

The Japan Pavilion at the 61st International Art Exhibition, La Biennale di Venezia in 2026

Exhibition Title by Ei Arakawa-Nash has been announced

- Launched both artist-led crowdfunding, and supporting team that includes
collectors and business executives -

The Japan Foundation (JF), commissioner of the Japan Pavilion at the 61st International Art Exhibition, La Biennale di Venezia, is pleased to announce the title of the solo exhibition by Ei Arakawa-Nash, artist representing Japan.

Exhibition title: **Grass Babies, Moon Babies**

Ei Arakawa-Nash commented:

"More than 100 baby dolls will appear in the Japan Pavilion next year. Marking the pavilion's 70th anniversary, I've chosen to focus on the idea of 'circulation' between the garden and the building—an aspect that architect YOSHIKAZA Takamasa was deeply conscious of.

The exhibition's title combines 'grass,' symbolizing the garden, and the 'moon,' representing time and emotion. It is also an homage to the experimental Sogetsu Art Center—whose name can be written with the characters for 'grass' and 'moon'—which greatly inspired me when I was a student in New York."



Ei Arakawa-Nash, on NOGUCHI Isamu's *Maruyama*.

Photo: HOSOKAWA Hako

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Ahead of the opening of La Biennale di Venezia in May 2026, Arakawa-Nash will share **Grass Babies, Moon Babies** in various ways: holding a preview screening of a new video work at Art Collaboration Kyoto, launching crowdfunding, developing collaboration items with the fashion brand ANTEPRIMA, releasing a short story about Arakawa-Nash and their family by a novelist HARADA Maha, and more.

A collectors' circle supporting the Japan Pavilion's **Grass Babies, Moon Babies** exhibition is launched by OGINO Izumi, FUKUTAKE Hideaki, MORI Kyoko, TANAKA Hitoshi, YOSHINO Seiichi, and others who resonate with Arakawa-Nash's vision.

Together with various collaborators, **Grass Babies, Moon Babies** will convey the value of diversity through Arakawa-Nash's new family's future, gentleness, and softness. Beyond the exhibition itself, this project experiments with innovative approaches to ensure its success, including co-curatorship, artist-led crowdfunding, and partnership with the local community in Venice. We kindly ask for your continued coverage as we are working toward the opening of La Biennale di Venezia next year.

■ New video work to be shown at Art Collaboration Kyoto

With the cooperation of Art Collaboration Kyoto, Arakawa-Nash will hold a preview screening of a new video work from November 14–16. This video is inspired by a new song, "Kotoriyoubi (The Day of a Little Bird)," written by the musician MATSUTOYA Yumi for Arakawa-Nash's 2024 solo exhibition "Paintings are Popstars" at the National Art Center, Tokyo, and was co-created with video artist SAITO Reiji. The video also features Arakawa-Nash's baby twins.

■ Crowdfunding with a focus on various collaborations

On November 13, Arakawa-Nash will launch the first-ever crowdfunding campaign for a Japan Pavilion art exhibition, offering diverse gifts that build anticipation for **Grass Babies, Moon Babies** and opportunities for art fans to participate.

The noteworthy lineup of gifts includes collaborative items with the fashion brand ANTEPRIMA, with locations in Italy and other countries, special limited-edition books featuring newly written short stories about Arakawa-Nash and their family by novelist HARADA Maha. Unique offerings also include the opportunity to become foster parents of baby dolls that will be used in the **Grass Babies, Moon Babies** exhibition, and a special experience allowing a crowdfunding donor

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to co-organize a performance at the Japan Pavilion. The crowdfunding website, accessible from the link below, will be updated starting November 13.

<https://artnest.art/vbjapan2026>

■ Launching a collectors' circle

Before the launch of the crowdfunding, a collectors' circle supporting the 2026 Japan Pavilion exhibition **Grass Babies, Moon Babies** has been formed by OGINO Izumi, FUKUTAKE Hideaki, MORI Kyoko, TANAKA Hitoshi, and YOSHINO Seiichi.

OGINO Izumi, the representative of the collector's circle, made the following comment about the first-ever crowdfunding campaign organized by the artist for Japan Pavilion.

"Art has the power to raise 'questions' that transcend nations and cultures. We are now taking on a new challenge to carry that power into the future.

La Biennale di Venezia, which began in 1895, is the world's oldest international art exhibition and is known as the "Olympics of the art world"—a stage that brings together creative power from across the globe. The Japan Pavilion will mark its 70th anniversary in 2026.

We welcome Ei Arakawa-Nash as the representative artist for this exhibition, accompanied by curators HORIKAWA Lisa and TAKAHASHI Mizuki, who will support them in this challenge. I hope we can nurture this project together with many people as the creative power of these three resonates throughout. I would be delighted if, transcending the framework of art, we could support this new step forward for the Japan Pavilion through crowdfunding, together with private companies, art fans, and all those who share this vision."

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The Arakawa-Nash twins have inspired the concept and motifs of this exhibition.

Photo: Ei Arakawa-Nash

■ About the commissioner

The Japan Foundation (JF) is an independent administrative corporation that promotes exchanges of culture and art, Japanese-language education, and Japanese research and international dialogue based on its mission: “Cultivating friendship and ties between Japan and the world.” The JF has been the organizer/commissioner of the exhibition in the Japan Pavilion at La Biennale di Venezia since 1976.

■ The Japan Pavilion at the 61st International Art Exhibition, La Biennale di Venezia

Title of Exhibition: Grass Babies, Moon Babies

Dates: Saturday, May 9 – Sunday, November 22, 2026

Venue: The Japan Pavilion (in the Giardini, one of the Biennale venues)

Artist: Ei Arakawa-Nash

Co-curators: HORIKAWA Lisa (National Gallery Singapore, Senior Curator and Director (Curatorial & Collections), TAKAHASHI Mizuki (Centre for Heritage, Arts and Textile, Hong Kong,

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Executive Director and Chief Curator)

Organizer/commissioner: The Japan Foundation (JF)

Special assistance: Ishibashi Foundation

■ Basic information

[Overview of the 61st International Art Exhibition, La Biennale di Venezia]

Dates: Saturday, May 9 – Sunday, November 22, 2026

Venues: Giardini di Castello, Arsenale, etc.

Production: Fondazione La Biennale di Venezia

Overall theme: In Minor Keys

Note that the Fondazione La Biennale di Venezia appointed Koyo Kouoh (Executive Director/Chief Curator of the Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa) as the curator of the 61st International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia in October 2024, and she started to prepare for the exhibition. However, she passed away suddenly in May 2025. With the cooperation of her family, the Fondazione announced that the 61st Exhibition would be held with the overall theme, concept, and professionals that she had selected. See the following website for more information.

<https://www.labiennale.org/en/news/biennale-arte-2026-minor-keys>

■ About La Biennale di Venezia

La Biennale di Venezia is a festival of the arts that uses locations in the island city of Venice as venues. It has made its mark on history for almost 130 years, starting with the first art exhibition in 1895. In recent years, international arts festivals focused on art have been held around the world—La Biennale di Venezia is the most celebrated of these, and has served as an ideal model for the others. “Biennale” means “once every two years” in Italian, and many similar arts festivals are said to be named “Biennale” or “Triennale” (once every three years) because they took La Biennale di Venezia as their example. In the present day, La Biennale di Venezia embraces its art exhibition, architecture exhibition, music festival, cinema festival, theater festival, etc. as independent departments; among these, the art exhibition draws the attention of the global art world as a place to get an overview of current artistic trends and as an unusual international exhibition where each country adopts its own method of participation.

Japan officially participated in La Biennale di Venezia for the first time in 1952, and has continued its involvement in every exhibition following the completion of the Japan Pavilion in 1956. The JF has organized the Japan Pavilion exhibitions from 1976 to the present day. See the Japan Pavilion’s official website for more information about its previous representative creators.

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