

“Manga Realities: Exploring the Art of Japanese Comics Today”

**Exhibition to explore the Art of Manga starts from August 14
Tour from Japan to Korea and Philippines**

Japanese manga and anime used to be regarded as children’s amusement or a “sub” culture, but in recent years the public perception of these media had shifted considerably. They are now attracting the global attention and regarded as the “main” culture that represents Japan and its soft power.

The Japan Foundation organizes the exhibition “ Manga Realities: Exploring the Art of Japanese Comics Today ” to introduce Manga, which became an integral part of contemporary Japanese culture. After showing at the Art Tower Mito in Japan, the exhibition will start touring overseas starting from Seoul, Korea in December 2010 and Manila, Philippines in August 2011.

This exhibition highlights nine popular manga titles that have emerged since 2000. The aim is to introduce narrative manga as it stands today – as the culmination of decades of development since the postwar period. Exhibitions of manga generally focus on original drawings by specific manga authors. In this exhibition, which is produced in close cooperation with authors, editors and others involved in the manga production process, the focus is on creating experiential, three-dimensional presentations of the worlds depicted in manga.

Dates : Saturday, **August 14** to Sunday, **September 26**, 2010

Venue : Contemporary Art Gallery, Art Tower Mito

<http://www.arttowermito.or.jp/art/>

1-6-8 Goken-cho, Mito-shi, Ibaraki / Tel.029-227-8120

Organized by : The Japan Foundation, Mito Arts Foundation

Curated by : Mizuki Takahashi

(Curator, Contemporary Art Center, Art Tower Mito)

Exhibition design : Hideki Toyoshima (gm projects)

Exhibition Tour

[Korea] Seoul

Venue : Artsonje Center <http://www.artsonje.org>

Dates : Saturday, December 4, 2010 – Sunday, February 13, 2011

Organized by : Artsonje Center, The Japan Foundation

[Philippines] Manila

Venue : Ayala Museum <http://www.ayalamuseum.org/>

Dates : August – September, 2011 (TBD)

Organized by : Ayala Museum, The Japan Foundation



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Featuring Artists: Works and Presentations (in alphabetical order)

* Image files of the artists are available. For details, please contact the people in charge described below.

Asano Inio, *Solanin* (Shogakukan, 2005-2006)

Installation including landscape photographs by the author as well as images from *Solanin* edited into a video presentation.

Anno Moyoco, *Sugar Sugar Rune* (Kodansha, 2003-2007)

Spatial installation using three-dimensional collages as well as exhibition of prints.

Igarashi Daisuke, *Children of the Sea* (Shogakukan, 2006-)

Installation depicting the manga's undersea world as well as an exhibition of original drawings.

Kuramochi Fusako, *Five Minutes from the Station* (Shueisha, 2007-)

Labyrinth-like, three-dimensional presentation of the work's complicated time and spatial structure.

Kyo Machiko, *Sennen Gaho* (Ohta Publishing Company, 2008-)

Original drawings exhibited within a spatial installation depicting the world of *sen-nen-gahou*.

Matsumoto Taiyo, *No. 5* (Shogakukan, 2000-2005)

Exhibition of original drawings as well as an installation using large illustrations.

Ninomiya Tomoko, *Nodame Cantabile* (Kodansha, 2001-2010)

Exhibition of original drafts and color illustrations as well as the classical music that features in the work.

Sakuishi Harold, *BECK* (Kodansha, 1999-2008)

Scenes from the manga in which BECK performs are shown, without sound, in a space made to look like a live rock venue.

Wakaki Tamiki, *The World God Only Knows* (Shogakukan, 2008-)

Installation exploring the author's concerns that feed into his depiction of the manga's world and characters.

MANGA EXHIBITION GUIDE

To deepen viewers' understanding and enjoyment of the exhibition, professional manga artist Tanida Tomohiko will create a manga guide to accompany the exhibition. Three female high school students, who have stumbled into a world of manga, explain the characteristics of each manga and the worlds it depicts.

WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS

For more information, please visit the Art Tower Mito website:

<http://www.arttowermito.or.jp/art/modules/>

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