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Rising Japanese Artists to Participate in Sao Paulo Biennale

The Sao Paulo Biennale, started in 1951, is one of the most renowned contemporary art festivals in the Southern Hemisphere.

The Japan Foundation has long been responsible for Japanese national representation at the biennale. Japanese award winners over the 50 odd years have included Shiko Munakata (1955), Yozo Hamaguchi (1957), Kumi Sugai (1965), and Yu Matsuzawa (1977).

For this year's twenty-seventh biennale, Sao Paulo has adopted the concept of doing away with borders. Accordingly, it has abolished the traditional system of national representation, instead engaging an international curatorial staff led by Ms. Lisette Lagnado in the global selection of artists.

In addition to inviting Ms. Lagnado to Japan last year, the Japan Foundation has dispatched the artists given below, who are already in Sao Paulo producing artwork inspired by Brazil's geography and society, as well as by exchanges with other participating artists. We look forward to seeing how their works will be received in the Brazilian and global art scene.

Duration of exhibition: **October 7, 2006, to December 17, 2006**

Venue: **Pavilion Ciccillo Matarazzo, Parque do Ibirapuera, São Paulo**

Participating artists from Japan:

Shimabuku

Atelier Bow-Wow (Architectural duo of Yoshiharu Tsukamoto and Momoyo Kaijima)

In August 2006, a seminar titled "Collective Life: Fourth International Seminar of the Twenty-seventh Sao Paulo Biennale" was held in Sao Paulo. The Japan Foundation dispatched **Prof. Yuko Hasegawa** of Tama Art University, who served as the commissioner of the Japanese pavilion at the fiftieth Venice Biennale in 2003.

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