

## Takeo Obayashi Appointed Chairperson of Aichi Triennale Organizing Committee and Mami Kataoka Appointed Artistic Director of Aichi Triennale 2022



Takeo Obayashi



Mami Kataoka (photo: Akinori Ito)

The Aichi Triennale Organizing Committee is pleased to announce the appointment of **Takeo Obayashi** (Chairperson of the Board, Obayashi Corporation) as **Chairperson of Aichi Triennale Organizing Committee** and **Mami Kataoka** (Director of the Mori Art Museum and President of the CIMAM) as **Artistic Director of Aichi Triennale 2022**.

On Sept 8, 2020, Aichi Prefecture established a new organizing committee to manage Aichi Triennale 2022, and Takeo Obayashi (Chairperson of the Board, Obayashi Corporation) was appointed as Chairperson of Aichi Triennale Organizing Committee. Kataoka was selected by the Chairperson Obayashi from among the candidates presented by the Aichi Triennale Organizing Committee advisory board on Nov 4, 2020.

### **Kataoka was selected for the following reasons:**

- Based on her wealth of experience and accomplishments as an international curator/director, she can organize an art festival that meets international standards.
- Her extensive domestic and international networks are necessary to prepare for the Aichi Triennale 2022, given the current COVID-19 pandemic.
- Well-experienced in heavy responsibilities as a director of art institutions, she will manage the 5th edition of Aichi Triennale flexibly and suitably.
- Born in Aichi Prefecture, she has a good understanding of the local region and will enhance the appeal of Aichi by utilizing its characteristics.
- She will be the first female artistic director of Aichi Triennale and is expected to bring a new perspective to the art festival.

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**Press Contact:** Aichi Triennale Organizing Committee (Public Relations Department)  
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**Takeo Obayashi (Chairperson of the Board, Obayashi Corporation)**

Born in 1954, Tokyo, Obayashi earned a BA at Keio University and a MS at Stanford University, Civil Engineering School. Obayashi Corporation has been undertaking many large-scale art projects, with more than 70 pieces of contemporary art installed throughout the company's headquarters in an attempt to create a space full of creativity. The company commissioned Yayoi Kusama and 18 other internationally renowned artists to create rare works of art, involving them from the building's design stage to ensure the pieces' intimate relationships with the space.

Obayashi is a Council Member of MoMA (New York); President of the Japanese Friends of Centre Pompidou (Paris); Member of the Japanese Committee of Honour, Royal Academy of Arts (London); Member of the Tate International Council Executive Committee (London); Council Member of The Hara Museum of Contemporary Art (Tokyo); Council Member of Mori Art Museum (Tokyo); Council Member of Ishikawa Foundation (Okayama); and Council Member of Kawamura Cultural Foundation (Tokyo).

**Mami Kataoka (Director, Mori Art Museum)**

Born in Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture. Graduated from Aichi University of Education. Kataoka was Chief Curator at Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery (1997-2002) prior to the Mori Art Museum (2003-) where she holds the current position since 2020. She was also International Curator at the Hayward Gallery, London (2007-2009); Co-Artistic Director for the 9th Gwangju Biennale, South Korea (2012); and Artistic Director of the 21st Biennale of Sydney (2018). She has been serving as a Board Member of CIMAM [International Committee for Museums and Collections of Modern Art] (2014-) and currently the President of CIMAM 2020-2022. Chair of Contemporary Art Committee Japan, Art Platform Japan [Initiative by the Agency for Cultural Affairs, Japan]; Councilor of Tokyo Council for the Arts [Initiative by Tokyo Metropolitan Government, Japan]; and Member of AICA [International Association of Art Critics]. Adjunct Professor at Kyoto University of the Arts Graduate School; Adjunct Professor at Tokyo University of the Arts, Faculty of Fine Arts, Graduate School of Fine Arts. Kataoka frequently writes, lectures, and juries on contemporary art from Japan, Asia and beyond.

## **Press Conference**

### **with Takeo Obayashi and Mami Kataoka**

Date: Nov 17, Tuesday, 2020 Time: 1:30pm (JPT)

Place: Art Space A, Aichi Arts Center 12F

Address: 1-13-2 Higashi-sakura, Higashi-ku, Nagoya city, Aichi Prefecture, 461-8525, Japan

***\*This conference will not be broadcast online. It will be in Japanese only.***

### **Apply for the Press Conference**

Email at [triennale@pref.aichi.lg.jp](mailto:triennale@pref.aichi.lg.jp)

**\*By Nov 13 Friday, 2020 at 5pm (JPT)**

## **The Aichi Triennale**

The Aichi Triennale is an urban international art festival, held every three years since 2010 across a wide region including the Aichi Arts Center and other city venues, and preparations are underway for Aichi Triennale 2022 to build on the achievements of the previous four iterations. The festival will span a wide range of fields, synthetically exhibiting performing art and other forms together with a contemporary art core, and make Aichi Prefecture a beacon of the artistic avant-garde.

**Website:** <https://aichitriennale.jp/en/>

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## Message from Obayashi, Chairperson of the Aichi Triennale Organizing Committee

Nov 11, 2020

My name is Takeo Obayashi, and it is a real pleasure for me to become involved with a leading Japanese international art festival, as Chairperson of the Aichi Triennale Organizing Committee.

I have been interested in ideal forms for urban environments and art as a basis for society for many years, and have previously worked to promote contemporary art in Japan and overseas and to support galleries and museums. Art is closely related to cities and urban development, acting as a medium for the creation of new forms of human movement and exchange, and uncovering the charm of a region by reconsidering its history and culture, and the lives of the people living there, from novel perspectives.

Although Aichi Prefecture's development continues to be based around the manufacturing industry, it is also rich in cultural resources such as traditional culture, crafts, and cuisine. Against such a background, art is familiar to a broad range of the people, and spaces for artistic activity are firmly rooted in the area thanks to the Aichi Triennale having been held at regular intervals since 2010 as part of the legacy of Expo 2005 Aichi. Aichi feels like a wonderful stage for hosting an international art festival.

Art festivals are perfect opportunities for us to feel, to experience in real time, the process through which artists living in the same era as ourselves understand the history and culture of the region from a certain perspective, how they conceptualize, and the form through which their expression manifests as contemporary art. I will work with the newly appointed Artistic Director, Mami Kataoka, and with the wider curatorial team on plans to make this an art festival worthy of Aichi's unique character. With Kataoka's distinguished professional experiences and achievements, as well as her formidable leadership skills, I am convinced that she is the right person to be the artistic director of this new edition in the challenging and precarious time in which we all live.

At present, the novel coronavirus is bringing about significant changes to the nature of human relationships, society, and cities. I believe that we need the power of art now more than ever, to create opportunities to rebuild the bonds between people and destroy the climate of intolerance.

My ambition is for the Aichi Triennale to be an international art festival of the highest order, and a source of pride around the world. That is the challenge that I would like to take on, together with the people of Aichi Prefecture, artists from around the world, our volunteers, and all of our supporters and visitors. I am certain that continuing with the international art festival into the future will serve as a great asset, not only elevating the creativity of Aichi Prefecture and its ability to broadcast itself internationally but also making a substantial contribution to the cultural and artistic development of Japan, and even the world.

Takeo Obayashi  
Aichi Triennale Organizing Committee Chairperson  
(Chairperson of the Board, Obayashi Corporation)

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