

[New Chitose Airport Exhibition Summary]

Theme : Ainu Culture

Ainu culture encompasses the language, food, housing, belief systems, crafts and artistic traditions of the Ainu people, the indigenous people of Hokkaido. Ainu daily living tools and traditional dance have been designated as Important Folk Cultural Assets (both tangible and intangible). Additionally, Ainu patterns, folklore, and geographical names derived from the Ainu language are widely used and have been appointed as Hokkaido Cultural Heritage artifacts. Although there are no longer individuals who practice the traditional Ainu lifestyle, the core of Ainu culture has been handed down through generations and lives on today in many places.

Creative Producer : NAKED

A “creative producer” will direct each airport exhibition for this initiative. Creative Company NAKED is responsible for the artwork at New Chitose Airport.

[NAKED Inc.]

NAKED Inc. is a creative company founded in 1997, with a team comprised of video directors, designers, CG directors, and writers led by Muramatsu Ryotaro. We create videos, advertisements, TV, and installations across many media platforms in varying genres. Our latest projects utilize light to create a holistic artistic experience, by incorporating a variety of technologies, artistic techniques, and staging tools such as projection mapping.

As of today, the events and exhibitions our company has planned, directed, and produced, have been seen by over three million people.



NAKED^{INC.}

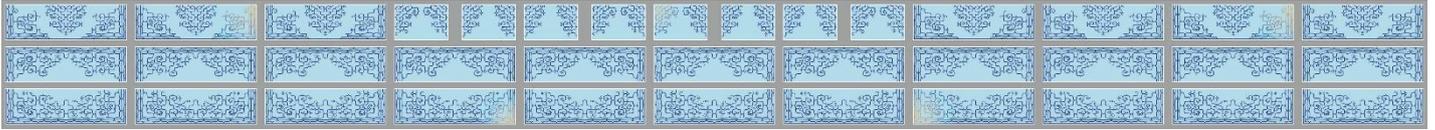
NAKED produced a large-scale video exhibition and a decorative window art piece centered on the theme of “Ainu culture.” The video piece was supervised by Mokottunas Kitahara, Associate Professor at Hokkaido University Center for Ainu and Indigenous Studies. The concourse window design piece was supervised by Dr. Nobuko Tsuda, Visiting researcher at Hokkaido University Center for Ainu and Indigenous Studies/Researcher of Ainu Clothing Patterns at Tsuda Studio.



“The breath of KAMUY”: Large-scale (15 meters wide video exhibition inspired by Ainu Culture

Art Description of “The breath of KAMUY”

In Ainu culture, it is believed that the world is formed from interactions between people and spiritual beings known as kamuy, which has a similar meaning to the Japanese word kami (god). The Ainu people use the name kamuy to refer to animals, nature, and the many phenomena that are beyond human understanding. This painting captures the spectacular nature of Hokkaido where the various kamuy abide. It tells the story of guidance received from a species of owl (Blakiston’s fish owl), known as “kotan-kor-kamuy,” believed to be a special kamuy that protects villages. This story is meant to welcome visitors from other nations and expresses the spirit of the Ainu people.



Decorative art incorporating traditional Ainu patterns “100 years of history”

Art Description of “100 years of history”

The artwork on the concourse window is inspired by the patterns on a 100-year-old Ainu garment, which was kept in the home of Dr.Nobuko Tsuda, visiting researcher at the Hokkaido University Centre for Ainu and Indigenous Studies. It is a type of Sakhalin Ainu clothing known as Chijiri that was worn regularly, and it bears small holes, scrapes, and other marks of use. The pattern is embroidered directly onto the cloth with silk thread, and because many such examples of silk embroidery on silk cloth are seen in old documents, the age is thought to be around 100 years. This clothing was given to Dr.Nobuko Tsuda by a descendant of someone who returned from Sakhalin to Hokkaido just before the end of World War II.

[What are Ainu Patterns?]

Ainu patterns are designs seen in the clothing of the Ainu people who have lived in Hokkaido, Sakhalin, and the Kuril Islands since ancient times. There are male patterns that are carved by men in wood or bone, and female patterns that are embroidered by women on cloth. Each is created by techniques that are passed down from grandfather to father and from grandmother to mother. Continuous rope patterns around the collars, at sleeve openings, and around the hems of clothing were intended to ward off evil spirits and protect the wearer from disaster, disease, and other misfortunes. Prior to the 19th century, a single rope pattern was embroidered at the approximate center of the cloth used on these edges. However, beginning from the 19th century, curves were added and spiral and other patterns emerged, creating the beautiful Ainu patterns that we see today.

New Chitose Airport Exhibition Details

Date & Time : Opens Friday, August 30, the first year of Reiwa (2019)
※Viewing time will correspond with New Chitose Airport facility operation times

Location: New Chitose Airport International Arrivals Concourse
※available for viewing only for passengers arriving on international flights

Creative Producer : NAKED

Supervisors : Mokottunas Kitahara
(Associate Professor, Hokkaido University Center for Ainu and Indigenous Studies)
Dr.Nobuko Tsuda
(Visiting researcher, Hokkaido University Center for Ainu and Indigenous Studies / Tsuda Studio, Researcher of Ainu Clothing Patterns)

Supporter: New Chitose Airport Terminal Building Co., Ltd

Sponsor: Agency for Cultural Affairs, Government of Japan
“Japanese cultural media arts dissemination initiative in airports and other institutions”