

Sapporo International Art Festival 2020 Cancelled

The Sapporo International Art Festival Executive Committee has been engaged in preparations for the Sapporo International Art Festival 2020 scheduled to be held in December for quite some time, and planned to make a final announcement regarding participating artists, artworks and other details in September.

However, due to the possibility that travel restrictions and calls to refrain from the transfer of personnel amidst the continuing global spread of COVID-19 could make it difficult to not only prepare for and make the exhibition a reality but also appreciate the artworks and performances while experiencing the appeal of Sapporo in winter, as well as the fact that a delay in making such a decision would place a tremendous burden on all parties involved, the Executive Committee has regrettably decided to cancel Sapporo International Art Festival 2020.

It should be noted that plans are slated to compile the details of this art festival, which was planned and developed over the course of more than two years, as well as information on participating artists, artwork ideas, and publish a documentation on the SIAF2020 website and other platforms soon.

Going forward, the Sapporo International Art Festival Executive Committee will carry out discussions regarding the holding of Sapporo International Art Festival 2023.

1. Sapporo International Art Festival 2020 Outline

The * denotes information being disclosed for the first time (originally scheduled to be disclosed in September)

1) Title

Sapporo International Art Festival 2020 (SIAF2020)

Usa Mosir un Askay utar Sapporo otta Uekarpa

2) Dates

Saturday, December 19, 2020–Sunday, February 14, 2021 (58 days)

3) Team of Directors (Please refer to page 8)

Taro Amano / Agnieszka Kubicka-Dzieduszycka / Kanoko Tamura

4) Theme

Of Roots and Clouds

Sinrit/Niskur

5) Participating Artists (Please refer to page 6–7)

Total: 48 artists (overseas artists: 15; domestic artists: 27 artists; other: 6 artists)*

6) Venues

Sapporo Community Plaza / Moerenuma Park / Sapporo Art Park / Hokkaido Museum of Modern Art / Migishi Kotaro Museum of Art, Hokkaido (mima) / Shiryokan (Former Sapporo Court of Appeals) / Sapporo Odori 500-m Underground Walkway Gallery / Hongo Shin Memorial Museum of Sculpture, Sapporo*, and more

7) Organized by

Sapporo International Art Festival Executive Committee and City of Sapporo

2. Documentation of the Sapporo International Art Festival 2020

Plans are in place to compile and publish a documentation for the projects and ideas for artworks prepared thus far. (Release via the website, printed materials, events and other means is currently under consideration)

3. Message from the Chairperson of the Sapporo International Art Festival Executive Committee (Please refer to page 3)

4. Message from the Director in Chief of Sapporo International Art Festival 2020 (Please refer to page 4–5)

Contact for Inquiries

Sapporo International Art Festival Executive Committee

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We had planned to hold Sapporo International Art Festival 2020—Sapporo’s third art festival—in winter for the first time. This decision was made in hopes of enabling participants and visitors to experience contemporary and media art in the snowy city of Sapporo. To this end, the directors, curators, artists, secretariat staff, and all others involved united to move forward with discussions and preparations.

As we witnessed the spread of COVID-19 around the world at the beginning of this year, I have received a variety of options for holding the event, including proposals for utilizing online platforms from our team of directors and continued to discuss with them. In the end, however, we, the Sapporo International Art Festival Executive Committee, made the decision to cancel the event in recognition of the fact that the essence of this art festival is to provide participants and visitors with the opportunity to directly experience both the city of Sapporo and the artworks exhibited on site.

Although Sapporo International Art Festival 2020 has been cancelled, we would like to compile a documentation of all the planning that went into it as well as the background behind the preparations completed thus far so that this cultural and artistic endeavor can lead the way to the next edition. In addition, we will be considering the feasibility of conducting related events this winter as well as embarking on discussions regarding the holding of the next SIAF three years from now.

I look forward to your continued support and encourage you to keep abreast of the latest information on Sapporo International Art Festival.

Katsuhiro Akimoto

Chairperson of the Sapporo International Art Festival Executive Committee

Mayor of Sapporo

I am writing this message regarding the cancellation of Sapporo International Art Festival 2020 on behalf of the team of directors.

As stated in the cancellation notice, our inability to predict the impact of COVID-19 in the coming months is the primary reason we cancelled this festival. The decision to cancel was not made in haste. In May, the secretariat began expressing concerns about holding the event this year, and I would like to take this opportunity to convey to everyone that thorough discussions were carried out thereafter between the directors and the secretariat in an attempt to devise remedial measures.

It is common knowledge that once the COVID-19 pandemic began taking hold in March of this year and thereafter, other art festivals and museum exhibitions found themselves faced with venue closures or postponements. This was simply because there was no way they could have predicted how severe the situation would become during the preparation phase. Given the circumstances, we—who were poised to begin preparations for our own exhibition—could not ignore the reality that there was no way for us to ensure the festival could be held safely and at a reasonable cost.

While our art festival has been cancelled, we would like to—with your understanding—leave behind an archive of all that had been planned in order to share it with not only the residents of Sapporo but also others in Japan and around the globe since we had already reached the stage of finalizing our artist lineup and their planned projects and artworks. We believe that archiving Sapporo International Art Festival 2020 will also provide an opportunity to pave the way toward the next edition in 2023.

Last but not least, I would like to recognize our lineup of participating artists for not only providing various ideas and inspiration for everything from the concept to the planned projects and artworks but also working together with us on

preparations to make this art festival become a reality. Thank you again for your enthusiasm and cooperation. Finally, we would like to express our appreciation to all those who provided us with support and cooperation along the way.

Taro Amano

Sapporo International Art Festival 2020 Director in Chief

A video message from the three directors regarding the cancellation will be published online on the SIAF YouTube channel at 5:00 p.m. (JST) on July 22.

We also plan to organize different opportunities for dialogue between the audience, the directors, and the participating artists going forward.



Sapporo International Art Festival 2020 Lineup of Artists

The * denotes information being disclosed for the first time (originally scheduled to be disclosed in September)

Name of Artist/Group	Place of Birth
Shuya Abe *	Japan
Satoru Aoyama	Japan
Julian Charrière	Switzerland
Cod.Act	Switzerland
Anna Dumitriu *	UK
Alex May *	UK
Charlotte Eifler *	
Takeki Fujito *	Japan
Takuro Goto	Japan
Ryosuke Hara	Japan
hyslom *	Japan
Arinori Ichihara	Japan
Linda Iha *	Japan
Edward Ihnatowicz (Re:Senster)	Poland
Hiroshi Ikeda *	Japan
Yuki Ikoshi *	Japan
Pawel Janicki *	
Przemysław Jasielski	Poland
Yoichi Kamimura *	Japan
Nissho Kanda	Japan
Noriko Kawamura *	Japan
Takehito Koganezawa *	Japan
Aleksander Komarov *	Belarus
Maxim Tyminko *	Ukraine
Diana Lelonek *	Poland
Carolin Liebl	Germany
Nikolas Schmid-Pfähler	Germany
Shiro MASUYAMA *	Japan
featuring Julie Fiala *	Canada
Kotaro Migishi	Japan
Seiko Mikami	Japan

Name of Artist/Group	Place of Birth
Atsuko Mochida	Japan
Joana Moll *	Spain
Satoshi Murakami	Japan
Tohru Nakazaki	Japan
Tatzu Nishi *	Japan
ODAWARA Nodoka *	Japan
OKI *	
Oshamambe Camera Club *	Japan
Hideki Ozuchi	Japan
Hyunjung Park *	Korea
Klaus Pobitzer	Italy
Rainer Prohaska	Austria
Niklas Roy *	Germany
Kati Hyypä *	Finland
Satoshi Someya *	Japan
Christa Sommerer *	
Laurent Mignonneau *	
Yutaka Sone *	
Taavi Suisalu *	Estonia
Atsushi Suwa *	Japan
Suzanne Treister	UK
Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media *	Japan
Shinya Yoshida *	Japan

*Listed in alphabetical order

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Sapporo International Art Festival 2020 Curatorial Team

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Team of Directors

Taro Amano

Curatorial Director of Contemporary Art/Director in Chief

Agnieszka Kubicka-Dzieduszycka

Curatorial Director of Media Art

Kanoko Tamura

Director of Communication Design

Curators

Naoto Iwasaki *

Hongo Shin Memorial Museum of Sculpture, Sapporo

Magdalena Kreis

Art Mediation

Kazumi Miyai

Moerenuma Park

Seiji Nakamura

Hokkaido Museum of Modern Art &

Migishi Kotaro Museum of Art, Hokkaido (mim)

Kohei Sato

Sapporo Art Park

Curatorial Advisors

Satoshi Katono

Joasia Krysa

Machiko Kusahara *

Jung-Yeon Ma *

Emi Nakamura *

Anna Olszewska *

Ainu Culture Coordinator

Mayunkiki

Graphic Designer

Wabisabi

Advisory Board

Violetta Kutlubasis-Krajewska

Anthony Shelton

Hiroshi Yoshioka
