

Independent Administrative Institution National Museum of Art “National Center for Art Research” Established March 28, Activities Begin Today!

The Independent Administrative Institution National Museum of Art (Headquarters: Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, President: Osaka Eriko) has established the National Center for Art Research (“NCAR”, Director: Kataoka Mami), a new center for sustainable promotion of art in Japan, the activities of which begin in earnest today.

With the credo of “connecting, deepening, and expanding art,” the National Center for Art Research will serve as a new hub that links art museums, research institutions, and various stakeholders both in Japan and overseas, and will not only conduct research in specialized fields, but will also collect and disseminate information nationally and internationally, promote the active use of art collections, build interpersonal networks, enhance learning programs, support artists and more, aiming for comprehensive enhancement of museum activities in Japan.

Today, the day of our establishment, we are pleased to announce new programs for which details have been determined in each of our areas of activity.

Details of New Programs

Collections	<p><u>National Museum of Art Cooperative Projects</u> NCAR will collaborate with museums and other institutions around the country in two cooperative programs to utilize the National Museum of Art Collection. The programs will be launched on March 28, and application guidelines and other information will be available on the official NCAR website. (URL)</p> <p>■ The National Museum of Art Collection Dialogue Museums and other institutions around the country can apply to host an exhibition consisting of works from the National Museum of Art Collection along with works from their own collection.</p> <p>■ The National Museum of Art Collection Plus Museums and other institutions around the country can apply to present a themed exhibit consisting of works from their own collection and between one and several works from the National Museum of Art Collection.</p>
Research Resources	<p><u>Sustained operation and development of the “Art Platform Japan” website</u> The Center will take over and begin operating the Art Platform Japan (APJ) website, which has thus far been operated by the Agency for Cultural Affairs Art Platform Program.</p>
Learning	<p><u>Program aiming for inclusive museums accessible to all</u> “Social Story” is a museum guide for people with developmental disabilities and their families. Editions have been produced for all national museums, and will be available on the Centers official website (https://ncar.artmuseums.go.jp/en/) from March 28, 2023. This is a groundbreaking initiative in Japan, and we aim to expand understanding of the Social Story concept at Japanese museums in the future.</p>

Attachments: Details of each program (3 sheets)

<Contact (Personnel in Charge of Public Relations)>

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*Except for national holidays and year-end / New Year holidays

Collections

National Museum of Art Cooperative Projects

With the aim of contributing to enhanced art appreciation opportunities in regional areas and the revitalization of museums' exhibition and research activities, **we will begin accepting applications from March 28, 2023, for two collaborative programs, the National Museum of Art Collection Dialogue and the National Museum of Art Collection Plus, that will utilize the collections of the National Art Museums in cooperation with museums and other institutions around the country.**

Through these programs, the National Art Museums and host institutions will shed new light on their respective collections, and promote exhibitions that lead to new discoveries.

● The National Museum of Art Collection Dialogue



Collection **DIALOGUE**

This program updates the existing model of “national art museums touring exhibitions,” with the aim of deepening collaboration with museums throughout Japan.

By adding works from the collections of host institutions to those of the National Art Museums, we aim to realize exhibitions with higher thematic value through inter-museum collaborations.

[Overview for Fiscal 2025]

- Seeking participating museums for: Fiscal 2025
- Application acceptance period: March 28 - June 30, 2023
- National museum in charge of program for fiscal 2025: National Crafts Museum
- Number of applications accepted: 1

(See the following webpage for application requirements for FY2025: [URL](#))*Only Japanese version available

● The National Museum of Art Collection Plus



Collection **PLUS**

This newly launched program aims to enhance exhibitions of works from museum collections all around the country.

The aim of the program is to present small thematic exhibitions jointly organized by two museums that include one or more works from the National Museum of Art collection.

[Overview for Fiscal 2024]

- Seeking participating museums for: Fiscal 2024
- Application acceptance period: March 28 - June 30, 2023
- National museum in charge of program for fiscal 2025: National Museum of Western Art, Tokyo
- Number of applications accepted: 1

(See the following webpage for application requirements for FY2024: [URL](#))*Only Japanese version available

***In both programs, portion of the expenses, such as transportation costs, are borne by the Center.**

● “Collection Plus” Preview Program

The Nagasaki Prefectural Art Museum will hold the exhibition *Rey Camoi's Spanish Period* (April 7-June 11, 2023) as a “Collection Plus” preview program, featuring a comparison of works by Rey Camoi from the museum's collection and a work by the Spanish Baroque master Jusepe de Ribera from the National Museum of Western Art, Tokyo.

Jusepe de Ribera, *Philosopher Crates*, 1636
the National Museum of Western Art, Tokyo



Research Resources

Sustained operation and development of the “Art Platform Japan” website

The Center will take over and begin operating the Art Platform Japan (APJ) website, which has thus far been operated by the Agency for Cultural Affairs Art Platform Program.

The following databases and research materials, which were made publicly available in 2021 and have been utilized in various fields, will be consistently administered and continuously expanded and developed to enhance basic research resources.



Art Platform Japan top page

The following contents are already available on Art Platform Japan, and are outlined here for reference.

● Japanese Museum Collections Search

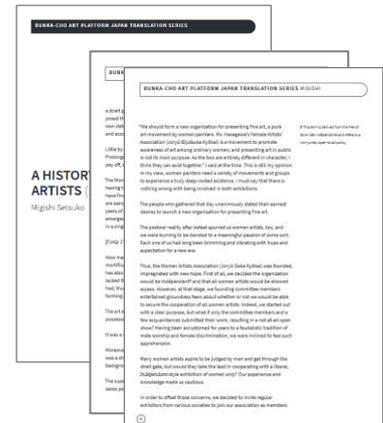
The Japanese Museum Collections Search (SHŪZŌ, i.e. “collection” in Japanese), was created to render visible and internationally share information on museum collections throughout Japan. Following establishment of the Center, we will steadily add to and update the database and maintain a sustainable operating framework.

Data on approx. 160,000 works in 163 museums

● Translated Texts

We have taken responsibility for and continue to publish full-text PDF files of important Japanese literature (monographs, reviews, academic papers, catalogue essays, etc.) primarily on postwar art, which have been newly translated and made available to overseas specialists via the Art Platform project.

No. of documents: 58



Example of full PDF file of translated text

● Research Projects

• Contemporary Japanese Art Exhibitions Research

We will continue to disseminate documentation, in both Japanese and English, of exhibitions of Japanese contemporary art held at art museums in Japan and abroad.

No. of pieces of data: 2,339

• Survey on Japanese Art Galleries from 1945

We will continue to add and update basic data on galleries since 1945.

No. of pieces of data: 2,409

(All data numbers are as of March 28, 2023)



Example of contemporary art exhibition data

Learning

Program aiming for inclusive museums accessible to all

We have produced “Social Story: My First Art Museum Visit,” a guide to art museums for people with developmental disabilities and their families. Editions for all national museums (the National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo, the National Crafts Museum, the National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto, the National Film Archive, the National Museum of Western Art, Tokyo, the National Museum of Art, Osaka, and the National Art Center, Tokyo) are publicly accessible as of March 28.

While various overseas museums have prepared “Social Stories” or “Visual Stories” as social learning tools in recent years, this is a groundbreaking initiative in Japan. We have planned and produced editions for all national museums, incorporating the opinions of multiple developmental disability specialists.



(Download PDF here: [URL](#))

What Is a “Social Story”?

It is a social learning tool to support museum visits by people with developmental disabilities, their families and other related parties. It aims to create a comfortable atmosphere by sharing situation-specific information. Social situations and actions are explained with pictures, photos, and easy-to-understand text.

The Social Stories produced by the National Museum of Art fully describe museums, from entry to exit, with photos and text in easy Japanese (*furigana* readings of kanji). They are structured to help visitors feel at ease at the museum, while letting them know in advance about rules inside and outside the building.

