

Hideaki Ogawa appointed Director of the Sapporo International Art Festival (SIAF) Scheduled for the Winter 2023-24

The Sapporo International Art Festival Executive Committee, chaired by Sapporo Mayor Katsuhiko Akimoto, has selected Hideaki Ogawa as director of the Sapporo International Art Festival (SIAF)*1 scheduled for the winter 2023-24.

Ogawa is co-director of Ars Electronica*2 Futurelab, located in Linz, Austria. Like Sapporo, Linz is a City of Media Arts*3 in the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN). He has been involved in advanced media art initiatives for years.

– See the next pages for his bio and the reasons for his appointment.

As we prepare for the next SIAF, we aim to get the most from the strengths of Sapporo as a City of Media Arts and from the city's appeal, in order to deliver an art festival that is full of surprises and discoveries to change the winter of Sapporo, through collaboration with existing local programs, such as the Sapporo Snow Festival.

Message from Hideaki Ogawa

The next Sapporo International Art Festival will focus on the future—not the future someone else will create, but the future we will create ourselves. I believe that art provides a compass for us to move toward a future that we have yet to see.

My mission is to realize an art festival that serves as an engine of creativity that is open to the public. As we live in the 21st century amidst urgent unforeseeable global issues, such as the pandemic and climate change, what will be essential are future-oriented education, innovation, and symbiosis with the earth, nature, and technology. I hope to create an opportunity in Sapporo where people from all walks of life and of all ages will engage in trial and error through art and will discuss the future.

I look forward to collaborating with you all.



Ogawa's video message was released online at 11:00 am (JST, UTC+9) on January 25.



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Hideaki Ogawa's Bio

Born in Tokyo, Japan. Based in Linz, Austria since 2007, Hideaki Ogawa has served as an artist, curator and researcher at Ars Electronica, known as a global cultural institution in art and technology. Today, he is a co-director of the Ars Electronica Futurelab, an R&D division of Ars Electronica. He has been involved in numerous international cross-disciplinary projects, including innovative projects that use art as a catalyst to prototype the future and projects aimed at creating communities based on public participation and at implementing next-generation cultural and educational programs.

*1 Sapporo International Art Festival (SIAF)

This triennial international art festival in Sapporo features artworks and performances that respond to the times in which we live. The first edition, held in 2014, welcomed Ryuichi Sakamoto as guest director, and the second one, in 2017, had Otomo Yoshihide as guest director. The third one, slated for 2020, had a team of three directors—Taro Amano, Agnieszka Kubicka-Dzieduszycka, and Kanoko Tamura—but it was cancelled due to the pandemic. The next edition is scheduled for the winter 2023-24.

*2 Ars Electronica

Ars Electronica is a cultural institution based in Linz, Austria. It has four core divisions: the Ars Electronica Festival, one of the world's largest media art festivals, held annually for Art, Technology, and Society; the Ars Electronica Center, known as the museum of the future and the school of the future; the Prix Ars Electronica, an international media arts competition; and the Ars Electronica Futurelab, an R&D division for the creation and research of various artworks. Ars Electronica continues to propose groundbreaking ideas and grand future visions.

*3 City of Media Arts

Media Arts is one of the seven creative fields covered by the UNESCO Creative Cities Network. Cities in this field aim to develop creative industries and new cultures using digital and other technologies, all the while promoting media arts to improve urban life and drive the growth of electronic arts that raise awareness of cultural diversity. Currently, the field comprises 22 member cities in 21 countries. Sapporo and Linz were designated as member cities in 2013 and 2014, respectively.

SIAF2024 (provisional title) Director Selection Criteria

- (1) Ability to work with the Curatorial Team, Communication Design Team* and Secretariat to realize exhibitions/projects of contemporary art and media art.
- (2) Ability to establish a theme and concept for the festival which fulfills the basic vision of SIAF and realizes the specific aims of SIAF2024, based on Sapporo's designation as a "City of Media Arts" within the UNESCO Creative Cities Network.
- (3) Ability to work respectfully and collaboratively for planning and realization of projects with a team including local specialists (local curators, communication design team etc.).
- (4) Ability to communicate the art festival as a spokesperson for SIAF2024.

Reasons for appointment of Hideaki Ogawa

- (1) He has supervised and curated numerous art projects, in addition to presiding over an artist group.
- (2) In addition to having a profound knowledge of Creative Cities due to his residency in Linz, a City of Media Arts in the UNESCO Creative Cities Network, he can specifically envisage and materialize what the next SIAF should aim at, because he understands SIAF and other initiatives of the City of Sapporo.
- (3) As well as having gained achievements and experience at the Ars Electronica, a global cultural institution for art and technology, and serving as a co-director of the Ars Electronica Futurelab, he has a wealth of experience in collaborative projects with governments and private businesses.
- (4) He has an extensive network of people involved in cultural affairs within and beyond Japan.

* The position of Director of Communication Design instituted for the Sapporo International Art Festival 2020 (to bring SIAF and audience closer together) is likely to be replaced by a Communication Design Team consisting mainly of local talent. The organizational structure and members will be announced as soon as they are finalized.
