

## KAKEHASHI Project: Japan-U.S. Young Creators Exchange Group 3 Five Young Animation Creators to visit the U.S., to show their work at New York Comic Con

Starting from fiscal year 2014, the Japan Foundation carries out the Japan-U.S. Young Creators Exchange Program to cover four major areas of *Cool Japan*: fashion, design, anime and art. In October 2014, the Program will dispatch five animation creators (animation directors and animators), who have won several awards inside and outside of Japan, and are expected to be more internationally-active in the near future, to the U.S. as its third group.

The participants are scheduled to go on a seven-day tour and to visit two cities: New York that is a closest city to global entertainment industry and San Francisco where many world famous animation-related companies are based. They visit U.S. animation studios and cultural institutions, to build a network between Japan and the U.S., and go to New York Comic Con 2014, which more than a hundred thousand anime/comic fans gather from all over the U.S. At the event, the films they created are shown and they make an appearance at a talk show moderated by Justin Leach, of Blue Sky Studios, who is conversant with the animation industry of both Japan and the U.S. We aim to promote Japanese culture through their works and to deepen people's interest in and understanding our cultural values. The Japan Foundation would be grateful if you could cover these young animators' efforts in the U.S.

### Japan-U.S. Young Creators Exchange Group 3

<Duration of Stay> Thursday, October 9 - Wednesday, October 15

<Destination> New York (NY), San Francisco (CA)

<Main Activities> Showing their work at New York Comic Con 2014  
Networking with people in the U.S. animation industry  
Visiting animation studios and cultural institutions

<Participants> The participants have been chosen by recommendation of Academy Award-nominated animator Koji Yamamura.



**Ryo Okawara**

Ryo Okawara won the Lotte Reiniger Promotion Award for Animated Film at the Festival of Animated Film Stuttgart, with *A Wind Egg* (2012). He has been nominated and won numerous prizes domestically and internationally.



**Yuzuru Tachikawa**

Yuzuru Tachikawa directed *Death Billiards* (2013), which he wrote the story and script himself. He is currently working as an assistant director for *Terror in Resonance* and also preparing for new TV projects.



**Saori Shiroki.**

Saori Shiroki's work *Woman Who Stole Fingers* (2010) has been shown at many film festivals. She uses paint-on-glass animation technique to create her animated films.



**Aya Suzuki**

Aya Suzuki has been working as an animator internationally. Her professional works includes *Wolf Children* (Dir. Mamoru Hosoda, 2012) and *The Wind Rises* (Dir. Hayao Miyazaki, 2013).



**Saki Muramoto**

Saki Muramoto's work *It's Time for Supper* (2013) has been selected for several festivals including the Animafest Zagreb, the Festival of Animated Film Stuttgart and the Japan Media Arts Festival.

\* This program is part of the "KAKEHASHI Project -The Bridge for Tomorrow-" within the Youth Exchange Program with North America promoted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (MOFA).

\* The Japan Foundation KAKEHASHI website: <http://www.jpff.go.jp/e/intel/youth/index.html>

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