

2nd BUG Art Award finalists exhibition



2024.9.25 (Wed) – 10.20 (Sun)

Greeting

The 2nd BUG Art Award Finalists Exhibition, featuring the work of six artists who passed the first two rounds of the award's selection process, will be held at BUG, a gallery run by Recruit Holdings Co., Ltd. A public final selection round will be held on October 8th (Tue), to determine the grand-prize winner. The selected winner will hold a solo exhibition at BUG roughly one year later, receiving a maximum 3 million yen creation budget (including setup and deinstallation), along with an additional artist fee.

The BUG Art Award, run by Recruit Holdings Co., Ltd., is awarded to emerging artists whose careers span less than ten years. The selection committee contributes to the artists' growth throughout the jury process, offering support such as artistic feedback, advice on exhibiting and installing work, and more. The award follows in the footsteps of Hitotsuboten (1992-2008) and 1_WALL (2009-2023), two juried exhibitions that were held for thirty-one years at Guardian Garden, BUG's predecessor gallery. We hope to continue to encourage the pursuit of new forms of expression and to support artists' burgeoning careers.

A unique feature of this exhibition is that the artists worked together to decide on the exhibition layout. The finalists shared their plans and, through discussion, decided upon an ideal layout that would highlight each and every displayed work. Those artists who so wished were given the opportunity to simulate the installation and display of their work in the actual gallery space. Professional installers advised the artists to help resolve technical and safety concerns, allowing them to brush up their respective plans. That the artists install their own work is another unique feature of this exhibition. The six artists have encouraged and challenged each other through their diligent preparation over the three months from selection as finalists to the start of the exhibition.

Finalists

Mariko ARAI
Umi IWASE
Shota SHIMURA
Yuichi SHIROMA
Hinako MIYABAYASHI
Yasutaka YANO

Final Screening

2024.10.8 (Tue) 15:00-19:30
The session will be livestreamed.

Opening talk

2024.9.25 (Wed) 19:00-20:30
The session will be livestreamed.

Photography and
video are permitted.



DO NOT
touch
the
artworks.



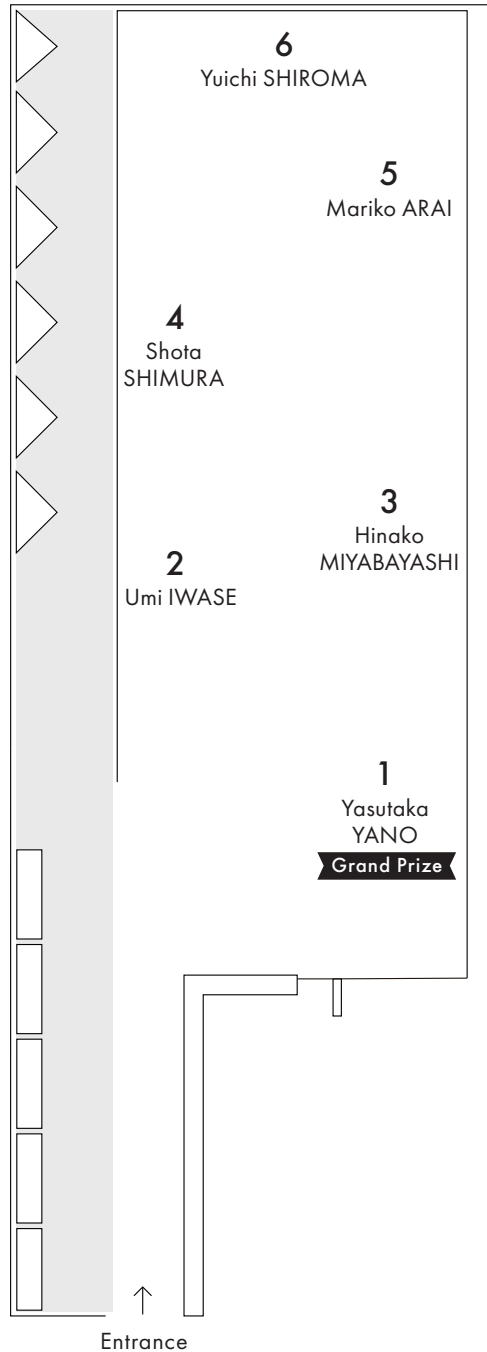
Security
camera in
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List of Works

Notes

Information on works in this list is given in English. In the following order: title / date / material.
All works are collection of the artist.



1 : Yasutaka YANO **Grand Prize**

Yasutaka YANO was born in Chiba in 2000. He majored in Painting at Tama Art University and began working a full time job after graduating in 2023. He is currently based in Chiba. He primarily paints his own attributes, his body, and objects he has encountered, and puts words related to them into the text-based format of flashcards. He also creates the spaces in which these works are exhibited, structuring and presenting them as if the exhibition were the artwork's final form.

Select Exhibitions:

2023 "Ongoing Fes 2023: Art Fair Ongoing", Art Center Ongoing, Kichijoji, Tokyo, Japan
2023 "GREEN SCREEN", Penguin's House Green, Sagami-hara, Japan
2022 "Luminous", Tama Art University, East Building, 402 Gallery, Hachioji, Japan

Select Awards:

2023 58th Kanagawa Art Exhibition Selection

Title: "See-through"

2024 / oil painting, wood, fabric, vocabulary book

This exhibition consists of three components: (1) paintings depicting the artist's attributes and/or related motifs and encounters, (2) an independent exhibition space, and (3) "flashcards" explaining words used in the exhibition.

The paintings blur the distinctions between attributes of the artist and motifs he has encountered; the flashcards set adrift the meanings of words or phrases welded to these motifs/attributes/categories. The exhibition space, put together by the artist himself, is set up so as to allow these drifting paintings and words to float around, to freely come and go.

2 : Umi IWASE

Umi IWASE was born in Mie Prefecture in 1998. They received their MFA in 2023 from Akita University of Art, Graduate School of Transdisciplinary Arts. Their astrological sign is Cancer. They have four older sisters and one younger sister. They create sculptures primarily on focused on gender and sexuality. They are concerned with the socially marginalized, and the violence that these groups face.

Select Exhibitions:

2024 "Being and Belonging", The side, Kyoto, Japan
2023 "When we talk about us", Akita City Cultural Creation Center, Akita, Japan
2022 "What to talk about when we talk about us", BIYONG POINT, Akita, Japan

Select Awards:

2023 Akita University of Art Graduation Exhibition Transdisciplinary Arts Award
2022 Kuma Foundation Scholarship 6th Term Selection
2022 ARTISTS' FAIR KYOTO 2022 Mynavi ART AWARD Runner-up

Title: "SRS Series"

2024 / concrete, plaster, wax, human hair, gauze, wood, FRP, hemp string, rawhide, wood, stainless steel, brass, pin

The exhibition guidelines mentioned that the artwork needs to fit "within 9 square meters of floor space." I thought, "But I'm free to make the work as tall as I want!" So, I decided to construct a tall pillar, which would function both as a catalyst for reflection and discussion.

This series of works is titled "SRS," which stands for Sex Reassignment Surgery. I have been making these pillars as a metaphor for the conversations happening around the topic of SRS, which often leaves the persons involved out. This is why many of my pillars have been hollow inside. But this pillar is made of heavy materials like concrete, as I want it to be about actual trans voices, and what it means to have or not have access to gender affirming surgeries.

3 : Hinako MIYABAYASHI

Hinako MIYABAYASHI was born in Hokkaido in 1997 and currently lives in Tokyo. She graduated from Tama Art University, Faculty of Art and Design, Department of Painting as an Oil Painting major in 2021. In 2023 she graduated from Berlin University of the Arts (UdK Berlin), College of Fine Arts, completing her Meisterschülerstudium with Thilo Heinzmann. She is currently enrolled in Tokyo University of the Arts, Graduate School of Fine Arts as a master's student in Painting.

She primarily creates paintings, drawings, collages, and lithographs, emphasizing repeated dialogues with place and material, with a focus on the relationship between “painting” and “being painted.”

Select Exhibitions:

2024 “project N 93 Hinako Miyabayashi”, Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery, Tokyo, Japan

2024 “Hidden Letters in the Earth”, Gallery 38, Tokyo, Japan

2023 “Hinako Miyabayashi”, Galerie Bernd Kugler, Innsbruck, Austria

Select Awards:

2021 Art Award Tokyo Marunouchi 2021 Akira Tatehata Prize

2021 Tama Art University Graduation Exhibition Ichiro Fukuzawa Prize

Title: “Between the Hands”

2024 / jute, gauze, organza, paper, oil paint

I paint as a “hand” that “accepts” the individual textures and all else that comes with each material: coarsely woven cloth or fine cotton, wood or paper. When I assume I am stretching my own hand out to paint the image, this “accepting hand” comes to me, takes me in, and sets me free. And thus we move together.

As I sit down to paint, I do not lose sight of all that exists around us. Physical distance is not reducible to gesture, but exists in tandem with space (temperature, humidity, and so on).

4 : Shota SHIMURA

Shota SHIMURA was born in 1993 in Kawasaki, Kanagawa Prefecture. His family ran a dry cleaners. After traveling the world and engaging in business development, he enrolled in the master's program at IAMAS (Institute of Advanced Media Arts and Sciences). He began his Mobile Literature series after moving to Gifu Prefecture's Ogaki, the city with which poet Matsu BASHO concluded his Oku no Hosomichi (a major text of Japanese classical literature often translated as The Narrow Road to the Deep North or The Narrow Road to the Interior). Following Basho, he aims to present this work in cities all over the world.

Select Exhibitions/Projects:

2023 Roppongi Art Night 2023, “Urban Life Encyclopedia”, Roppongi Hills Arena, Roppongi, Tokyo, Japan

2021 Solo Exhibition, “Amusement glimmer” (as part of the duo “Weltreisende” with Daigo Sakane), koukagarou, Chiyoda, Tokyo, Japan

2020 “Sanpo suru bungaku-shō [Walking literary award]”, Organizer

Title: “Mobile Literature Tokyo Boys & Girls”

2024 / video, sound, bike

The Mobile Literature series is a collection of works that seek to integrate physical movement and projection technology with literary expression by treating the city as a canvas to depict works of fiction set in the areas where the pieces are shown, using a bicycle retrofitted with a video device. This work, Mobile Literature: Tokyo Boys and Girls, sees three fictional pieces set in the BUG-adjacent Yurakucho, Ginza, and Nihombashi neighborhoods. I edit the words into videos, and will exhibit documentation of each projected text as I cycle through its corresponding neighborhood.

5 : Mariko ARAI

Mariko ARAI lives in Tokyo, where she was born in 1993. She received her MFA from Tokyo University of the Arts, Graduate School of Fine Arts. With preexisting social structures or folklore as her subjects, she creates installation pieces that use stuffed animals or dolls to explore the fundamental behaviors and desires of modern humans.

Select Exhibitions:

2023 Solo Project Exhibition, “Teikō to Juyō no Pakkēji [Package of resistance and acceptance]”, Nishiaizu Junior High School, Fukushima, Japan

2023 Group Exhibition, “Identified – Relative ‘X’ / Absolute ‘X’”, COURTYARD HIROO, Tokyo, Japan

2022 Group Show of Contemporary Artists 2022, “The art of leaving things behind”, Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan

Select Awards:

2021 Metro Cultural Foundation Prize

2017 Heisei Art Award

Title: “Scapegoat”

2024 / video, sound, fake fur, cotton, stone powder clay, glass beads, stockings, plywood, rafters, tableware

This is a new technological “entity” born from AI image generation. The entity was generated through the use of a variety of techniques to replicate and edit massive numbers of images, blurring generation and reproduction and throwing originality into question. Where, here, is the criterion for determining types or distinctions? Starting with the destruction of categories (classifications), as well as the infringement and evasion of legal systems such as copyright protections, I explore the ambiguous similarities and differences in products—and, by extension, in humans.

6 : Yuichi SHIROMA

Yuichi SHIROMA was born in Saitama Prefecture in 1998. He is currently enrolled in Tokyo University of the Arts, Graduate School of Fine Arts as a master's student in Oil Painting. He is mainly based in Ibaraki Prefecture.

Select Exhibitions:

2024 “Chii to renzu [Earth and lens]”, Empathy Gallery, Tokyo, Japan

Select Awards:

2022 WATOWA ART AWARD 2022

2019 Shell Art Award 2019 Selection

2017 27th All Japan Art Salon Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Award

Title: “A certain place”

2023 / oil painting

I use the medium of painting to produce, as if a sort of being were emerging, the ethos of the varied relations that tie person to person. Recently, I have become interested in motifs and the contexts that surround them (the places in which they are placed); dismantling these ambiguous connections and rejoining them, I research pictorial space. My other experiments involve taking information about us that has been pulled apart and, as if it were a puzzle, putting it back together slightly incorrectly, with the results depicted in painting as one uncanny mass.

The screening process

BUG Art Award is an award that supports the growth of artists in the screening process.

1 Application

We accept applications through our online form.
Please check the application requirements that are released every fall for the latest application period.

2 First Screening

The judges will screen the (PDF) applications. All judges will be present during the discussion session, and select 20 semi-finalists.

3 Online Consultation Session for the Exhibition Plan/Proposal

We will explain the basics, from the purpose of creating an exhibition plan to specific methods for creating one.
After the lecture, we will also provide an opportunity for you to consult with the instructor individually about the exhibition plan you have polished.

4 Second Screening

The semi-finalists move on to a one-on-one screening with a judge, held in-person at BUG, which will be the venue for the Finalists Exhibition. The judges will then hold a discussion to determine the six finalists. Regardless of their result, the 20 semi-finalists will receive comments from all the judges.

5 Finalists Exhibition Meeting

All finalists will gather at BUG and share their exhibition plans. Upon gaining an understanding of one another's exhibition plan, the group will have a discussion to determine their respective exhibition spaces.

6 Consultation Session for Exhibition and Installation Methods

This is an opportunity to consult with an installer (an expert in installing exhibitions) about how to realize the exhibition and move forward with the installation process, based on your plan for the Finalists Exhibition. The consultations will be held individually, but it is also possible to listen in on the other finalists' consultations. We hope this provides an opportunity to gain different perspectives and pick up on pointers that you may not have heard.

7 Finalists Exhibition (a six-person group exhibition)

BUG holds a group exhibition for the six finalists.
We offer the venue free of charge, provide up to 200,000 JPY to cover production expenses, and produce posters and flyers to support the promotion of the exhibition.

8 Final Public Screening

During the run of the Finalists Exhibition, the judges will do a final screening to determine the Grand Prize winner.

The finalists will give a public presentation about their exhibited work, as well as their planned solo exhibition should they win. The judges will make their decision based on three factors: 1) work at the Finalists Exhibition; 2) the solo exhibition plan; and 3) the presentation.

9 Grand Prize Winner's Solo Exhibition

The winner of the Grand Prize will be able to hold a solo exhibition at BUG about a year after receiving the prize.

BUG will offer the venue free of charge, provide up to 3 million yen for exhibition expenses, and produce posters and flyers to support promotion of the exhibition.

Judges

Junya UTSUMI (Curator in Artizon Museum)

Atsuki KIKUCHI (Art Director, Graphic Designer)

Kazuki TAKAKURA (Artist)

Chieko NAKAGAWA (Curator in Towada Art Center)

Yukiko YOKOYAMA (Curator in The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo)

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Date: 2024.9.25 (Wed) – 2024.10.20 (Sun)

Organized by BUG

Graphic design: Atsuki KIKUCHI

Translation: Lillian Canright, Monika Uchiyama, Ben Cagan

Interview, venue shooting, venue video shooting: Masahiro NISHINO

Exhibition plan advisor: Ryohei KAN

Installation advisor: Takeru ODAKI (Square4)

Installation cooperation: Square4