

General Directors, Tokyo Biennale 2023

Masato Nakamura



Born 1963 in Odate City, Akita, Japan. Professor at Tokyo University of the Arts (Department of Painting). A socially aware artist pushing forth diverse art projects with focus on “art x community x industry.” In the early 1990’s, he set up guerilla art projects – “THE GINBURART” in Ginza and “Sinjuku Shonen Art” in Shinjuku’s Kabukicho district (1993). From 1996 on, the artist caught global attention by transforming corporate identities into artworks, one major example being the McDonald’s golden arches. In 1997, he formed an alternative artist initiative called “Command N.” Activities of this group include the international video installation “Akihabara TV” held multiple years in 1999, 2000, and 2002. His work was displayed in the 49th Venice Biennale (2001) Japan Pavilion “First & Slow” exhibition. From 2004, he founded a number of art projects including “himming” in Himi (Toyama Pref.) and “ZERODATE” in Odate (Akita Pref.) Nakamura then founded 3331 Arts Chiyoda in June 2010 as an independent and sustainable art center. Through Command N and 3331, Nakamura has founded 10 art bases and held 740 art projects, in addition to overseeing close to 3,100 events with the collaboration of 2,000 artists, 180 core staff members, and 1,350 supporting staff/volunteers. With an extensive background in a variety of expressive activities, starting in summer 2020 he is taking on the challenge of developing the Tokyo Biennale, an art festival that will dig for the cultural and artistic resources underlying the city of Tokyo.

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Min Nishihara



A Clinical psychotherapist and independent curator, she organized “Gutai 1955/56” (1993), “Fo(u)rtunes” (1994), and “NEW LIFE” (1999) in the 1990s. After moving to the U.S., she worked as a social worker and clinical psychotherapist in Los Angeles while organizing community-based exhibitions and art projects at various locations, including residences, senior centers, and domestic violence shelters. Since 2018, she has been based in Japan, where she organizes workshops supporting artists and creators and focuses on community care through art projects. Her major projects since returning to Japan include the “Early '90s Tokyo Art Squad” (2019) and “TONARI (neighborhood)” project (2019-). Currently a Professor at Akita University of Art. Representative of Counseling Center for Artists' Mind and Life, Cushion (Care for Caregivers).