

LAST SNOW

SIAF2024

札幌国際芸術祭

SAPPORO INTERNATIONAL ART FESTIVAL

Usa Mosir un Askay utar Sapporo otta Uekarpa

Sapporo International Art Festival 2024 to be Held from January 20 to February 25, 2024 under the Theme of “LAST SNOW”

The Sapporo International Art Festival (SIAF) is a triennial art event that showcases the latest art from around the world. A theme is set for each edition, and artworks and programs on this theme are selected and presented.

The SIAF Executive Committee, chaired by Sapporo Mayor AKIMOTO Katsuhiko, has decided, together with Director OGAWA Hideaki, on the theme of the Sapporo International Art Festival 2024 (SIAF2024), which is slated for the 2023/2024 winter. That theme is “LAST SNOW”. By posing this theme as a question for us all, Director OGAWA is calling for future-oriented creation and action.

In addition to the theme, the Committee has announced the sub-theme and period of SIAF2024, as well as the open program and ongoing programs scheduled for fiscal 2022. These programs and SIAF2024, the latter of which will start in January 2024, are expected to be truly something to behold.

A Message from OGAWA Hideaki, SIAF2024 Director

The theme of Sapporo International Art Festival 2024 is “LAST SNOW”.

Humanity lives in the midst of constant crises, with events such as the global pandemic since 2020 and the military conflict between Ukraine and Russia. Technological development is accelerating, resulting in rapidly transforming societies. Furthermore, the effects of global climate change are slowly but surely changing our lives. It is predicted that by the end of the 21st century the meaning of “snow” - which should exist in Sapporo as a matter of course - and the scenery it creates will be different from what they are today.

This art festival focuses on transformation and creation for such a future for our planet, society, community, and life.

What is snow, and how will Sapporo be different 100 years from now? What kind of future can the hybrid of art and science and technology envision? What new ways of thinking, education, innovation, systems, and actions are necessary to live in harmony with the future Earth? What kind of communities will we create, and what kind of future humanity will live there?

“LAST SNOW” is a call for creativity and action for the sake of our future.

Do we simply wait for the future to arrive and accept it?

Or can we seize this moment as our last chance and begin to create our own future?

The sub-theme of the festival is “Where the Future Begins”. The art festival also has a sub-theme in the language of the Ainu people, who have built their own culture in the northern lands. *Upaste*, a term derived from *upas* meaning “snow”, embodies an original interpretation inspired by the festival’s theme; to start running towards a future with snow, and to recognise each other through snow.

In 2024 the Sapporo International Art Festival will create an “experimental zone” in Sapporo which, through art, provokes questions and inspires actions for the future. We look forward to experiencing “where the future begins” together with you.



Bio

Based in Linz, Austria since 2007, OGAWA Hideaki 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.

Director Ogawa's video message has been on the SIAF official website since 11 a.m. (JST, UTC+9) on June 10.



SIAF official website

Outline of SIAF2024 (as of June 10, 2022)

Title 札幌国際芸術祭2024 (Japanese)
Sapporo International Art Festival 2024 (English)
Usa Mosir un Askay utar Sapporo otta Uekarpa 2024 (Ainu)

Abbreviation SIAF2024

Theme LAST SNOW

Sub-theme はじまりの雪 (Japanese)
Where the Future Begins (English)
Upaste (Ainu)

*The Ainu sub-theme was prepared by Mayunkiki (SIAF2020 Ainu Culture Coordinator).
A commentary on Upaste will be available at the official SIAF website on June 13.

Dates Saturday, January 20 – Sunday, February 25, 2024 [37 days]
*A pre-opening period is being considered for some venues.

Director OGAWA Hideaki (Co-Director of Ars Electronica Futurelab/Artist)

Organizers Sapporo International Art Festival Executive Committee and City of Sapporo

For details on the programs scheduled for fiscal 2022, see the attached document.

Open Program

In preparation for SIAF2024, various programs will be launched from this fiscal year.

Podcast Program

SIAF Director's Lounge

A podcast will be launched in which Director OGAWA will converse with a guest from a field that will differ each time. Through various topics, they will talk about the future, which is the keyword for SIAF2024.



AKIMOTO
Katsuhiro



MATSUSHIMA
Michiaki

1st episode: Wednesday, June 15, 2022

Guest: AKIMOTO Katsuhiro (Mayor of Sapporo/Chair of the SIAF Executive Committee)

*Only in Japanese

2nd episode: Wednesday, June 29, 2022

Guest: MATSUSHIMA Michiaki (Editor-in-Chief of WIRED Japan)

*Only in Japanese

*Thereafter, the podcast will be uploaded about once a month

*Some episodes will be in English.



SIAF official
website

SIAF Director's Lounge will be available on the SIAF official website, as well as on Spotify and other audio streaming services.

Ongoing Programs

SIAF Art Mediation Research 2022



Launched in fiscal 2021, SIAF Art Mediation Research is a participatory program that aims to enable people to enjoy art exhibitions more and is offered by the SIAF Executive Committee in collaboration with museums and other cultural facilities in Sapporo. Planned for this fiscal year are three programs that have incorporated new venues and viewpoints.

- 1 Sapporo Science Center × SIAF
Live Online Demonstration of Science Experiments
[scheduled for summer]
- 2 Sapporo Art Museum × “Verbal Imaging Museum Tour with Visually Impaired People” × SIAF
“An Opportunity for the Visually Impaired and the Sighted to Appreciate Art Together” [scheduled for summer]
- 3 SIAF Art Mediation Research Program at the Hokkaido Museum of Modern Art Using Sign Language
[scheduled for October]

*Details of each program will be posted on the SIAF official website as soon as they are finalized.



SIAF Art
Mediation
Research

SIAF Lab's S.I.D.E. Project



Island Eye Island Ear (1974)
Wok installation on *Knavelskär* with Tudor and
Billy Klüver
Photographer unknown, all rights reserved |
Klüver/Martin Archive

*An organization founded in 1967 by Bell Labs engineer Billy Klüver and others to support collaborative experiments by artists and engineers. David Tudor and NAKAYA Fujiko engaged in various projects in collaboration with E.A.T. A prominent E.A.T. project in Japan was the Pepsi Pavilion for Expo 1970 in Osaka.

Members of S.I.D.E. Project, which SIAF Lab launched in collaboration with MYOKAM Hiroko as the curatorial researcher and NAKAI You as the artistic researcher, along with Hokkaido University CoSTEP, are currently conducting the R&D project “Side Effects”. This project focuses on the unrealized concert plan *Island Eye Island Ear*, which the experimental musician David Tudor conceived and worked on with NAKAYA Fujiko and others from the mid-1970s with the support of Experiments in Art and Technology (E.A.T.)*. Based on records of research conducted for the project, the S.I.D.E. Project members will study the sound beam technology envisioned by Tudor and conduct an open experiment at Moerenuma Park with hyper-directional parametric speakers that project sound to a specific location.

Date: Sunday, August 21, 2022 (time: TBD)

Venue: Moerenuma Park (address: Moerenumakoen 1-1, Higashi-ku, Sapporo)

Conception and Direction: SIAF Lab, Hokkaido University CoSTEP, MYOKAM Hiroko (Curator/Representative Eizo Workshop G.K.), NAKAI You (Artist/Associate Professor, the University of Tokyo, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences + Art Center)

Support: Sapporo Parks and Greenery Association

*Details will be posted on the SIAF Lab website at a later date.



Side Effects



SIAF Lab

In addition to working with Hokkaido University CoSTEP, S.I.D.E. Project also collaborates with the Sapporo Cultural Arts Community Center SCARTS to expand its Sapporo-based activities. The project has enlisted the web designer HAGIWARA Syunya, and the video artist NAKAMOTO Hirofumi, who also serves as the director of Zushi Art Films, as new members to archive the documentation of the project as well as related resources in order to share information internationally. The latest update on the project, including activity and research log, will be continuously posted on the website.