

Press Release | June 12, 2025



YAMAZAKI Naoko | SIAF2027 Advisor

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Sapporo International Art Festival 2027 to be held Jan–Feb 2027 under the theme "PLANET SNOW—upas mintar / upas nociw" Astronaut YAMAZAKI Naoko appointed as advisor

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

The SIAF Executive Committee, headed by Sapporo Mayor AKIMOTO Katsuhiro, has decided, together with the SIAF2027 Director Team, on the theme of the Sapporo International Art Festival 2027 (SIAF2027), which is slated for January-February 2027.

The theme of SIAF2027 is "**PLANET SNOW—upas mintar / upas nociw.**"

Imagining Sapporo as a single planet—Planet Snow—the festival will prompt us to reflect on this planet's ways of life as well as history, culture, and the future as a whole. To bring a perspective of space science into this narrative, SIAF has created the new role of SIAF2027 Advisor and appointed YAMAZAKI Naoko, astronaut and Honorary Director of the Sapporo Science Center, to the position.

At the festival's previous edition, themed "LAST SNOW," artworks and projects at the intersection of art, science, and technology sparked reflections on the future together with citizens and supporting companies. Building on that foundation, SIAF2027 aims to expand this "multiplication of art" with different fields and genres, deepening a uniquely Sapporo-style art festival nurtured in collaboration with people from diverse backgrounds.

This year's programs and pre-events are finally set to begin in anticipation for SIAF2027. Please keep in touch for upcoming programs and the latest information on the Sapporo International Art Festival 2027.

Contact for Inquiries

Sapporo International Art Festival Executive Committee

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Welcome to Planet Snow

What kind of future do we hope for in these turbulent times, and how will we choose to move forward? Together with artists and citizens, SIAF aims to reconsider "humanity," "Earth," and "the universe." Through the creative and free space of Planet Snow, we call for action towards the future. This is the vision encapsulated in the theme of SIAF2027.

Upas mintar / *upas nociw*—these are words from the Ainu language, spoken by the Indigenous people of Japan who have nurtured a distinct and rich culture.

These words suggest that the art festival will transform into a "snow garden" or a "snow star"—a place where diverse people gather and co-create, becoming a beacon of hope that links the past and the future. They are also embedded with different perspectives: for those who live in Sapporo, Planet Snow is *mintar*; for those coming from afar, it is *nociw*. This is the vision and scope of SIAF2027.

SIAF2027 Director Team	OGAWA Hideaki (Artistic Director)	HOSOKAWA Asami (Festival Director)
	URUSHI Takahiro (School Director)	MARUTA Tomoaki (Studio Director)

Please look forward to SIAF2027!

Astronaut / Honorary Director of the Sapporo Science Center

In April 2010, YAMAZAKI flew aboard Space Shuttle Discovery as part of the crew of STS-131, an assembly and resupply mission to the International Space Station (ISS). After leaving JAXA in August 2011, she has served in a variety of roles: Member of the Space Policy Committee of Cabinet Office, Representative Director of the Space Port Japan Association, President of the Young Astronaut Club (YAC) Japan, Honorary Director of the Sapporo Science Center, Visiting Professor of Joshibi University of Art and Design, and Council Member of the Earthshot Prize.

SIAF2027 Director Team

OGAWA Hideaki

Artistic Director

Duties: Oversight of the director team / Concept and theme of SIAF2027

Born in Tokyo in 1977; currently resides in Linz, Austria

OGAWA is the Artistic Director and Managing Director of Ars Electronica Futurelab, a cultural institution located in Linz. He was the director for SIAF2024.

HOSOKAWA Asami

Festival Director

Duties: Basic hosting policies of SIAF2027 / Public relations strategies

Born in Koto City, Tokyo, in 1977; currently resides in Sapporo, Hokkaido

After working for a television station as an exhibition producer and manager, HOSOKAWA started her career as a festival organizer, focusing on planning and exhibition work. She has been engaged with the Sapporo International Art Festival since SIAF2014. In SIAF2024, she was the curator for the exhibition at the Future Theater (Higashi 1-chome Theater).

URUSHI Takahiro

School Director

Duties: Collaborations with educational institutions / Lifelong learning programs

Born in Ishikari City, Hokkaido, in 1977; currently resides in Ishikari City, Hokkaido

URUSHI, Representative Director of AIS Planning, has played an active role in connecting art and society through an artist-in-school program in Hokkaido. He has been engaged with the Sapporo International Art Festival since SIAF2014. He was responsible for SIAF School in SIAF2024.

MARUTA Tomoaki

Studio Director

Duties: Composition / construction of venues /

Collaborations with corporations and regional organizations

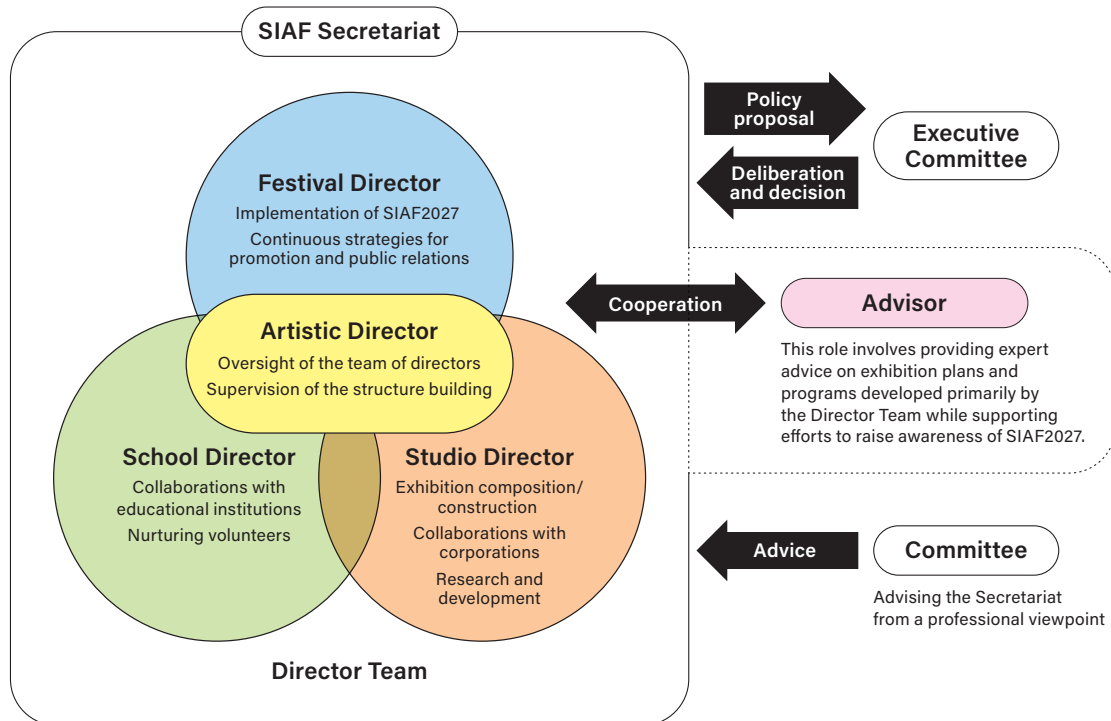
Born in Okazaki City, Aichi, in 1976; currently resides in Sapporo, Hokkaido

MARUTA, representative of Tomoaki Maruta Architects, has been an architect for the Sapporo International Art Festival since SIAF2017, responsible for making blueprints for each venue, managing exhibition sites, and supporting the artists for creation. He also has been engaged as an architect with the Aichi Triennale in 2016, 2019, 2022, and 2025.



(Left to right)
URUSHI Takahiro
HOSOKAWA Asami
OGAWA Hideaki
MARUTA Tomoaki

Organizational structure



Sapporo International Art Festival 2027 Overview (as of June 12, 2025)

Title	札幌国際芸術祭2027 (Japanese) Sapporo International Art Festival 2027 (English) Usa Mosir un Askay utar Sapporo otta Uekarpa 2027 (Ainu)	
Abbreviation	SIAF2027	
Theme	PLANET SNOW upas mintar / upas nociw	
Dates	January–February 2027	
Director Team	OGAWA Hideaki Artistic Director URUSHI Takahiro School Director	HOSOKAWA Asami Festival Director MARUTA Tomoaki Studio Director
Advisor	YAMAZAKI Naoko	
Ainu Culture Coordinator	Mayunkiki	
Art Director & Designer	Wabisabi / SHIRAI Hiroaki	
Organizers	Sapporo International Art Festival Executive Committee and City of Sapporo	

Future Program

Starting with the Sapporo International Art Festival 2027 Kickoff Conference to be held on June 20, 2025, various programs and pre-events will be carried out.

June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SIAF2027 Kickoff Conference Please see below for details.• Recruitment of "Fumu Fumu Supporters" Begins We are recruiting "Fumu Fumu Supporters" to assist visitors at SIAF2027.
Summer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Start of Outreach Classes at Elementary and Junior High Schools in Sapporo Programs jointly developed with artists and a partner company will be conducted as outreach classes at elementary and junior high schools in Sapporo.• A talk event exploring AOKI Mika's <i>Aquarium of life and death</i> (Tentative) A talk event about the artwork <i>Aquarium of life and death</i>, which was displayed at SIAF2024 and is currently held by the Hokkaido Museum of Modern Art.
Fall	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An event in an underground walkway At an event held in the Sapporo Ekimae-dori Underground Walkway (Chi-Ka-Ho), SIAF will hold a talk event and a booth exhibition exploring the relationship between art, universal design, and universal services.
Winter	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Details on venues and programs of SIAF2027 to be announced, Winter pre-event to be held

SIAF2027 Kickoff Conference

Date & time: June 20 (Fri), 2025 | Part 1: 16:00-17:30 (Social from 17:00) Part 2: 18:30-20:00
Venue: Sapporo Municipal Library and Information Center 1F, Salon (Kita 1-jo Nishi 1-chome, Chuo-ku, Sapporo)
Free admission (Capacity: 50, advance registration required)

Part 1 (16:00-17:30) | Co-Creating the Future: New Experiments Between Corporations and Art Festivals



Sony Design in collaboration with HIRAKAWA Norimichi,
INTO SIGHT at SIAF2024
HIRAKAWA Norimichi, six-petal automata
Photo by MOMMA Yusuke

We will look back on collaborative projects between the art festival and corporations during SIAF2024, and Artistic Director OGAWA Hideaki will discuss a variety of innovative cases implemented by Ars Electronica, a cultural institution in Austria. Furthermore, we will introduce future-oriented experiments beyond existing frameworks and the creation of new connections with society.

Speakers:

SIAF2027 Director Team (OGAWA Hideaki, HOSOKAWA Asami, URUSHI Takahiro, MARUTA Tomoaki)

*Networking with speakers from 17:00



Details: <https://siaf.jp/p20366>
*Language: Japanese

Part 2 (18:30-20:00) | Kickoff! Latest Updates on SIAF2027 Talk Session



SIAF2024 school invitations to the Future Theater
Photo by KUSUMI Erika

We will share the latest updates on SIAF2027, including the theme and appointment of YAMAZAKI Naoko as Advisor. Additionally, we will reflect on SIAF School practices that were started in 2023 while exploring how citizens can get involved and what values can be co-created leading up to SIAF2027.

Speakers:

SIAF2027 Director Team (OGAWA Hideaki, HOSOKAWA Asami, URUSHI Takahiro, MARUTA Tomoaki), Specified Nonprofit Corporation ezorock, Fumu Fumu Supporters



Details: <https://siaf.jp/p20729>
*Language: Japanese