

The Ishibashi Foundation / The Japan Foundation Curatorial Exchange Program for Contemporary Art 13 curators from the Middle East and Europe to be invited in FY2025

The Japan Foundation (JF) has been implementing "The Ishibashi Foundation / The Japan Foundation Curatorial Exchange Program for Contemporary Art" since FY2018. The program invites groups of contemporary art curators and professionals to Japan for short-term visits with the aim of deepening understanding of Japanese contemporary art overseas and facilitating the formation of networks among institutions and people involved in contemporary art in Japan and the participating countries.

The target countries in Europe for this program are home to multiple important museums in the field of contemporary art. Furthermore, this fiscal year marks the first expansion of the program to include countries in the Middle East. In recent years, the Middle East has seen the successive establishment of new museums and international exhibitions, attracting significant attention in the international art scene. By implementing this program in these countries of high prominence, we expect to enhance Japan's presence, promote understanding of Japanese culture, and increase favorable sentiment toward Japan.

Against this background, the program will invite six contemporary art curators from the Middle East (Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates) from November 23 to December 4, 2025, and seven from Europe (Belgium, the Netherlands, and Iceland) from November 26 to December 7, 2025. This fiscal year, participants will visit museums and galleries in Tokyo, as well as the Aichi Triennale 2025, where they will have opportunities to exchange views and hold meetings with Japanese artists and curators.

1. Middle East Group

Invitation Period: November 23 (Sun) – December 4 (Thu)

Participants:

● Saudi Arabia

• Wejdan Reda

Director, Curatorial at the Diriyah Biennale Foundation/Founder, Sahaba Art Consultancy

• Rotana Shaker

Independent Curator

• Ali Alghazzawi

The Royal Commission for AlUla Art and Culture Manager

• Arnaud Morand

Independent Curator

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● United Arab Emirates

• Mays Albaik

Programmes and Community Initiative Manager, 421 Art Campus

• Ala Younis

Independent Curator, Artist, Publisher

2. Europe Group

Invitation Period: November 26 (Wed) – December 7 (Sun)

Participants:

● Netherlands

• Amanda Pinatih

Design & Contemporary Art Curator, Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam

• Amal Alhaag

Artistic Director, Metro 54

● Belgium

• Antoinette Jattiot

Independent Curator, La Loge

• Yann Chateigné Tytelman

Independent Curator, Writer

• Anne-Claire Schmitz

Senior Curator, Museum of Contemporary Art Antwerp

● Iceland

• Aldís Snorradóttir

Administration Manager, Reykjavík Art Museum

• Brynja Sveinsdóttir

Museum Director, Gerðarsafn- Kópavogur Art Museum

3. Main Destinations

Artizon Museum; The National Art Center, Tokyo; Mori Art Museum; The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo; Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo; Aichi Triennale 2025; Toyota Municipal Museum of Art; Yokohama Museum of Art

Organizer: The Japan Foundation (JF)

Special Sponsor: The Ishibashi Foundation



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