

PRESS RELEASE

The 57th International Art Exhibition – Biennale di Venezia The Japan Pavilion to Exhibit Works by Takahiro Iwasaki Curated by Meruro Washida

The Japan Foundation has been participating in the International Art Exhibition - Biennale di Venezia to organize the Japan Pavilion.

For the 57th edition of the Biennale, which will take place from May 13 to November 26, 2017, Takahiro Iwasaki has been selected to represent Japan, and Meruro Washida has been appointed to curate Iwasaki's exhibition *Turned Upside Down, It's a Forest*.

For further information, please contact us as indicated below.

■ Outline of the 57th International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia

【Exhibition Period】	Saturday, May 13 – Sunday, November 26, 2017
【Organized by】	La Biennale di Venezia Foundation
【Director】	Christine Macel
【Official website】	www.labiennale.org/en/

■ Outline of the Japan Pavilion

【Title】	Turned Upside Down, It's a Forest
【Exhibition period】	Saturday, May 13 – Sunday, November 26, 2017
【Commissioner】	The Japan Foundation
【Venue】	The Japan Pavilion at the Giardini
【Artist】	Takahiro Iwasaki
【Curator】	Meruro Washida (Curator, 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa)
【With special support from】	Ishibashi Foundation
【Sponsored by】	Shiseido Co., Ltd.; Nissan Motor Co., Ltd.
【Supported by】	TERMO FOUNDATION for LIFE SCIENCES and ARTS
【Japan Pavilion official website】	http://2017.veneziabiennale-japanpavilion.jp

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Japan Pavilion at the 57th International Art Exhibition
– La Biennale di Venezia

Takahiro Iwasaki

Turned Upside Down, It's a Forest



Japan Pavilion at the 57th International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia

Commissioner: The Japan Foundation

Artist: Takahiro Iwasaki

Curator: Meruro Washida (Curator, 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa)

Venue: The Japan Pavilion at the Giardini

Exhibition period: 13 May to 26 November, 2017

Opening reception: 11 May, 3pm

Address: Padiglione Giappone, Giardini della Biennale, Castello 1260, 30122 Venezia

With special support from: Ishibashi Foundation

Sponsored by Shiseido Co., Ltd., Nissan Motor Co., Ltd.

Supported by TERMO FOUNDATION for LIFE SCIENCES and ARTS

Exhibition

Takahiro Iwasaki: Turned Upside Down, It's a Forest

Takahiro Iwasaki was born in the Hiroshima Prefecture where he is also currently based. This solo exhibition presents a selection of three-dimensional works created using everyday familiar objects including towels, books, and plastic rubbish. Characteristic of Iwasaki's works is his fine handiwork by which he transforms his materials, such as creating steel towers from the threads pulled out of towels. These small interventions like making a stack of towels look like mountains in nature use the traditionally "Japanese" technique of "figurative representation." For his works Iwasaki has selected motifs of both old and new buildings in the coastal regions of Japan, including a traditional shrine built above the sea, chemical plants that stand along Hiroshima's coast, as well as oil rigs. From issues of nuclear energy and the development of resources, to chemical plants that despite supporting the high growth of the postwar economy had been a serious cause for pollution, Iwasaki's works serve to shed light on the various challenges and situations confronted by Japan's rural regions.

Meruro Washida

Profile



photo: Nozomi Tomoeda

Artist: Takahiro Iwasaki

Takahiro Iwasaki was born in Hiroshima Prefecture in 1975, and currently lives and works in the same prefecture. He received his Ph.D., Art from the Graduate School of Arts, Hiroshima City University, and completed the M.F.A. program at the Edinburgh College of Art.

Iwasaki held a solo exhibition at the Asia Society in New York in 2015, and solo exhibitions at the Kurobe City Art Museum and the Oyama City Kurumaya Art Museum in the same year. He has also participated in international exhibitions including the 10th Lyon Biennale (2009), Yokohama Triennale (2011), 7th Asia Pacific Triennale (2012), 2013 Asian Art Biennale (National Taiwan Museum of the Arts), 8th Shenzhen Sculpture Biennale (2014), as well as numerous group exhibitions including the Roppongi Crossing 2007 – Future Beats in Japanese Contemporary Art (Mori Art Museum, 2007), Happiness in Everyday Life (Contemporary Art center, Mito Art Tower, 2008), transxform (Aomori Contemporary Art Center, 2013), and Nissan Art Award 2015 (BankART Studio NYK).



Curator: Meruro Washida

Meruro Washida, curator at the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, was born in Kyoto in 1973. He completed the Master's program in art history at the University of Tokyo.

Washida plans contemporary art and architecture exhibitions based on themes such as local communities and participation. Major projects include Kazuyo Sejima + Ryue Nishizawa / SANAA (2005), Atelier Bow-Wow (2007), solo exhibitions for Jeppe Hein (2011), Shimabuku (2013), and Mitsunori Sakano (2016), and group exhibitions such as Kanazawa Art Platform 2008 (all of which were under the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa).

Images for press use

Please contact Akiko Onishi (venezia@jpf.go.jp) for inquiries.

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Installation image of "Turned Upside Down, It's a Forest"



Out of Disorder (Turned Upside Down, It's a Forest), 2017



Tectonic Model (Flow), 2017



Out of Disorder (Ship of Theseus), 2017



Out of Disorder (Mountains and Sea), 2017



Out of Disorder (Offshore Model), 2017

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