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Announcement

国際交流基金
JAPANFOUNDATION

Japan Pavilion opens Ei Arakawa-Nash's *Grass Babies, Moon Babies* at the 61st International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia

In the exhibition, 208 baby dolls invite visitors to imagine a future shaped within the long shadow of historical and social forces – both within and beyond Japan.

Instalation of Japan Pavillion at La Biennale di Venezia 2026
Photo:Uli Holz
Courtesy of: The Japan Foundation

6 May 2026 – The Japan Foundation is delighted to present *Grass Babies, Moon Babies* by Japanese American queer artist **Ei Arakawa-Nash** for Japan Pavilion's exhibition at the 61st International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia. Currently open for preview, and opening to the public from 9 May to 22 November 2026, visitors can access the exhibition at Giardini di Castello, Venice, Italy.

A co-curatorial collaboration between **HORIKAWA Lisa**, Senior Curator and Director (Curatorial & Collections), National Gallery Singapore, and **TAKAHASHI Mizuki**, Executive Director and Chief Curator, Centre for Heritage, Arts and Textile (CHAT) in Hong Kong, *Grass Babies, Moon Babies* creates an immersive journey activated by visitors through acts of care and movement.

Upon entering the Pavilion, visitors are invited to hold and carry one of 208 baby dolls through the Pavilion's pilotis, gardens, and interior spaces. Visitors participate in a final act of collective care by changing the dolls' diapers and activating a QR code that delivers a "diaper poem" based on each baby's assigned birthday. These birthdays are shaped at the intersection of the artist's intimate, personal experiences and the long arc of historical and social forces within and beyond Japan.

To download installation images, click here: https://egnyte.suttoncomms.com/fl/Gt7KyMwdrc6C

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As a continuation of the presentation in Venice, the exhibition will also travel to Germany, where it will be presented at the Kestner Gesellschaft in Hannover from 12 December 2026 to 28 February 2027, organized by the Kestner Gesellschaft. Following this European presentation, the Ishibashi Foundation will also organize a homecoming exhibition at Artizon Museum in Tokyo from 19 June – 20 September 2027.

■ **Onsite Performances**
Daily (Except Monday) from 9 May to 22 November 2026
Audience Activation *Grass Babies, Moon Babies*

8 and 10 May 2026
FAC XTRA RETREAT (Ei Arakawa-Nash, Patty Chang, Pearl C Hsiung, Amanda Ross-Ho, Anna Sew Hoy, Shirley Tse, and Amy Yao)

22 November 2026
Ei Arakawa-Nash and End of Fall

Please follow the exhibition's official Instagram account (@japan_pavilion_vb2026) and below website for performance times and additional educational tours:
https://venezia-biennale-japan.jpf.go.jp/e/art/2026-en

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■ **Press Kit:** https://egnyte.suttoncomms.com/fl/Gt7KyMwdrc6C

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■ **Exhibition Details**
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, Executive Director and Chief Curator)
Organizer/commissioner: The Japan Foundation (JF)
Special support: Ishibashi Foundation
Exhibition website: https://venezia-biennale-japan.jpf.go.jp/e/art/2026-en
Official Instagram: @japan_pavilion_vb2026

NOTES TO EDITORS

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Clockwise from left: HORIKAWA Lisa, TAKAHASHI Mizuki and
Ei ARAKAWA-NASH with Isamu Noguchi's Octetra at Kodomonokuni
(Children's Land), Yokohama, Japan; Photo: Hako Hosokawa

■About the Artist

Ei Arakawa-Nash (born 1977 in Fukushima, Japan) is a Japanese American queer performance artist based in Los Angeles. Since the early 2000s, Arakawa-Nash has been at the forefront of expanding the international visibility and possibilities of performance art, drawing on—and reworking—its historical lineages, from Japan's Gutai to New York's Fluxus, Happenings, and Judson Dance Theater, as well as Viennese Actionism. After becoming a queer parent to twins in 2024, *Grass Babies, Moon Babies* marks their first major performance installation, framing care as a collective practice.

By continuously working with others, they destabilize the subjective "I." Their group performances emphasize the ever-present precarity of art objects and artist subjectivities. They are a professor in the Graduate Art program at ArtCenter College of Design in Pasadena, Los Angeles. They recently participated in exhibitions at Haus der Kunst (Munich, 2025), National Art Center, Tokyo (2024), CHAT - Centre for Heritage, Arts and Textile (Hong Kong, 2024), Tokyo Photographic Art Museum (2024), Kunsthalle Friart Fribourg (2023), Museion Bozen (Bolzano, 2023), Artists Space (New York, 2021), Tate Modern (London, 2021), Musée d'Art Moderne Grand-Duc Jean (Luxembourg, 2021), Honolulu Biennial (2019).

■Co-Curators' Biographies

HORIKAWA Lisa is Senior Curator and Director (Curatorial & Collections) at the National Gallery Singapore, overseeing the strategic development of collections including artworks and archives. Her current research interest is on the comparative examination of intersecting modernisms in Southeast Asia, East Asia and beyond, particularly in the 1930s to 1940s. She was a lead curator of "Between Declarations and Dreams: Art of Southeast Asia since the 19th century," 2015, "(Re)Collect: The Making of Our Collection," 2018, and co-curated "Reframing modernism: Painting from Southeast Asia, Europe and Beyond," 2016, and "City of Others: Asian Artists in Paris 1920s-1940s," 2025. Prior to joining the Gallery, she was curator at Fukuoka Asian Art Museum in Japan from 2003 to 2012 and a part of the Long March Project's curatorial team in Beijing from 2002-2003.

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TAKAHASHI Mizuki is Executive Director and Chief Curator, Centre for Heritage, Arts and Textile (CHAT) in Hong Kong, taking charge of supervising the museum's institutional direction, organisation structure and curatorial programmes since 2020. From 2017 to 2020, as co-director, she was in charge of setting CHAT's mission, vision, and artistic direction and management as well as executing exhibition, co-learning and public programmes. In Japan, she worked for Mori Museum Project Office (1999-2003), Contemporary Art Center, Art Tower Mito (2003-2016). She has curated numerous exhibitions in and outside Japan including at CHAT, "Jakkai Siributr: Everybody Wanna Be Happy," 2023, "Yee I-Lann: Until We Hug Again," 2021, "Sudō Reiko: Making NUNO Textiles," 2019, "Unfolding: Fabric of Our Life," 2019, at the Contemporary Art Center, Art Tower Mito, "Tadasu Takamine's COOL JAPAN," 2012, "8 Days : Beuys in Japan," 2009.

■ 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 Giardini, Venice ©PEPPE MAISTO

■About La Biennale di Venezia

La Biennale di Venezia is an Institution organizing International Exhibitions and Festivals that uses locations in the island city of Venice as venues. It has made its mark on history for more than 130 years, starting with the first International Art Exhibition in 1895. In the present day, it embraces its International Art and Architecture Exhibitions, International Theatre, Contemporary Dance, and Contemporary Music Festivals, as independent departments; among these, the International Art Exhibition draws the attention of the global art world as a place to get an overview of current artistic trends.

Japan officially participated in International Art Exhibition of 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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