



National Center for
Art Research, Japan

Independent Administrative Institution National Museum of Art
National Center for Art Research, Japan

PRESS RELEASE

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Japan's Research Portal for Art

ART PLATFORM JAPAN

Japanese-English Bilingual Glossary for Art Released May 18

The National Center for Art Research (NCAR; Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo; Director: Tanaka Masayuki), part of the Independent Administrative Institution National Museum of Art, releases the APJ Japanese-English Bilingual Glossary, a Japanese-to-English glossary of specialist terminology in the art field comprising approximately 300 entries. The glossary is published on NCAR's research portal, Art Platform Japan (APJ; <https://artplatform.go.jp/>), which gathers extensive information on modern and contemporary Japanese art and on museum collections across Japan, and makes it available both in Japan and overseas.

<https://artplatform.go.jp/research-guides/translation>

(APJ's Resources for Art Translation page, which includes the bilingual glossary)

https://contents.artplatform.go.jp/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/APJ_glossary_20260518.pdf

(APJ Japanese-English Bilingual Glossary, PDF)

APJ is a dedicated art website established through cooperation and partnership with more than 220 art museums and other museums across Japan, as well as numerous other institutions and individuals. It offers wide-ranging information on modern and contemporary Japanese art and on museum collections nationwide, both in Japan and overseas. NCAR, which works to support research on Japanese art, serves as a national center that consolidates a broad range of information from across the country, and through its operation of APJ it aims to raise the profile of Japanese art in the global art world.

APJ's Resources for Art Translation page introduces books and websites for consulting the style guides, specialist terminology, transliteration conventions, and other essentials of translation in the art field. Aimed primarily at practitioners and researchers at art museums, universities, and research institutions who translate art publications, exhibition materials, artwork descriptions, and related texts into English, the resources address art materials from a wide range of periods, not only modern and contemporary art.

The bilingual glossary was created to strengthen the foundations of translation and to contribute to international understanding by offering guidance for selecting appropriate English equivalents for specialist terms, a long-standing challenge in translating Japanese-language writing on art into English. While efforts to develop terminology and provide translation support for writing on Japanese art have advanced in recent years, this glossary is distinctive in its focus on the specialist vocabulary of modern and contemporary Japanese art. By organizing terms in the specific context of the modern and contemporary period, including vocabulary relating to art organizations, institutional frameworks, and exhibitions, it supports the publication of art criticism and scholarly writing on Japanese art in English.

The terms in this glossary were selected primarily from those used in the Dictionary of Artists in Japan (DAJ) on APJ, with each entry presenting a Transliteration, an English Translation, and the Japanese Name. Brief explanations have been added to selected entries so that users can distinguish between the many closely related specialist terms found in the field of Japanese art.

With the publication of this glossary, knowledge and discussion of modern and contemporary Japanese art are expected to be shared more easily across language barriers, both within Japan and internationally. The APJ Japanese-English Bilingual Glossary will continue to add and revise terms over time, strengthening the international foundation for research, art criticism, and communication on Japanese art, thereby contributing to a deeper understanding of Japanese art and to raising its global presence.

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