



Kawamura Arts and Cultural Foundation Socially Engaged Art Support Grant FY 2021 Selected!



Nine projects selected as its grantee!

Grant Amount: 300,000~400,000 JPY / Total grant amount: 3,000,000 JPY

- **Kyun-chome** Thus, the human race will die out.
- **Atsushi Watanabe** I hate free hugs
- **Bontaro Dokuyama** Project F (tentative)
- **art for all** Corona online meeting
- **Kiyono Kobayashi** The voices from Bootes
- **HITO TO HITO** "If five women gather, the plate will break"
- **Marga Sari** Mikanohara Community Opera, "For Unheard Voice"
- **Dr. Jennifer Clarke and Natsumi Sakamoto** Voicing Care: Stories of She
- **KAMAGEI ~Kamagasaki University of Arts**
Cocoroom Social Impact / Kamagasaki O! Pera
The practice of dialogue with society that links aimless-like activities of Cocoroom

The Kawamura Foundation for Arts and Culture (President: Yoshihisa Kawamura) launched Japan's first support grant program for socially-engaged art in 2017. The Foundation provides grants to socially-engaged art projects in Japan that are committed to the community and society, and aim to present and build a better social model through production and activities with local communities and residents.

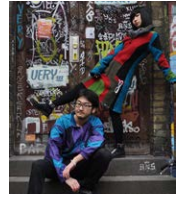
In the fourth year of the program, fiscal year 2021, nine projects were selected from 69 applications (14 from overseas and 55 from within Japan) through an open call and screening process.

For fiscal year 2021, we invited project ideas under the theme of "Socially Engaged Art Projects Under the New Coronavirus Epidemic" in light of the current situation of the spread of the new coronavirus. Nine diverse projects were selected, covering themes such as the state of communities in the Coronavirus epidemic, the current state of the nuclear accident, gender issues, the socially vulnerable, and minorities. The FY2021 selected projects will be presented as prototypes (pre-workshops, prototypes, lectures, videos, etc.) in FY2022.

**Thus, the human race will die out. | Kyun-chome**

This project contemplates "The End of Humanity/The Extinction of Humanity" with women. We will hold dialogues with women from various walks of life, including those who are taking actions towards a social change, those who support minorities and the socially vulnerable, scholars, poets, fortune tellers, etc., and compile their ideas of "the end of humanity" into a book of prophecy. Focusing on the fact that most of those who wrote myths and Genesis have been men, this project will write about the "end of humanity" by women, who had long been unaccepted to talk about the future or their fears.

Kyun-chome: An art unit by Eri Homma and Nabuchi. Following their own instinct and desire, they reside in various places in Japan for a mid to long term, cutting into the most core reality of each place.

**I hate free hugs | Atsushi Watanabe**

A "free hug" is the act of holding up a plate stating "FREE HUGS" or other message, and hugging someone unknown. Before the coronavirus, there was hardly a day that went by where you couldn't see this in front of Shibuya station. I hate free hugs. However, some number of persons in the world were isolated before the pandemic and will continue to be afterwards. They're called "Hikikomori." I want to go to them and hug them. Most of them will never have had free hugs. However, I have a feeling that people who would be willing to participate in this sort of project.

Atsushi Watanabe: After completing his M.A. and graduating from the Graduate School of Fine Arts, Tokyo University of the Arts in Oil Painting in 2009, he spent three years withdrawn from society (hikikomori) before returning to social activities as a contemporary artist. Recipient of the 2020 Culture and Art Encouragement Award of the Yokohama Cultural Award. Major project exhibitions include "The Day the Same Moon was Seen" (R16 Studio, Kanagawa, 2021).

**Project F (tentative) | Bontaro Dokuyama**

The Novel Coronavirus has forced us to be unexpectedly divided from others, and we have a strong desire to be closer to others and to visit intimate spaces. On the other hand, in some areas close to the TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant, people who have or had homes in the area are still eager to return to their original places. The unexpected fragmentation has made us aware of the need for us to become more intimate with others, and the victims of disasters with their land. In this project, I aim to look at the acquisition of an evolved human body, when the fragmented body regains its intimacy.

Bontaro Dokuyama: Exhibitions include group exhibition "Sustainable Sculpture" (Komagome SOKO, Tokyo, 2020), solo exhibition "SAKURA" (LEESAYA, Tokyo, 2020), "Aichi Triennial 2019: Taming Y/Our Passion" (Shikemichi/Endoji, Aichi, 2019), "Roppongi crossing 2019: CONNEXIONS" (Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, 2019), solo exhibition "Plans for Tokyo 2019_Vol.1 RENT TOKYO" (gallery aM, Tokyo, 2019), and others.

**Corona online meeting | art for all**

Since the 1980s, the field of art, which has been increasingly individualised, has internalised major problems such as deteriorating work environments, poverty, and the absence of safety nets. Furthermore, the spread of the new coronavirus has made these problems even more serious. This project explores a new kind of network that is different from traditional labor unions. The activities are mainly online, and we plan to organise open study sessions and open discussions on the know-how of artists' activities, so that the environment for activities related to art in Japan can be widely reviewed.

art for all: "art for all" is a platform of individuals involved in the art world who have come together to ensure that each and every cultural and artistic activity is respected in the 2020 Corona disaster, and that the ecosystem of the art field is not damaged but is further energised.

**The voices from Bootes | Kiyono Kobayashi**

Ten years after the accident at the nuclear power plant, this project aims to create new myths, or a mechanism for the creation of new myths, about the relationships among the land, the human beings, and the animals exposed to radiation, from the viewpoints of celestial movements. The project will create opportunities to recapture, little by little, the unprecedented reality that has occurred. And through a ceremonial workshop constructed together with the local people, the project will attempt to continue handing down in perpetuity the stories woven by the human beings and animals who lived in this land, for the people of the future to whom must be entrusted the post-decommissioning 100,000-year nuclear waste storage period set by government agencies.

Kiyono Kobayashi: Artist, based in Tokyo. Kobayashi's artwork summons countless perceptions, narratives, and multiple perspectives, to the world stage in collaboration with the voices (including the silence) of contemporary people, the forgotten, and the lost. Her main exhibition has been "Polyphony 1945" (Shiseido Gallery, 2019), a symphonic work in which contemporary women recite letters exchanged by young women in Tokyo during World War II.

**"If five women gather, the plate will break" | HITO TO HITO**

This project will seek to carry out an "Exhibition with a Dialogue." During emergencies such as the coronavirus pandemic, vulnerable women are often the first to be discarded by our gender-unequal society. By taking on a more personal approach to the universal problem that is gender inequality and by using our own experiences as a springboard for these pieces, this project aims for all participants (including audiences) to find their own words.

HITO TO HITO: Yurika Uchida, Haruka Kudo, Ayae Kamiya, Hikari Takahashi and Jin Yeowool established the collective "HITO TO HITO" (Yurika Uchida left the collective from March 2020) in June 2017. Recent activities include the open study session, "with meeting the 2nd", "Let's think about gender, art, and freedom of expression" Guest speaker: Yoshiko Shimada (Artist), October 2019, and others.



**Mikanohara Community Opera, "For Unheard Voice" | Marga Sari**

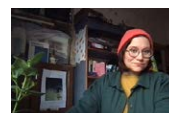
This is the first year of a two-year project to create a community opera with the residents of Kamo-cho, Kizugawa City, Kyoto Prefecture. The area is depopulated and the primary school is in danger of being closed down, but as a result of this project and similar activities over the past three years, including the production of experimental "shadow play," "dance performance," and "video work," the number of people moving to the area has increased, and active art practice is changing the landscape and the mind of the residents of the village.

Marga Sari: Founded in Osaka in 1998, it is a Javanese gamelan-based ensemble with a wide repertoire ranging from classical to experimental works. In collaboration with the Indonesia Institute of the Arts Yogyakarta, the group has been focusing on activities with the keyword "collaboration."

**Voicing Care: Stories of She | Dr. Jennifer Clarke and Natsumi Sakamoto**

This project, which studies the lives of women in the Tohoku region, is an attempt to make marginalized voices and "invisible" issues visible through the collaborative production of artworks and stories about care with the women. Through cross-border communication, the project will create a dialogue and reflection beyond oral history and build new relationships of care, affirming and imagining the other through an exhibition, an experimental film, and a bilingual artist book.

Dr. Jennifer Clarke and Natsumi Sakamoto: Dr. Jennifer Clarke is an anthropologist, artist, and curator based in Aberdeen, Scotland. Natsumi Sakamoto is a visual artist based in Glasgow, Scotland.

**Cocoroom Social Impact / Kamagasaki O! Pera*****The practice of dialogue with society that links aimless-like activities of Cocoroom | KAMAGEI ~Kamagasaki University of Arts***

Cocoroom, who has been carrying out activities that are difficult to evaluate socially for 18 years, opened the course "Cocoroom Social Impact: Koko-No-Koe (A Newborn Voice) - The practice of dialogue with society that links aimless-." A project team will be formed with artists and participants in this course, and will operate a practical research, and the process itself will be released to the public. What they have captured in the process of learning will eventually be realized as acts of expression "Kamagasaki O! Pera 4" with the artists and participants.

KAMAGEI ~Kamagasaki University of Arts: Kamagasaki University of Arts was founded in 2012 in Kamagasaki, Nishinari, Osaka. With the slogan "If people want to learn from each other, that's where the university is," Kamagasaki University of Arts holds approximately 100 lectures a year on astronomy, philosophy, aesthetics, and other areas at various facilities in the community. It also gives lectures at nearby high schools and junior high schools.



2021 examination committee (Nov. 2020)

◎SELECTION COMMITTEE

Yasuyo Kudo (Administrative Director, ART & SOCIETY RESEARCH CENTER)

Kenji Kubota (Independent Curator)

Kenichi Kondo (Curator of Mori Art Museum)

Chiaki Soma (Representative Director of Arts Commons Tokyo / Art Producer)

Tadasu Takamine (Artist / Professor of Tama Art University)

Yoshitaka Mori (Professor of Tokyo University of the Arts, Graduate School of Global Arts)

About the Kawamura Arts and Cultural Foundation Socially Engaged Art Support Grant

The Kawamura Arts and Cultural Foundation was established on February 15, 2017, with the aim of fostering people's creativity and expression through arts and culture and building a better society. The Foundation supports the activities of artists of outstanding ability and aims to inherit and develop the culture and arts that have been cultivated over the years, and to promote the creation of original and innovative culture and arts. This grant program is open to domestic socially-engaged art projects that are committed to the community and society, and that aim to present and build a better social model through their production and activities with the local community and residents. The grant is open to all ages and nationalities, and applications from overseas are actively accepted.

◎CONTACT INFORMATION

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*Comments from the judges are posted on the Foundation's website.

http://www.kacf.jp/data/news_doc/20210202182222_601919ce7eb23.pdf