

Launch Announcement: “Artist Support Program” First applications for fiscal year 2024 begin on December 15, 2023

The National Center for Art Research (abbreviation: NCAR; director: Kataoka Mami) is pleased to announce the launch of “Artist Support Program” with the goal of enhancing the international reputation of the Japanese contemporary art.

International art exhibitions, such as Biennales and Triennales held around the world, function as significant opportunities for artists to present their artworks and raise the international reputation of Japanese contemporary art.

This program provides support funds for the organizers of international art exhibitions held outside Japan, with the requirement that Japanese artists must participate in the exhibitions. For the first “Artist Support Program” in fiscal year 2024, applications will open on December 15 (Fri.), 2023.

NCAR strategically promotes the international activities of Japanese artists and provides support for their participation in international art exhibitions, including the “Artist Support Program” and inviting directors of international art exhibitions to conduct research on Japanese artists, as well as the production and dissemination of interview videos featuring Japanese artists who participate in international art exhibitions.



Exhibition view of the venue for the 14th Shanghai Biennale (Power Station of Art). The Shanghai Biennale was selected as one of the pre-projects (Fiscal Year 2023) for the “Artist Support Program”.

Application Guidelines(Overview)

Title	Fiscal Year 2024 First “Artist Support Program”
Duration for Application	December 15 (Fri.), 2023 - January 31 (Wed.), 2024
Program Details	This program offers full or partial support funds for organizers of international art exhibitions held outside Japan, with the condition that Japanese artists must participate in their exhibitions. The maximum amount of support per artist is 3.5 million Japanese yen. If multiple Japanese artists participate in the same international art exhibition, the maximum amount of support is capped at 7 million Japanese yen per exhibition.
Requirements (Exhibition and Exhibition Period)	Eligible international art exhibitions should be widely recognized worldwide and must include the participation of Japanese artists. The exhibition period must begin after June 2024 and end by May 31, 2025. The term “Japanese artists” includes naturalized and deceased Japanese artists, irrespective of their nationalities or work locations.
Eligibility	Organizers of international art exhibitions that are to be held outside Japan, in which Japanese artists participate, and that are to have an independent secretariat system and accounting organization. The organizations must agree to adhere to the program guidelines (https://jp.surveymonkey.com/r/SM6NJCB)
Notification of Decision	Decisions will be notified by March 31 (Sun.), 2024.

The application details can be retrieved from <https://jp.surveymonkey.com/r/SM6NJCB>

About the National Center for Art Research

Established in March 2023 with the credo of “connecting, deepening, and expanding art,” NCAR serves as a new hub that links art museums, research institutions, and various stakeholders both in Japan and overseas. NCAR 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, cooperating widely with society on many different levels and aiming for comprehensive enhancement of museum activities in Japan.

NCAR has so far implemented various activities such as the programs named “Collection Dialogue” and “Collection Plus” to help other museums create exhibitions by utilizing the collections of the national museums, and publishing guidebooks titled “Social Story” for those who will visit museums for the first time.

On September 28, we released “Dictionary of Artists in Japan, Beta Version,” a comprehensive dictionary of Japanese artists, to complement our research database of Japanese arts and serve as an effective reference tool. We will continue to update the information and enrich the content even after the release. Furthermore, we hosted a forum about health and wellbeing on October 8 and organized workshops and lectures on the conservation and restoration of artworks from October 25 to 28. Both events attracted a considerable number of participants. On November 26, we conducted a memorial symposium, titled “National Art Museums Today,” to commemorate the establishment of the National Center for Art Research. We invited the directors of National Art Museums in Singapore, the United Kingdom, the United States, and more to speak about the present roles of National Art Museums and their contributions to society.

We will continue to expand further with new initiatives in the future.



October 25 – October 27
Conservation & Restoration Workshop



October 8
The Venue of “NCAR Creative Forum on Art, Health & Wellbeing—Enhancing Wellbeing with Museums: Case Studies From the UK”
Photo: Ryo Fujishima

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