

# SIAF2020

札幌 Sapporo International  
Art Festival

# 国際芸術祭

siaf.jp

Appointment of SIAF2020  
Team of Directors

Organizers: Sapporo International Art Festival Executive Committee / City of Sapporo, Japan

# Inauguration of SIAF2020

## Team of Directors

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The Sapporo International Art Festival Executive Committee is pleased to announce the appointment of the team of directors of the Sapporo International Art Festival 2020 (SIAF2020), which is scheduled for the 2020/2021 winter season.

The Sapporo International Art Festival (SIAF) is an artistic event held in Sapporo once every three years, and SIAF2020 will be its third edition. Launched in 2014, this triennial event has previously been held from summer to autumn, but we have decided to hold SIAF2020 in winter to leverage more of the features and appeal of Sapporo—a city with snowy winters. Through SIAF2020, we will continue to promote local creativity through introducing contemporary art while publicizing what the city has to offer across Japan and elsewhere through works that feature not just snow and winter but that also touch upon themes such as culture in the northern region.

The past editions of SIAF were stewarded by a guest director, but we are replacing the single director system with a team of directors with particular areas of expertise: two Curatorial Directors, who will co-curate and manage SIAF programs, and a Director of Communication Design, who will communicate the appeal of SIAF in an easily understandable way from a visitors' point of view.

Today, we are pleased to announce the appointment of the Curatorial Directors, one in charge of contemporary art and the other media art. They were selected by the SIAF Executive Committee from candidates who passed screening by the SIAF Executive Committee Secretariat and the SIAF Committee (see page 5). For the post of the Director of Communication Design, applications will be invited from members of the public at a later date.

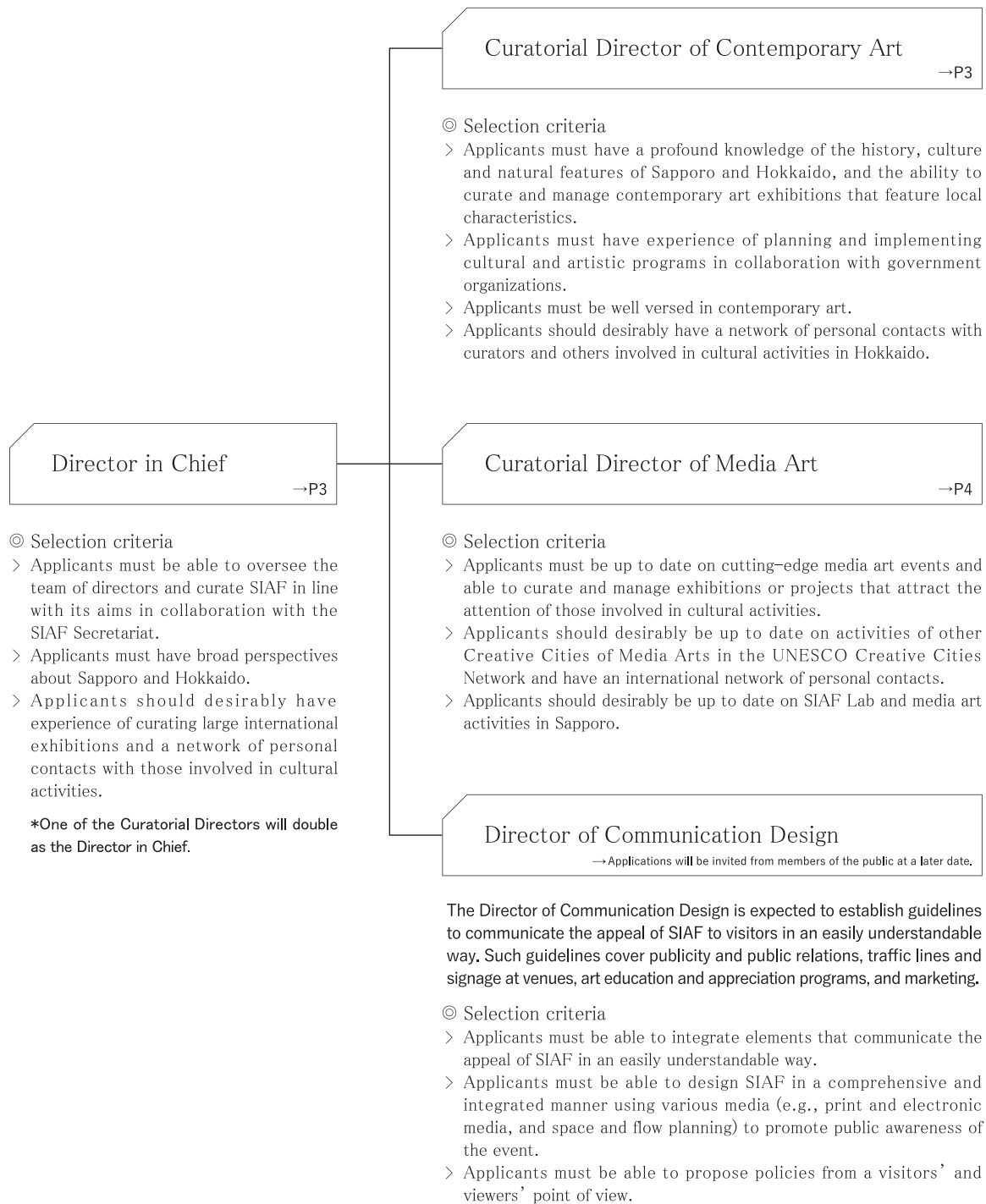
The SIAF Executive Committee would appreciate extensive news coverage of SIAF when it announces the period, venues, theme and other details of SIAF2020 in the summer 2019.

### Schedule (provisional)

Autumn 2018	The call will be open to applications for the post of the Director of Communication Design
Spring 2019	Announcement of the appointment of the Director of Communication Design
Summer 2019	Announcement of the outline of SIAF2020 (e.g., theme, period and venues)
Winter 2019/2020	Announcement of artists and preliminary events
Autumn 2020	Final announcement of the outline of SIAF2020
Winter 2020/2021	SIAF2020

# SIAF2020

## Team of Directors and their Selection Criteria



## Introduction to Members of the Team of Directors

Curatorial Director of Contemporary Art and Director in Chief

Taro Amano [ Japan ]



Photo: Shingo Kanagawa

### ◎Bio

Taro Amano is Curator in Chief of the Yokohama Civic Art Gallery Azamino and a part-time lecturer at Tama Art University, the Joshibi University of Art and Design, Kokushikan University and Josai International University. He is a member of the International Association of Art Critics Japanese Section (AICA JAPAN). After working for the Hokkaido Museum of Modern Art, Amano was appointed curator of the Yokohama Museum of Art in 1987, when preparations for the museum's opening were in full swing. In this role, he has been involved in planning numerous exhibitions, including many outside Japan. Amano served as the curator of the Yokohama Triennale 2005 and as the curatorial head of the 2011 and 2014 editions of the triennale. The major exhibitions he curated at the Yokohama Museum of Art and the Yokohama Civic Art Gallery Azamino include "Japanese Art after 1945: Scream against the Sky" (1994), "Louise Bourgeois: Homesickness" (1997), "Yoshitomo Nara: I Don't Mind, If You Forget Me." (2001), "Non-Sect Radical: Contemporary Photography III" (2004), "Teppei Kaneuji: Melting City / Empty Forest" (2009), "Ryuichi Ishikawa: Once Thinking, Nothing before the Eyes." (2016), "Takashi Arai: Bright was the Morning" (2017) and "Shingo Kanagawa: Long Time Span" (2018).

### ◎Message from the Director

I was appointed Director in Chief and Curatorial Director of Contemporary Art for SIAF2020. It is a real pleasure for me to be involved in such a grand project in Sapporo, my adopted hometown, at the final chapter of my curatorial career. Sapporo was where I started my career as a curator, where I worked for the Hokkaido Museum of Modern Art from 1982 to 1987, before I joined the Opening Preparation Office for the Yokohama Museum of Art. Currently, I serve as Curator in Chief of the Yokohama Civic Art Gallery Azamino. I look forward to organizing a fruitful international exhibition that takes local history and local characteristics into consideration based on the accomplishments made through the previous editions of SIAF and on the close relationships I look forward to building with a diverse array of people and organizations in Sapporo and Hokkaido. The kind support and cooperation of everyone involved are very much appreciated.

### ◎Reason for Appointment

Mr. Amano worked as a curator of the Hokkaido Museum of Modern Art for five years from 1982 before moving to Yokohama, where he has curated numerous exhibitions of contemporary art in Japan and elsewhere. His experience of living and working for a museum in Sapporo has made him a fine-art expert with insights into the region's history, culture and natural features, diverse perspectives required to successfully organize SIAF2020, and a wide network of personal contacts that extends beyond Hokkaido. Since fiscal 2016, he has also been contributing to the City of Sapporo's cultural administration and the development of SIAF guidelines as a member of the SIAF Committee. Therefore, Mr. Amano has cultivated his perennial ability to curate contemporary art exhibitions and network in Japan and abroad, with his character that has earned him the trust of people of all ages. The SIAF Executive Committee appointed Mr. Amano as Curatorial Director of Contemporary Art based on the above-mentioned background and expectation that he will curate and manage a contemporary art exhibition best suited for the winter of Sapporo through connecting Sapporo and Hokkaido on one side with international contemporary art scenes on the other.

Curatorial Director of Media Art  
Agnieszka Kubicka-Dzieduszycka [ Poland ]



Photo: Zdzisław Kupisz

#### ©Bio

Agnieszka Kubicka-Dzieduszycka is a media art curator, project manager and academic teacher. After graduation in Austrian feminist literature at the Wrocław University, in 1994 she joined the organizers of Poland's first media art festivals. Since then she's been working on programming and production of 13 successive editions of the WRO Media Art Biennale, the major forum for media art in Poland and a key international event. Since launching the WRO Art Center (2008) she's co-shaping the development of its program, runs international collaborations and is actively involved in art mediation. She's curated and managed several EU-funded projects (new commissions, co-productions, touring exhibitions, digitization). Her latest curatorial contributions include Polish program at the AIB18 Biennale in Ii (Finland), exhibitions, workshops and screenings in Ukraine, Sweden, Japan, Germany, Israel. Her continuous work with Japanese media artists includes the "reversible//irreversible//presence" series of exhibitions and screenings by artists from Japan, presented at the WRO Art Center in 2016-2017.

#### ©Message from the Director

I'm deeply honoured to co-shape the SIAF2020 together with the board of directors, the organizing committee and festival team. This exciting task corresponds with over 20 years of my experience in organizing media art festivals and running daily program of an audience-centered art institution. In my curatorial work I'm interested in participatory, inclusive practices in the context of contemporary techno-society and the nature-culture continuum. Media art, with its potential of processual collaboration, connectivity and critical approach to a broad range of interconnected issues, agendas and systems, seems to be especially capable of opening up emotional and intellectual debates, various transfers and shifts. On the nano and macro levels, media art provides new approaches to the complex issues emerging along the line of the digital shift, and the changing notion of life and its materiality. I'm looking forward to develop with the SIAF team an engaging and playful exhibition in Sapporo, creating a meaningful local site-specificity with relevance on terrestrial scale.

#### ©Reason for Appointment

Ms. Dzieduszycka is a Polish curator and project manager of art events. After graduating from the University, she joined the WRO organization in 1994, where she has since worked to organize successive editions of the WRO Media Art Biennale—a major forum that has been held since shortly after Poland became a democratic republic in 1989 and has over the years raised a variety of questions about the creative crossover realms that arise where art, science, communication and social activism intersect. In addition to working for the WRO Media Art Biennale, Ms. Dzieduszycka has also curated numerous media art exhibitions and festivals and served as a coordinator of international cultural events and a juror of art festivals. She is also well versed in art and culture in Japan, introducing numerous Japanese media art works at the WRO Biennales. The SIAF Executive Committee has appointed Ms. Dzieduszycka as Curatorial Director of Media Art based on her prolific international career as a curator, manager and critic in line with the selection criteria for that post.

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## < Sapporo International Art Festival Executive Committee >

Advisors: Harumi Takahashi (Governor of Hokkaido) Keigo Iwata (Chairman, Sapporo Chamber of Commerce and Industry)  
Chairperson: Katsuhiko Akimoto (Mayor of Sapporo)  
Vice-Chairpersons: Koyu Kishi (Vice Mayor of Sapporo) Hideyuki Nakajima (President, Sapporo City University)  
Members: Yuji Sakai (Executive Director, Sapporo Electronics and Industries Cultivation Foundation)  
Kyoichi Hirota (President, Sapporo Chamber of Commerce and Industry)  
Kenzo Hirose (President and Representative Director, The Hokkaido Shimbun Press)  
Hisaaki Wakaizumi (Director General, Sapporo Station, NHK)  
Ryu Shibata (Chairman, Sapporo Tourist Association)  
Tetsuaki Nagasawa (President, Sapporo Parks and Greenery Association)  
Takeshi Shiratori (President and Representative Director, Sapporo Ekimae Street Area Management Co.)  
Yuuichi Hirokawa (President, Sapporo Odori Area-Management Co., Ltd.)  
Hiroyuki Otomo (Vice President, Sapporo Cultural Arts Foundation)  
Koki Koide (Senior Director, Bureau of Cultural Affairs, Department of Environment and Lifestyle, Hokkaido Government)  
Yukio Okawa (Senior Director, Bureau of Lifelong Learning Promotion, Office of Education, Hokkaido Government)  
Masao Konishi (Director General, Economic & Tourism Affairs Bureau, City of Sapporo)  
Kaoru Takano (Director General, Community & Cultural Promotion Bureau, City of Sapporo)

## < Sapporo International Art Festival Committee > As of September 21, 2018

To organize and promote public awareness of SIAF, this committee offers practical advice and support to the Secretariat from an expert point of view.

Shihoko Iida (Chief Curator, Aichi Triennale 2019 / Associate Curator, SIAF2014)  
Akihiro Kubota (Professor, Department of Information Design, Tama Art University / Project Leader, SIAF Lab)  
Motoaki Yoshizaki (Program Director, Sapporo Cultural Arts Community Center)

## ©Reference: Past Editions of the Sapporo International Art Festival

### SIAF2014

Theme: City and Nature  
Sub-themes: Nature/City/Economy, Community and Life  
Guest Director: Ryuichi Sakamoto (Composer)  
Dates: July 19 - September 28, 2014 (72days)  
No. of venues: 18  
No. of participating artists: 64  
No. of works: 214  
No. of visitors: 478,252

### SIAF2017

Theme: How do we define "Art Festival"?  
Sub-theme: When bits and pieces become asterisms  
Guest Director: Otomo Yoshihide (Musician)  
Dates: August 6 - October 1, 2017 (57days)  
No. of venues: 44  
No. of participating artists: 151  
No. of works: 697  
No. of visitors: 381,697

## Contacts for inquiries

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