennale Executive Committee
(Saitama City Cultural Promotion Foundation, International Arts
Festival Promotion Division)

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Persons in charge: Inoue, Akahoshi



Website



Facebook



Twitter



Instagram



● Saitama Triennale 2023 Four keywords



A chain of activities

For the duration of the Festival directed by 目 [mé], the main venue (the Former Omiya Civic Hall) will change its appearance day by day. Staged in the Large Hall are performances of live music and performing arts, as well as film screenings and various other programs. Even on days with no performances, visitors will have opportunities to witness creators during preparations and rehearsals. In addition, photographic, sculptural or installation works are shown in the exhibition rooms, including daily changing displays. A number of “Civic Projects” around individual curators are also carried out during and even before

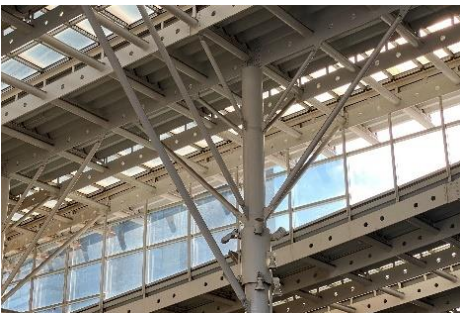
the Festival, as well as several “Cooperative Projects” that take place at various locations in cooperation with the diverse artistic and cultural resources of Saitama City. For the duration of the Festival, the whole of Saitama will be a “chain of activities.”



SCAPERS

Created in this project are countless sceneries that blur the line between things that are staged and those that aren't, such as, for example, the appearance of a landscape painter who looks just like one would imagine him, or fallen leaves so beautifully arranged that it seems to be calculated. Every day, SCAPERS continue to emerge in and around the main venue, and at various other places across Saitama City, according to plots worked out by the members of 目 [mé] and a number of other creators including stage directors and researchers. Not even the SCAPERS themselves know what the others are up to, and where and

how they will strike. No-one knows who and where they are, and their position is ultimately defined by the audience's reactions. The ambiguous nature of the SCAPERS will definitely enhance the personal quality of each visitor's experience of the festival.



Saitama

The general theme and plan behind this time's Triennale is closely connected also to the fact that the members of 目 [mé] have been based in Saitama for many years. Right next to a metropolis where forward seems to be the only direction, without denying the sort of unawareness that they feel, they capture that certain “quality” that lies in it. However, when it comes to expressing it in concrete terms, it turns out to be so vague and fleeting that it is difficult to grasp. The programs in this festival were put together with the aim to capture that particular sensation that certainly exists in this place.



“Seeing” anew

A “chain of activities” where a lot of things happen all at once, with SCAPERS that visitors are entrusted to identify, and all of this wrapped up in the flavor that is “Saitama.” It all continues to move and change for the entire duration of the festival. Rather than offering similar experiences at similar venues, the idea was to send visitors astray in the streets where they might as well miss some program or other, but end up in places and situations that will be their own personal experiences. It's a transition from “site-based” to “time-based”: When, where, with whom and under what circumstances those experiences are made;

how the weather was on that day, where you got off the train, what route you walked. Or what scenery just somehow caught your attention. The very act of walking around is what defines the experience of this festival, and ultimately, it is an act that is tantamount to “seeing the streets and world once again in a new glance.” The festival aims to provide a stage for that.

● Artists featured at the main venue

Under the direction of the Contemporary art team 目 [mé], a wide variety of artists from Japan and abroad appear at the festival's main venue. Staged in the Large Hall are performances of live music and new pieces in the realm of performing arts, as well as film screenings, performances by civic cultural organizations, and various other programs. Some of them also invite visitors to watch them during preparations and rehearsals. Furthermore, a diverse array of works by artists, photographers, editors, bonsai masters and other specialists, are shown in the main venue's exhibition rooms, including displays that change day by day.

 <p>アーニャ・ガラッチョ Anya GALLACCIO アーティスト 生年: 1963年 出身: イギリス/ペイズリー</p>	 <p>グザヴィエ・ドラン Xavier DOLAN 映画監督/俳優 生年: 1989年 出身: カナダ/モントリオール ＜映画作品「たかが世界の終わり」を上映＞ © Shayne Laverdière, Sons of Manual</p>	<p>短編アニメーション・プログラム 短編アニメーション・プログラム 若林 萌 WAKABAYASHI Moe アニメーション作家/イラストレーター 生年: 1992年 出身: 日本/神奈川県 金子 雅規 KANEKO Isaku アニメーション作家 生年: 1994年 出身: 日本/静岡県 小野ハナ Onohana アニメーション作家/画家 生年: 1986年 出身: 日本/岩手</p>
 <p>荒川 弘憲 ARAKAWA Koken アーティスト 生年: 1993年 出身: 日本/東京</p>	 <p>倉田 翠 KURATA Midori 演出家/ダンサー 生年: 1987年 出身: 日本/三重 Photo: ENDO Ayaka</p>	 <p>テリー・ライリー Terry RILEY 音楽家/作曲家 生年: 1935年 出身: アメリカ/カリフォルニア Photo: MIURA Mariko</p>
 <p>イェンス・パルダム Jens PALDAM 電子音楽作曲家 生年: 1979年 出身: デンマーク/オーフス Photo: DANION BAILEY</p>	 <p>近藤良平 KONDO Ryohei 振付家/ダンサー 生年: 1968年 出身: 日本/東京 Photo: GONBEI Ayumu</p>	 <p>テレンス・マリック Terrence MALICK 映画監督/脚本家 生年: 1943年 出身: アメリカ/オタワ ＜映画作品「ボヤージュ・オブ・タイム」を上映＞</p>
 <p>伊藤比呂美 ITO Hiromi 詩人 生年: 1955年 出身: 日本/東京 Photo: YOSHIDA Yoichi</p>	<p>市民文化団体 岩槻Jazz/浦和ギター・マンドリンクラブ/コカリナ・オーケ/埼玉県立大宮光隆高等学校合唱団/さいたま市浦和吟剣詩舞道連盟/さいたま市音楽家協会/さいたま市立浦和高等学校吹奏楽部/さいたま市立白樺中学校ダンス部/埼玉大学吹奏楽部/さいたま和太鼓振興会/市内アマチュアオーケストラ有志</p>	 <p>濱口竜介 HAMAGUCHI Ryusuke 映画監督 生年: 1978年 出身: 日本/神奈川県 ＜映画作品「ハッピー・アワー」を上映＞</p>
 <p>今村 源 IMAMURA Hajime 美術家 生年: 1957年 出身: 日本/大阪</p>	 <p>ジム・オルーク Jim O'ROURKE 音楽家/作曲家/プロデューサー ダンサー/振付師 生年: 1969年 出身: アメリカ/シカゴ Photo: ISHIBASHI Eiko</p>	 <p>平尾成志 HIRAO Masashi 盆栽師 生年: 1981年 出身: 日本/徳島</p>
 <p>エム・ジェイ・ハーパー MJ HARPER ダンサー/振付師 生年: 1987年 出身: ジャマイカ/ポートアントニオ</p>	 <p>沙青(シャー・チン) SHA Qing 映画作家 生年: 1965年 出身: 中国/北京 ＜映画作品「距離な存在」を上映＞</p>	 <p>プッティポン・アルーンペン Phuttiphong AROONPHENG 映画作家 生年: 1976年 出身: タイ/バンコク ＜映画作品「マンタレイ」を上映＞ Photo: Patiparn Boontarig</p>
 <p>L PACK. アーティスト 生年: 共に1984年 出身: 日本/静岡(中嶋哲矢) 日本/青森(小田桐 奨) Photo: TANQUE Koichi</p>	 <p>白鳥建二 SHIRATORI Kenji 写真家 生年: 1969年 出身: 日本/千葉 Photo: はじまりの美術館</p>	 <p>マーク・ペクメジアン Mark PECKMEZIAN フォトグラファー 生年: 1985年 出身: カナダ/トロント</p>
 <p>小田 香 ODA Kaori フィルムメーカー/アーティスト 生年: 1987年 出身: 日本/大阪 ＜映画作品「セーテ」と短編作品「OUR CINEMAS」を上映＞</p>	 <p>田口陽子 TAGUCHI Yoko 都市・建築研究者 生年: 1975年 出身: 日本/岐阜</p>	 <p>ミハイル・カリキス Mikhail KARIKIS アーティスト 生年: 1975年 出身: キリジャ/テッサロニキ Photo: Renato Cruz Santos</p>
 <p>川島拓人 KAWASHIMA Takuhiro 編集者/クリエイティブディレクター 生年: 1986年 出身: アメリカ/ニューヨーク</p>	 <p>谷口真人 TANIGUCHI Makoto アーティスト 生年: 1982年 出身: 日本/東京</p>	 <p>村川拓也 MURAKAWA Takuya 演出家/映像作家 生年: 1982年 出身: 日本/滋賀 Photo: Guoqing Jiang</p>

Must-see: Virtuosos in performance and rehearsal

Opening act is the father of minimal music, Terry RILEY, and the festival will close with a live set by the multi-instrumentalist Jim O'ROURKE. Visitors can also catch both during (parts of) rehearsals.

The main venue's Large Hall transforms into a cinema

The program includes screenings of a genre-crossing selection of six films and three short animations, all of which represent in their own way the festival's general theme, "we." Film screenings generally open with the short film *OUR CINEMAS* (directed by ODA Kaori).

Programs at the Large Hall

For some performances staged at the Large Hall, advance reservation is required.

- For more details, please see the Event Schedule on the Triennale website.

● Saitama Triennale 2023, Direction



Contemporary art team 目 [mé]

Japanese contemporary art team project with three core members: artist KOJIN Haruka, director MINAMIGAWA Kenji, and “installer” MASUI Hirofumi. 目[mé] works on the realization of artworks that manipulate perceptions of the physical world. Their installations provoke awareness of the inherent unreliability and uncertainty in the world around us.

Photo: ABE Takeshi

● Main Venue



The Former Omiya Civic Hall, which serves as main venue for this festival, was completed in 1970. For a half century until its closure in March 2022, the theater was widely popular among citizens as a stage for “special occasions.” The doors that remained shut since the hall’s closure, open once again for the 65 days of the Triennale. Under the direction of 目 [mé], the daily programs at the main venue feature diverse lineups of creators, including contemporary artists, researchers, editors, stage directors and bonsai master who present a variety of works in exhibitions and performances. Some of them can also be observed preparing or rehearsing for their performances, while exhibitions include displays that continue to change on a daily basis. Constantly moving and transforming, the main venue will present itself in a different light each time you enter it.

- Location: 3-47-8 Shimocho, Omiya-ku, Saitama City, Saitama
- Access: 15 min walk from Saitama-Shintoshin or Omiya railway stations
- Hours: 10:00-18:00 (Sun, Tue-Thu) / 10:00-20:00 (Fri, Sat)
- Closed: Monday (open Monday and closed the following day if Monday is a national holiday)
- Please note that no parking space is available at the main venue. We recommend using public transport.

● Main Venue Ticket Information

Tickets are required for exhibitions at the main venue, and performances at the Large Hall.

Next to 1-Day Tickets, a Festival Pass is available that (among other benefits) enables holders to reenter the main venue for an unlimited number of times during the festival period.

	General	Saitama Citizens
1-Day Ticket	¥2,000	¥1,500
Festival Pass	¥5,000	¥3,500

- 1-Day Ticket: Valid for the main venue on the day of visit only (free re-enter)
- Festival Pass: Valid for the person named on the ticket only. Holders may enter the main venue at any time during the festival period.
- Admission is free for high school students and below, and for holders of a disability certificate plus one accompanying person.

How to purchase tickets

Tickets are available via the official Ticket Sales Site, and at ticket counters at the main venue. For more information, please visit the official website.

<https://artsaitama.jp/tickets>

- Day tickets available October 7 (Sat) – December 10 (Sun)
- 1-Day Tickets and Festival Passes are valid for the main venue (Former Omiya Civic Hall) only. Please note that separate tickets may be required for events at other venues.
- Tickets may not be refunded or reissued.

● Programs by Civic Project Curators

A number of programs are realized across the entire area of Saitama City, curated by artists who have been engaging in creative work in the city for a long time, and art coordinators that have been actuating various art projects. These extracurricular activities will ultimately help nurture new and unique networks and communities. Each of the programs will unfurl in its own way, with its own take on art, to highlight one of the 2023 Triennale's distinctive characteristics.

“Saitama Art Center Project 2023 (SACP2023)”

Civic Project Curator: ASAMI Shunya

First introduced at Saitama Triennale 2020, this project aims to continuously create “art centers” for anyone to develop a habit of getting involved with art within their daily routine in the living environment that is Saitama. In 2023, approximately 50 programs that convey the unique appeal of “the people and the territory and the art of Saitama,” are offered in two separate terms, before and during the festival period.



Outline: Five core programs carried out at locations within Saitama City

① Weekday Art Program, ② Special Program, ③ Outreach Program, ④ Exhibition Program, ⑤ Media Program

Period: October 7 (Sat) - December 10 (Sun), 2023

Website: <https://sightamaartscenter.wixsite.com/sacp>



ASAMI Shunya

Born 1982 in Tokyo. Artist, photo artist, creative workshop designer. Graduated from Bunkyo University, Faculty of Education, Fine Art Major in 2006. He has been creating photographic works themed around “time” and “memory” since 2004, and in 2008, launched Art Space KAPL (short for “Koshigaya Art Point Lab”) in Koshigaya, Saitama, as a hub for local art projects. In 2009 he was one of the operating members of Saitama Muse Forum (SMF), which later inspired the development of “SACP.” Asami functioned as SMF school coordinator at Saitama Triennale 2016, and as Civic Project coordinator at Saitama Triennale 2020.



Website

“Arts Saitama Kitamachi”

Civic Project Curator: IIJIMA Koji

The aim of “AJI-HEN project”^{*} is to connect places scattered across the area of Saitama City – the Omiya Bonsai Museum, the Saitama City Manga Museum, the Iwatsuki Ningyo Museum and the Railway Museum – through art. Artists KADO Bunpei and ICHIKAWA Taira unveil new works of each of these facilities. The program further includes the events “ART-Chari” and “CART-SAITAMA 2023” in which also the “courses” between the single venues are transformed into places of art, with original art cars and bicycles created by multiple artists.

Meanwhile at art spaces in Iwatsuki-ku and Nishi-ku, artists create and exhibit works during their stay as part of the “Saitama Artist-In-Residence Program.”



CART Camp & Caravan @ Saitama Triennale 2016 (November 2016)

^{*} “AJI-HEN project”: Spicing up Cultural Facilities in Saitama City with Contemporary Art

Period: October 7 (Sat) – October 25 (Wed), 2023 [Railway Museum only: October 11 (Wed) – 30 (Mon)]

Website: <http://c-art-japan.com/ask-kokusai2023/>



IIJIMA Koji

Born 1973 in Kanagawa. Graduated from Musashino Art University, and at the same time, started working as an artist. He set up Gallery Garoh Garoh in Yokohama Chinatown, and while living in the US, was involved in the production of Gallery Popkiller, as well as in the conception of Japanese-American exchange programs. After living in the US for five years, he returned to Japan in 2011. As director of the NPO Contemporary Art Japan, he is involved in programs such as "CAJ. Artist in Residence" and "Arts Saitama – Kitamachi Festa" in Omiya. Iijima is also active as a professional martial artist, and engages in the training of athletes with results as notable as winning world championships.



Website

“Resonant Exhibitions in Saitama”
Civic Project Curator: MATSUNAGA Ko

The idea behind “Resonant Exhibitions in Saitama” was to invite galleries and artists based in Saitama City, to gather in one place to hold exhibitions that are normally done separately. It originated from a joint project in Saitama Prefecture in 2008, with artists from Saitama Prefecture that have been showing exhibitions in Tokyo. That was followed by “Art and Walk, Urawa” (2016-) and “Art and Walk, Saitama” (2020), after which this time’s program materialized. “Resonant Exhibitions in Saitama” comprises exhibitions at a total of 14 galleries and other public facilities across Saitama City.

Website: <https://sohatsu.art>



MATSUNAGA Ko

Born 1957 in Saitama. Art coordinator. After graduating from Musashino Art University, worked as a curator at the Museum of Modern Art, Saitama, chief curator at the Aomori Contemporary Art Centre, and part-time lecturer at the Yokohama College of Art and Design (today “Yokohama University of Art and Design”), before assuming his current positions as director of the NPO Contemporary Art Japan, and part-time lecturer at Musashino Art University. He was involved in the Saitama Resonant Exhibitions Project (2008), and later, “Art and Walk, Urawa” (2016-) and “Art and Walk, Saitama” (2020).



Website

● Cooperative Projects

These are projects that are realized in connection with the diverse artistic and cultural resources of Saitama City, including art programs at cultural facilities of all sorts in Saitama City, and activities to promote Saitama culture and revitalize the region, in cooperation with shops and companies in and around the Triennale area.

Event outline

Saitama Triennale is an art festival that is held once every three years in Saitama City. Since the first installment in 2016, the Triennale has been taking place with a lineup of artists from Japan and abroad, with the aim to boost cultural activities in the region, and thereby enhance the appeal of Saitama as a city of art and culture. An art festival that is open for anyone to “join in and make things together,” the Triennale takes place all across Saitama City as an occasion that encourages exchange among citizens, between citizens and artists, and between artists and the region at large.

- Event name: Saitama Triennale 2023
- Event period: Saturday, October 7 – Sunday, December 10, 2023
- Venues:

Main venue: Former Omiya Civic Hall

15-minute walk from Saitama-Shintoshin Station / Approx. 15-minute walk from Omiya Station

In addition to the main venue, related projects take place at various cultural facilities and other locations in the streets of Saitama City.

- Opening hours: 10:00-18:00 (Sun, Tue-Thu) / 10:00-20:00 (Fri, Sat)

Last entry 30 minutes before closing.

- Closed: Monday (Open Monday and closed the next day when Monday is a national holiday)
- Organizer: Saitama Triennale Executive Committee

● For Press

For general information about Saitama Triennale 2023 or programs at the main venue, please inquire to the festival's PR department (within OHANA Co., Ltd.):

- Address: 1-5-6 Kudan-Minami, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-0074, Risona Kudan Bldg. 5F
- TEL: 03-6869-7881 / Fax: 03-6869-7801
- E-mail: artsaitama2023@ohanapr.co.jp
- Persons in charge: Yamada, Senoo, Hosokawa

For other programs, including Civic and Cooperative Projects, please inquire to the Secretariat of Saitama Triennale Executive Committee (Saitama City Cultural Promotion Foundation, International Arts Festival Promotion Division)

- Address: 1-7-1 Negishi, Minami-ku, Saitama City 336-0024.
- TEL: 048-767-5411 (Tue-Sat, 9:00-17:00) / Fax: 048-767-5351
- E-mail: arts-festival@saitama-culture.jp
- Persons in charge: Inoue, Akahoshi