

TOKYO CULTURE

TOKYO CULTURE



Cultural Programme Pamphlet in Tokyo

Photo: From the top left to the bottom right
 Cloud pavilion, Sou Fujimoto, photo: Keizo Kioku/ The Speed of Light ©Kazuyuki Matsumoto/ masayume. 目 [mé] , 2019-21, Photo: KANEDA Kozo/ Exhibition of manga
 (What if Tokyo) / Suimei, Kazuyo Sejima, photo: Kazuyo Sejima & Associates/ ONE -Our New Episode-Presented by Japan Airlines -MAZEKOZE Island Tour/ INCLUSIVE
 NIPPON 2020 Noh and Kyogen special performance from Shinagawa City/ Kabuki "Shakkyo", Kikunosuke Onoe ©Japan Arts Council/ Rediscover Tohoku MOCCO's Journey
 from Tohoku to Tokyo Presented by ENEOS/ How the work was created (Keido Ishige)



What are cultural programmes?

As stated in the fundamental principles in the Olympic Charter by the International Olympic Committee, the Olympic and Paralympic Games are a festival not only of sports but also of culture.

In the recent games, various cultural programmes have been held at various locations around the host cities, during the period from the closing of the previous Olympic and Paralympic Games until the closing ceremony of the next Games.

Tokyo boasts various arts and cultures, including traditional performing arts such as kabuki, noh, pop culture such as animation, manga, and the latest media arts, all of which have become part of our lives.

Various programmes were implemented for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games, which gave Japan an opportunity to showcase its arts and culture.



This Pamphlet has been created as part of the efforts to introduce the appeal of the cultural programme implemented for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, The Tokyo Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, and the Government of Japan. Various cultural programmes, including the projects introduced in this Pamphlet, were held to set the mood for the Games and introduce the appeal of Tokyo's and Japan's arts and cultures to people in Japan and abroad. We aim to contribute to the further development of cultures after the Games based on the experience and the achievements we gained from the cultural programmes.

Cultural Programme Pamphlet in Tokyo

Issued: XX, 2021

Edited and published by the Planning and Coordination Section, Culture Promotion Division, Bureau of Citizens and Cultural Affairs

2-8-1 Nishi-Shinjuku, Shinjuku, Tokyo Tel. 03-5320-7763

Print C and Z Communication Co., Ltd

Registration Number(31)86



Four Cultural Festivals 3

Interviews 5

Stories heard from people involved in the programmes

Contemporary artist, Katsuhiko Hibino/ Painter, Mimi Yokoo/ MAZEKOZE Island Tour General organizer, Chizuru Azuma "Rediscover Tohoku- MOCCO's Journey from Tohoku to Tokyo- Presented by ENEOS" Creative director, Michihiko Yanai Noriko Yagasaki, Professor, Tokyo Woman's Christian University/ Cultural Policy Researcher, Yoshiyuki Oshita

Tokyo Tokyo FESTIVAL 11

Tokyo Tokyo FESTIVAL Special 13

SUPER WALL ART TOKYO/ masayume/ Pavilion Tokyo 2021/ The Speed of Light/ The Constant Gardeners Light and Sound Installation "Coded Field"
TOKYO SENTO Festival 2020/ TOKYO REAL UNDERGROUND/ DANCE TRUCK TOKYO
World Performing Arts Forum/ After-school Diversity Dance
SUMIDA RIVER: Storm and Urge/ Exhibition of manga 《What if Tokyo》

Tokyo Caravan/ TURN/ Summer Festival Opera 2019-20 Japan ↔ Tokyo ↔ World
TOKYO MET SaLaD MUSIC FESTIVAL/ FUROSHIKI TOKYO
TOKYO CULTURE LIVE STUDIO/ Tokyo Media Center introducing Japanese culture to the world
Tokyo Grand Tea Ceremony
Roppongi Art Night/ TOPACO/ Genkyo Yokoo Tadanori/ A New Fine Day Shinoyama Kishin
Isamu Noguchi: Ways of Discovery/ RENÉ LALIQUE REMIX/ Splendors of Edo: Rites of the Samurai, Festivals of the Merchants
Color Sumo Wood-Block Prints and Edo Culture/ Ensembles Tokyo/ Heaven Artists
Tokyo Festival/ Tokyo Festival Special Performance Fantastic Site/ Shibuya StreetDance Week
Performance Kids Tokyo/ Legendary Tamatebako/ Kagurazaka Street Stage O-edo Tour

Tokyo 2020 NIPPON Festival 27

Wassai/ ONE -Our New Episode- Presented by Japan Airlines- MAZEKOZE Island Tour
Rediscover Tohoku- MOCCO's Journey from Tohoku to Tokyo- Presented by ENEOS
CANAL ART MOMENT SHINAGAWA 2021/ The concert played by the kocarina made of the National Stadium tree
The Mahabharata—Chapter of Desire/Chapter of Tempest/ INCLUSIVE NIPPON/ Premium Yosakoi in Tokyo
Yabusame Ceremony to Wish for the Safe Holding/ Tamabi DNA - A Genealogy of Contemporary Nihonga
Performing Arts of Edo-Tokyo

Japan Cultural Expo 30

Special exhibition "The Mount Fuji Challenges: Hokusai and Hiroshige"
Special Exhibition in Commemoration of the 260th Birth Anniversary, "The Complete Hokusai" Immersive Theater HOKUSAI
KIMONO: Fashioning Identities/ Sacred Treasures from Ancient Nara: The Eleven-Headed Kannon of Shōrinji Temple
Kuma Kengo, Five Purr-fect Points for a New Public Space
Japanese Architecture - Traditional Skills and Natural Materials
Kōgei 2020 -The Art of Crafting Beauty from Nature- Kōgei Dining
Nature in Japan and the Spirit of Sho, "200 Selected Works by Japanese Calligraphers - in commemoration of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games"
Special Exhibition National Parks of Japan: Stories to Experience/ Japan Cultural Expo Special Performance - Japanese Music, Song and Dance
Japan Cultural Expo Special Performance at the Kokyo Gaien National Garden -Representation of Prayer-

beyond2020 34

LIVE JAPAN/ National Museums & The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo X Isetan Mitsukoshi - Collaboration
Project Introduction of the Japanese food culture business/ Talk to offer help/ Support Campaign

The Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games

Four Cultural Festivals

The Olympic and Paralympic Games are a festival not only of sports but also of culture. Since the Rio de Janeiro 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, the Tokyo Organising Committee, and government of Japan implemented various cultural programmes.

Though many projects were not implemented as originally planned because of the COVID-19 pandemic, many people participated in the programme as we took thorough preventive measures against COVID-19 and utilized innovative ideas to implement various programmes without making them less attractive.

The Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games achieved success even in these difficult times

The Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games were forced to be postponed for one year from the summer of 2020 due to the global outbreak of COVID-19. In addition, the Games were held under a state of emergency, with no spectators at 37 venues out of 42 (excluding Miyagi, Ibaraki, and Shizuoka), exciting games were played for about one month with thorough COVID-19 preventive measures. The Games ended successfully, encouraging and inspiring people all over the world.



Tokyo Metropolitan Government Tokyo Tokyo FESTIVAL



As the host city of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government launched Tokyo Tokyo FESTIVAL for various cultural programmes to introduce the attractions of the city of art and culture. It was a great opportunity to enable people to see the attractions of Tokyo's art and culture scene, by holding various genres of programmes both offline and online, where Japan's traditions and modern culture and various cultures from all around world coexist.

The Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee Tokyo 2020 Nippon Festival



The Olympic and Paralympic Games are not only about sports but also one of the largest festivals of peace in the world. Cultural programmes are an essential part of the Games as a way of promoting a peaceful society and as a symbol of human solidarity. They are also able to promote mutual understanding and encourage global unity and cooperation. The Nippon Festival has become an event where excitement met diversity around Japan, and various people and cultures interacted with each other.

The Agency for Cultural Affairs Japan Cultural Expo



Timed to coincide with the opening of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic games, the Japan Cultural Expo is a nationwide festival presenting a year-round programme leveraging the tourism and cultural resources that are the pride of the various regions of Japan. Through exhibitions, performing arts productions, and arts festivals showcasing the arts of Japan, the Japan Cultural Expo encompasses a year-round programme that explores culture throughout the four seasons under the overarching theme, "Humanity and Nature in Japan: Exploring the Arts from Antiquity to the Present." Various programmes are held mainly during the year of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games and before and after that period.

Cabinet Secretariat/ The Agency for Cultural Affairs The beyond2020 program



It is a project to certify cultural programmes that feature the diverse regional cultures that are Japan's strengths and that contribute to the creation of a legacy suitable for a mature society that we can boast of to the next generation. From traditional arts to the contents, food culture, festivals, and traditional crafts that attract attention from all over the world as Cool Japan, programmes of various genres were held around Japan by a wide range of organizations. Each certified project made various efforts, such as barrier-free access for the disabled and translations into multiple languages.

Tokyo Tokyo FESTIVAL



**Katsuhiko Hibino Contemporary artist/ Dean of the Faculty of Fine Arts,
Tokyo University of the Arts**

TURN will make a huge difference in the changing times.

| PROFILE |

Katsuhiko Hibino. Born in Gifu. Supervisor of TURN/From Land to Sea (Exploring People's Innate Capabilities)2014-2015, the joint exhibition by the art brut museums sponsored by the Nippon Foundation. Has been working as the supervisor of TURN, the leading project of the Tokyo Metropolitan Government that has led the Cultural Programme of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games since FY 2015.

Please tell us about the outline and concept of TURN.

The art project called TURN focuses on interacting mainly with people from welfare-related facilities and minority communities so that arts can help solve various social issues. TURN aims to deliver the works created through interactions between artists and those people to inform society of the situation and issues and make the public understand them more deeply.

Please tell us what the TURN project means to artists.

For the artists participating in TURN, an environment where they can meet new people, experience new things, and interact with people with different perspectives from theirs is very attractive, and such differences inspire them to explore new forms of artistic expression. As we continue this project, there are many opportunities for us to meet someone or something that turns everything we thought was common knowledge upside down. I would venture to say TURN is like a cultural facility where you can discover values different from yours, a place where your values are turned upside down.

Please tell us the significance of holding TURN in the COVID-19 crisis.

We are in the situation where we have to fight an invisible enemy regardless of country, race, and

disability. Unlike war, there is no hate. It is a huge challenge that people are facing everywhere in the world. I believe there are so many things humans have to learn from this challenge. We should do what we can do now instead of having regrets about what we can't do or what we have lost. The same thing can be said about the arts. I hope we can consider this difficulty just as one of the characteristics of our times and positively deliver something we create utilizing what we learn from this situation.



The works exhibited at TURN Fes

Please tell us about the future of TURN.

As the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games ended, this year's TURN programme came to an end. However, the individual artists and facilities will continue their relationships as they have already strongly bonded. Such relationships are not one-sided. They have equal relationships, and the artists also try to learn something from the facilities and create something great. In addition, the way people appreciate arts changes from year to year. Now people think artworks are not something to appreciate only in art museums. In these changing times, I believe the TURN project will make a huge difference in the future.

Tokyo Tokyo FESTIVAL



Painter Mimi Yokoo

Hoping that the huge murals painted over two years have opened up the minds of the people who looked up at them

| PROFILE |

Mimi Yokoo. Born in Tokyo. Her first exhibition was the Tadanori & Mimi YOKOO exhibition in 1994. Has been holding solo exhibitions in Tokyo and other areas around Japan since 1995. Recently collaborated with Issey Miyake in "me ISSEY MIYAKE's MIMI YOKOO" collections from the first series (2017) to the third series (2020).

Please tell us how you felt when you were approached about Super Wall Art Tokyo and the process of creating the murals.

When I heard about the project in 2019, actually I just couldn't believe it because it didn't feel real as the project was too grandiose. As I was told that the murals were going to be displayed to set the mood for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games and the theme was fire, "flame" and "Olympic torch" came to my mind. I just wanted to add some peaceful elements to the powerful image of fire, so I decided to use the motifs of angels and animals that I frequently use in my works. I created the murals through trial error.

What is your impression of Marunouchi, the area where Super Wall Art Tokyo was displayed?

As soon as I got this offer, I visited the venue. When I looked at the Marunouchi Building and the Shin-Marunouchi Building with Tokyo Station in the background, I felt something special in the air, and it gave me the impression of a sacred place. I felt like those two buildings standing at the starting point of the straight road leading to the Imperial Palace were like a gate. As I had to create a work to be displayed at this sacred place, I braced myself for it.



Works under the theme of "fire (ignis)" (partial image)

You had to work on your murals in the COVID-19 crisis. Please tell us how it influenced your situation and state of mind?

The Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games were postponed in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Even in 2021, I wasn't sure whether my work would really be displayed. So, I spent my days feeling disappointed. While preparing for this project, I couldn't invite many people to come see my work when it was completed, so I had mixed feelings. As for the concept of my work, I came to hope that it could burn the COVID-19 crisis and purify the whole city. As we don't look up at the sky very often in our daily lives, I just hoped my work would help people look up and open up their minds.



Mimi Yokoo giving a speech at the launch event

Please tell us about the responses you got and your future plans.

Some people said the huge murals looked like a cathedral in Europe, and I also received some feedback, such as "The size was overwhelming." However, it was a shame that it was hard to see the work as a whole because of the window frames of the buildings. When the COVID-19 pandemic ends, I hope I will be able to have an opportunity to show my original work as a whole.

Tokyo 2020 Nippon Festival



©Production Pao Inc

MAZEKOZE Island Tour General Organiser, Producer, and Executive Director Chizuru Azuma

Hoping that this programme can help people realise how attractive and pleasant a diverse society is.

PROFILE |

Born in Hiroshima, Chizuru Azuma entered the show business after working as a company employee and is the director of Get in touch Japan. In October 2012, she established Get in touch Japan to realise a mazekezo society where nobody is excluded and where everyone can live by their own values through arts, music, films and stage performances.

Please tell us about the appeal of ONE -Our New Episode- Presented by Japan Airlines MAZEKOZE Island Tour.

We created this programme for the audience to be absorbed in music and performances by unique artists that transcend stereotypes, such as gender, age, nationality, or ability, to appreciate the arts, to enjoy interacting with people with colourful personalities while laughing, dancing, and singing with them, and at the same time, to be stirred. This is an adventurous tour of nine



Azuma produced the programme and also performed

islands on which you would experience the joy and comfort of mazekezo and get to know how attractive diversity and an inclusive society are.

Please tell us the significance of holding this programme in the midst of COVID-19 pandemic, what kind of measures you took and what kind of difficulties you faced.

The COVID-19 pandemic has deepened divisions, widened inequalities, worsened conflicts, and dramatically increased the number of people living through hardship. I believe many people feel the need of social solidarity but they might at a loss as to what to do. To achieve solidarity, we need to understand how diverse our society is. I hope the film we created will help people to realise that they are part of diverse society and the need to make the diverse society more comfortable.

I was on pins and needles because the government kept declaring states of emergency, making our cast members unable to come to Tokyo. We managed it by reorganising and adjusting the filming schedule. The cast members were so passionate and determined to perform, so we never gave up and the people around us helped a lot. I think, because of the pandemic we were able to unite more and yield good results.

What kind of impact do you expect this programme to have on society in the future?

I don't think a single film can have a significant impact at home or internationally. Rather, I hope it will help open doors to the business and entertainment industries including show business. It will be the ideal if TV series and films feature people with different abilities and sexual minorities in regular school, workplace and home settings, or feature diverse cast members in comedy or music programmes, instead of only focusing on their difficulties and making emotional stories of them overcome the hardships.



Collaboration between rapper GOMESS and wheelchair dancer Kenta Kanbara.



"Rediscover Tohoku- MOCCO's Journey from Tohoku to Tokyo- Presented by ENEOS" Creative director, Michihiko Yanai

Hoping that the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games will spread the current situation of and message from the Tohoku region recovering from the Great East Japan Earthquake

PROFILE |

Michihiko Yanai. Born in Fukushima. Has produced a number of ad campaigns that transcend stereotypes. Has been engaging in a wide range of activities, such as hosting TV and radio shows and playing the guitar in the rock band Inawashirokos, as well as emceeing NHK's TV show Top Runner and is still expanding activities.

It was in 2013 when Tokyo won the bid for the Olympic and Paralympic Games under the slogan "Recovery Olympics." My friends in Tohoku became angry and cried from the anger and frustration. They said, "If they just used Tohoku to win the bid and the Recovery Olympics end up just as an empty slogan, I won't forgive them." I felt the same way. Though I was determined to distance myself from the Olympics, I thought I had to make the Games at least worthwhile for people in Tohoku if we couldn't stop them from being held. That's why I accepted the offer to direct the programme "Rediscover Tohoku - MOCCO's Journey from Tohoku to Tokyo."

The giant puppet MOCCO moves when people join forces and work together. The team members get in sync with each other and pull strings one by one to operate MOCCO expressively. Such efforts are needed in today's society. People with different views and stances join forces to achieve the same goal. MOCCO delivered the messages from the people of Tohoku all the way to Tokyo.



MOCCO measures more than 10 meters tall

One of the messages MOCCO received in Rikuzentakata said, "Maybe the physical recovery of the region has progressed, but our emotional recovery has not even begun." The recovery of the Tohoku region has not been completed yet. The Recovery Olympic is not the "Completely Recovered Olympic" but the "Partially Recovered Olympic."



Touring Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima then to Tokyo

MOCCO seems difficult to approach at first. However, as we travel with it, we feel closer to it. I think the same thing can be said about the people of Tohoku who have been patiently supporting the recovery of the region and bearing the pain. Many people had to deal with something for which there was no right answer. The difference in perspective caused distrust, gaps, and barriers among people. Everyone's choice should be respected if the answers they find to the problem are not the same.

The COVID-19 pandemic has widened the divisions among people that had been originally caused by the difference of opinion on the holding of the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Many people must have felt that humans were not good at everything. The biggest legacy the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games left for the future is that various problems the Olympic and Paralympic Games were revealed. I think that this programme also played a role in finding a clue as to how people who had once been separated from each other could reconnect with each other, instead of widening the divisions. Disasters are still happening around Japan and the world. I hope the Tohoku region recovering from the earthquake can put a smile on the faces of people around the world and cheer them up.



Shinjuku Gyoen National Garden, July 17, 2021



**Noriko Yagasaki, Professor, School of Arts and Sciences,
Tokyo Woman's Christian University**

Connecting people across disciplines and spotlighting Japanese culture

| PROFILE |

Noriko Yagasaki. Born in Hokkaido. Has been working as a professor at Tokyo Woman's Christian University since April 2019 after working at Sumitomo Bank, deputy chief consultant in The Japan Research Institute, Limited, Director for tourism economy for the Japan Tourism Agency, specially appointed associate professor of the Faculty of Urban Environmental Sciences, Tokyo Metropolitan University, and professor of the Faculty of International Tourism Management, Toyo University and Chairperson of the Tourism Subcommittee, the Council for Transport Policy, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism

Please tell us about the outline and appeal of the Japan Cultural Expo.

The Japan Cultural Expo is a cultural programme that was launched in 2019. Though there are various objectives, the main objective is to introduce the appeal of Japan to people all over the world. Personally, I wanted to offer something better than the cultural programme for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. As we were able to hold events in all the prefectures, the diverse beauties of Japan that each region had were introduced through the Japan Cultural Expo. That's what made the Expo even more special.

Please tell us the significance of holding the Expo in the COVID-19 crisis.

First of all, though we faced a very difficult situation in the COVID-19 crisis, all members of the participating organizations took every possible measure, and we were able to hold more than 80% of the planned programmes. I think I can't emphasize this achievement enough. I believe it is because we had to hold the Expo in the unexpected high-risk situation where each participating organization reconsidered the significance of holding the Expo. Then, they came to understand its purpose and goals more clearly, which led to the firm root of the flower of diversity of the Expo, and were able to introduce the diverse beauties of Japan more effectively. Moreover, we had originally planned to let people from overseas directly experience and discover the beauties of Japan, which became impossible due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Thus, we limited the number of people in

the audience. I think that helped connect culture and those who were in other areas, such as tourism and commerce in the region.

Please tell us the impact the Japan Cultural Expo had in Japan.

The Japan Cultural Expo promoted digitalization and enabled people all over the world to watch the content through online streaming, which led to the recreation of the appeal of Japanese culture and the arts. We were able to discover new appeals that we had not known by getting feedback from people all over the world in real time. I think it meant a lot because there were various things we learned from the Expo.

Please tell us about the measures each organization took, the difficulties they had, and their achievements in the COVID-19 crisis.

I highly appreciate their efforts to fully prepare themselves to safely hold their events during the COVID-19 crisis. I hope they will make use of this experience when holding major meaningful events like the Expo. Though every organization had a hard time because they had to bear the unexpected cost of ensuring safety at the venues, they made positive efforts to do whatever they could. I think that is a legacy that will make a difference in the future. In addition, at the feature exhibitions, as they limited the number of visitors for each time slot by making them use a reservation system, visitors were able to enjoy the exhibitions in a relaxed manner. I think that significantly improved the experiential value for visitors when they enjoyed culture and the arts.



**Yoshiyuki Oshita, Cultural Policy Researcher/Professor,
Faculty of Economics, Doshisha University**

Held in all the prefectures with the participation of various organizations, including those from the private sector

| PROFILE |

Yoshiyuki Oshita. Born in Tokyo. Working as an advisor and committee member for various local governments, such as deputy director of the Shizuoka Prefecture Cultural Programme Promotion Committee for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games and advisor for UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy Tsuruoka. Publications include "Arts Council" (Suiyosha).

Please tell us the characteristics of the Japan Cultural Expo.

One of the major characteristics of the cultural programme for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games is that the stakeholders involved in the holding of the Olympic and Paralympic Games planned and implemented their own programmes, unlike the Cultural Programme for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Based on this, I think the Japan Cultural Expo is practically positioned as one of the cultural programmes. The Expo is also characterized especially by the fact that the events were held in all the prefectures, the programme covered a wide range of genres, and it was a cultural programme in which various organizations including private companies voluntarily participated.

Please tell us the achievements of the Japan Cultural Expo and what kind of legacy it has left.

I'll talk about the achievement and legacy as of now because the Japan Cultural Expo is still being held. The first achievement is the development of new partnerships and collaborative relationships. One of the examples is "GO FOR KOGEI", the first exhibition where crafts met art brut. This programme was held in three prefectures in the Hokuriku region: Toyama, Ishikawa, and Fukui. It was a good example of a programme that connects culture and tourism. The second achievement is the introduction of cutting-edge technologies. One of the leading programmes is "Super Angels", a new style of opera performed by the androids

and children at the New National Theatre. Tokyo. The third achievement is the development of the new role model that will contribute to the development of artists and the promotion of the arts. I think such a role model was developed in "Breakthrough Journey", the dance drama performed in Osaka. It is a big achievement and a legacy of the programme that it provided an opportunity for people to do whatever they wanted to regardless of disability. The fourth achievement is the encouragement of civic pride in each region. One of the examples is "Upopoy", the facility opened in Shiraoi Town, Hokkaido, and the culture and arts exchange project held there. The fifth achievement is the drastic expansion of the number of people who can participate even indirectly through online streaming. In addition, content digitization enabled the contents to be passed down to future generations. I think we were able to achieve this result because we fought back against the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please tell us what you expect from the Japan Cultural Expo in the future.

It is rare for international events like the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2021 and Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, in 2025 to be held at short intervals. I expect the Japan Cultural Expo project to, looking toward 2025, develop programmes that take advantage of the legacy that the artists and art organizations have achieved through the Expo and fully play the roles that the Expo was originally expected to play when the COVID-19 ends.

Tokyo Tokyo FESTIVAL SPECIAL



Tokyo Tokyo FESTIVAL Special 13 was a series of cultural programmes aimed to be remembered by many people and implemented 13 innovative and creative programmes

13 projects were selected through a public call process from a total of 2,436 project proposals submitted from within Japan and overseas, designed to liven up host city Tokyo with culture. Some programmes started to be implemented in 2019, but the project was forced to be postponed in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2021, the creative programmes that took on new challenges to pave the way for the future were implemented across various genres around Tokyo by September while taking preventive measures against COVID-19.

Implemented programmes: SUPER WALL ART TOKYO, masayume, Pavilion Tokyo 2021, The Speed of Light, The Constant Gardeners, Light and Sound Installation “Coded Field”, TOKYO SENTO Festival 2020, TOKYO REAL UNDERGROUND、DANCE TRUCK TOKYO, World Performing Arts Forum, After-school Diversity Dance, SUMIDA RIVER: Storm and Urge, Exhibition of manga 《What if Tokyo》

Hosted by: The Tokyo Metropolitan Government, Arts Council Tokyo, Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture

SUPER WALL ART TOKYO



“Super Wall Art Tokyo” Drill Inc.

Participating artists: Tadanori Yokoo, Mimi Yokoo
Planning and management: Drill Inc.

Marunouchi Building and Shin-Marunouchi Building transformed into huge canvases

It is one of the largest works of public art in the world that was planned to convey a symbolic message of Tokyo Tokyo FESTIVAL. The two buildings in front of Tokyo Station were used as a pair of canvases, and the two huge murals with approx. 150 m in height and approx. 35 m in width were exhibited. As a cultural programme to be remembered by people, the magnificent artwork exhibited in the urban space boldly spread the beauty of Tokyo as a city of arts and culture to the world.

- 📅 July 17, 2021- September 5, 2021
- 📍 Marunouchi Building, Shin-Marunouchi Building

masayume



masayume, 目 [mé], 2019-21 Photo : KANEDA Kazo

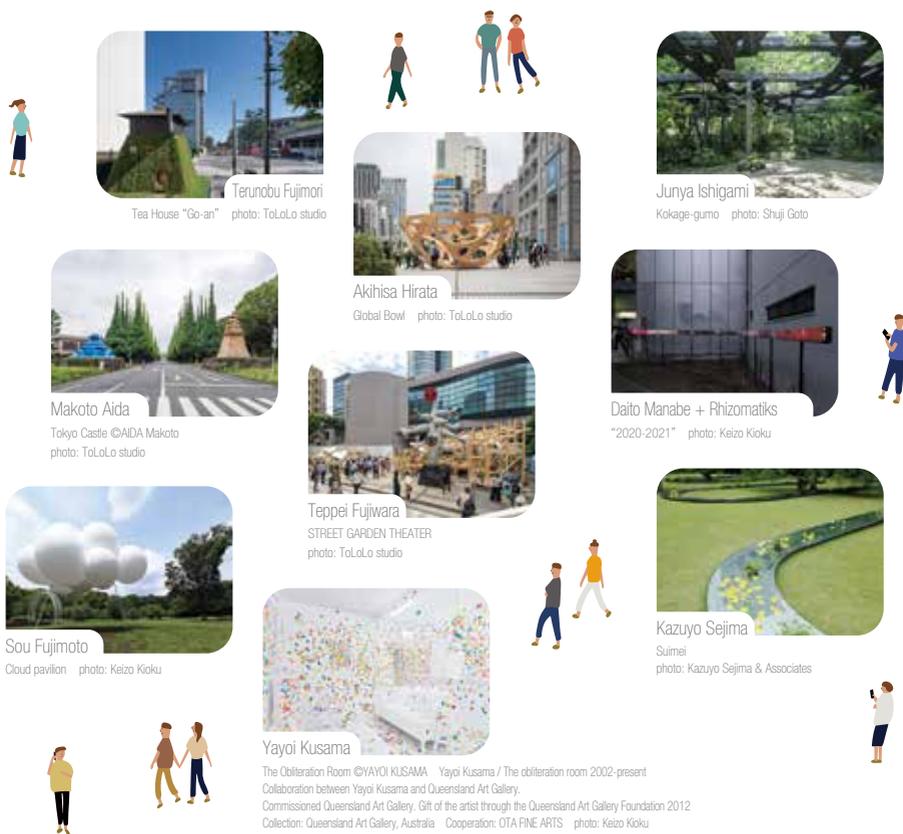
Planning: 目 [mé]

An astonishing scene with a gigantic face floating up in the sky

It is a work created in Tokyo by the contemporary art team 目 [mé]. The project invited people around the world to submit photos of their faces and then they chose the face of a real person to float up into the sky of Tokyo in 2021. A gigantic face suddenly appeared in the sky of Tokyo. Such a mysterious, astonishing scene surprised many people and gathered attention.

- 📅 July 16 & August 13, 2021
- 📍 Yoyogi, around the Sumida River

Pavilion Tokyo 2021



Nine pavilions appeared in Tokyo in the summer of 2021

It is the first project in the world that proposed a free, new urban landscape by placing pavilions designed by architects and artists who are active all over the world at multiple locations in Tokyo, mainly around Japan National Stadium. Like a treasure hunt with a map in hand or on a walk, viewers could go around the pavilions where the creators expressed their hopes for the future. This project provided visitors an opportunity to feel the attractions of Tokyo as a city and the beauty of Japanese architecture.

Participating creators

Terunobu Fujimori, Kazuyo Sejima, Sou Fujimoto, Akihisa Hirata, Junya Ishigami, Teppi Fujiwara, Makoto Aida, Yayoi Kusama
 Additional Creator: Daito Manabe + Rhizomatiks
Co-organizer
 Executive Committee of Pavilion Tokyo 2021

📅 July 1, 2021 – September 5, 2021

📍 Nine locations in Tokyo, mainly around the Japan National Stadium

The Speed of Light



Written and directed by Marco Canale

A play that puts a spotlight on Tokyo and allows audiences to imagine its future

A tour-type theatrical project directed by Marco Canale, a theater and film director from Argentina. The actors were local seniors aged 65 and over who live in Tokyo and were selected through an open call process. The director conducted extensive research on Tokyo's culture and history, as well as the personal histories of citizens, and created a story where the past, present, and future worlds intersected. The audience enjoyed performances while moving around on foot following the actors' instructions.

📅 May 22, 2021

📍 Areas around locations around Taishido, Setagaya City, special outdoor stage at Taishido Hachiman Shrine

The Constant Gardeners



Photographer: Jimmy Cohrissen Courtesy of Jason Bruges Studio

Planning and production: Jason Bruges Studio

Integration of robotics, Japanese garden culture, and sports

An installation that combined robotics, Japanese garden culture, and sports to express a garden landscape on a large gravel canvas with ripple marks created by the "Gardeners", or industrial robotic arms that were programmed to trace the movements of athletes in various disciplines. During the period of the Games, the installation created approx. 150 patterns of creative works, and visitors enjoyed various landscapes created by this installation that combined traditions and the future.

📅 July 28, 2021- September 5, 2021

📍 Takenodai Plaza in Ueno Onshi Park

Light and Sound Installation “Coded Field”



Light and Sound Installation “Coded Field” (2019) Photos provided by: Rhizomatiks

Participating artists: Elevenplay, Miu Sakamoto (voice)
 Planning and production: Rhizomatiks

Festival of light and sound for people and the city

An artistic space filled with light and sound was created utilizing not only the cutting-edge media technologies and GPS but also combining communication technologies, such as multiple location information measurement systems used simultaneously in and around Zojoji Temple in Shiba, Minato City. The participants moved around the venue with a balloon-shaped device in their hands to experience the installations and enjoyed the live performance.

📅 November 16, 2019

📍 Daihonzan of Japanese Pure Land Buddhism Zojoji, Minato City Shiba Park, Metropolitan Shiba Park

TOKYO REAL UNDERGROUND



Photo by Takuya Matsumi

Participating artists: Kim Itoh, Eiko Otake, Takao Kawaguchi, William Klein, Yuki Kobayashi, Naoyuki Sakai, Pechika Satoh, Tomomi Tanabe, Haus, Daisuke Yoshimoto, and more (in the order of the Japanese syllabary)
 Planning and management: NPO Dance Archive Network

Festival of BUTOH, a form of dance created in Japan

This festival focused on *Butoh*, a form of performing art that was created in Japan in the 1960s and became popular all around the world. From a contemporary standpoint and implemented performance/exhibition programmes were held mainly online. Moving beyond the stereotypes of *Butoh*, such as white body makeup and slow movements, the artists who are active in Japan and overseas freely expressed themselves in their performances across various genres, such as dance, music, and video. This project reached a wider audience through the online programmes.

📅 April 1, 2021- August 15, 2021

📍 Online and multiple locations in Tokyo

TOKYO SENTO Festival 2020



Participating artists: Takeru Aoki, Ichio Otsuka, Daijiro Ohara, Kiyomi Hoshi, Mari Yamazaki (in the order of the Japanese syllabary)
 Planning and management: TOKYO SENTO Festival 2020 Executive Committee

A relaxing, artistic sento! Spreading the bathhouse culture to the world

This project created an opportunity for visitors to enjoy arts in their daily life at a sento (bathhouse) which is part of Japanese livelihood culture in cooperation with artists of various genres, such as manga, modern art, and art brut. Many people experienced a new way of enjoying arts and sentos, “relax and enjoy the arts.”

📅 May 26, 2021- September 5, 2021

📍 All Sentos members of Tokyo Sento Association’s Sento

DANCE TRUCK TOKYO



photo by bozzo

Planning and management: The Japan Dance Truck Association

Innovative dance experience on a truck

A transport truck turned into a temporary theater inviting cutting-edge artists from various genres and held performances around Tokyo. The cargo space of the truck became a device that connected people’s bodies, light, and sound while resonating with the surrounding environment. The site-specific spectacle that featured various landscapes of Tokyo fascinated many people.

📅 September 5, 2019- September 5, 2021

📍 Shinjuku, Adachi, Shibuya, Fuchu, Takanawa*, Tsukiji*, Tachikawa, Higashijima, Hachijojima Island*

*Filmed with no audience and streamed

World Performing Arts Forum



Planning and production: The Japan Folk Performing Arts Association

Introduction of valuable intangible cultural heritages of the world including Japan

Based on the research conducted in six countries on five continents in 2019, folk performing arts from all over the world were introduced through videos, as well as performances of the songs and dances of Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima to support the reconstruction of the Tohoku region. Live Tokyo-style Taiko drum performance also took place on the stage. In the following talk session, guests with extensive knowledge of folk performing arts were invited to discuss about the importance and appeal of intangible cultural heritage, which is rooted in the local culture, from a variety of perspectives.

- 📅 August 1, 2021
- 📍 Hulic Hall Tokyo

SUMIDA RIVER: Storm and Urge



©Mao Yamamoto



Photo by Kenshu Shintsubo



Photo by Taisuke Koyama

Planning and management: NPO Topping East

Festival of music and arts using Sumida River as its stage

Japan's leading artists played music, gave performances, and showcased installations around the Sumida River in spring and summer, mainly online. Through various programmes that utilized the facilities and spaces near the Sumida River, the project showed how intensively the participants were intermingling with people around the world.

- 📅 Spring season:
May 22, 2021- May 23, 2021
- 📅 Summer season:
August 13, 2021- September 5, 2021
- 📍 Around the Sumida River

After-school Diversity Dance



Planning and management: ADD Executive Committee

Children experienced regional culture and created their own dance performance

The project was implemented in three areas in Tokyo which allowed children to experience cultural diversity through their encounter with people and dances that have been passed down in each area created and gave their own dance performances with professional dancers and meeting people who perform those dances. The children learned various dance styles in workshop-style sessions, tried choreographing, creating dance moves, and experienced the joy of creating something by themselves.

- 📅 September 2019- August 2021
- 📍 Minato City, Kunitachi City, Hinode Town, online workshops

Exhibition of manga 《What if Tokyo》



Participating manga artists: Inio Asano, Yaro Abe, Masakazu Ishiguro, Shinichi Ishizuka, Haruko Ichikawa, Nao Iwamoto, Yasuo Ohtagaki, Sumito Owara, Hiroya Oku, Yuki Obata, Iou Kuroda, Iou Sakisaka, Posuka Demizu, Moto Hagio, Koichi Masahara, Yusei Matsui, Taiyo Matsumoto, Minetaro Mochizuki, Kazumi Yamashita, Sensha Yoshida (in the order of the Japanese syllabary)

Twenty newly drawn manga works under the theme "What if Tokyo were"

It is an art project that exhibited the 20 works newly drawn by 20 leading Japanese manga artists under the theme of "Tokyo." It was a new type of manga exhibition under the concept of "Read Tokyo, Walk Manga," where visitors walked around to enjoy the exhibited works scattered around the venue. The "What if Tokyo" scenes that nobody had seen drawn by the manga artists with their imagination and expressive abilities fascinated many people and are to be remembered.

- 📅 August 4, 2021- September 5, 2021
- 📍 Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo

Tokyo Caravan



Tokyo Caravan -Prologue- (2015) Photographer: Yoshikazu Inoue

Mingling of cultures brought about by the interaction between various artists across genres

Under the direction of general supervisor Hideki Noda, this project has created and developed performances around Japan based on the idea that interaction between people leads to the creation of new cultures. It kicked off in 2015 as one of the leading projects that would lead the cultural programme of Tokyo. A wide range of celebrities figures in the fields of arts and culture and young up-and-coming artists participated in this project and fascinated many people with their amazing performances.

📅 2015-2021

📍 Komazawa in Tokyo, Rio de Janeiro, Tohoku (Sendai, Soma), Roppongi, Kyoto (Nijo-jo Castle, Kameoka), Hachioji, Kumamoto, Toyota, Kochi, Akita, Iwaki, Saitama, Toyama, Okayama, Hokkaido

TURN



TURN Fes 3 (2017) Photographer: Yuji Ito

Tokyo 2020 Nippon Festival

Creation of artistic expression in the form of interaction between various people

With Katsuhiko Hibino as supervisor, this art project created artistic expression in the form of interaction among various people from different background and customs, including disability, generation, gender, nationality, and living environment. It kicked off in 2015 as one of the leading projects that would lead the cultural programme of Tokyo. Its aim was to create a prosperous society where everyone respects other people the way they are through collaborative activities with artists and welfare facilities.

📅 2015-2021

📍 Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum, other locations in Tokyo

Summer Festival Opera 2019–20 Tokyo ↔ World



©Rikimaru Hotta

An international opera project developed by leading theaters

This festival was an international opera project developed as the first co-production of the Tokyo Bunka Kaikan and the New National Theatre, Tokyo, in cooperation with the major theaters around Japan, led by Kazushi Ono as the general producer. In 2019, Turandot, a story set in Asia, was performed with the Barcelona Symphony Orchestra in the pit. The orchestra's appearance added excitement by marking its first visit to Japan after 24 years.

📅 2019-2021

📍 Tokyo Bunka Kaikan, New National Theatre, Tokyo, Biwako Hall, Sapporo Cultural Arts Theater hitaru

TOKYO MET SaLaD MUSIC FESTIVAL



OKI Orchestra (2021) ©The Tokyo Symphony Orchestra

A music festival for people of all ages from babies to adults can enjoy

It kicked off in 2018 as a music festival where everyone can experience and express the joy of music. SaLaD stands for *Sing and Listen and Dance*. Under that concept, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government and the Tokyo Metropolitan Orchestra provide various programmes, such as concerts and workshops, in cooperation with Tokyo Metropolitan Theatre and the Toshima City Government.

📅 2018-

📍 Tokyo Metropolitan Theatre, Ikebukuro area, etc.

FUROSHIKI TOKYO



Modern upgrade of furoshiki, a cloth imbued with Japanese people's wisdom and aesthetics

Furoshiki is a square piece of cloth and the world's first eco-bag. Furoshiki is imbued with hospitality and Japanese people's wisdom and aesthetics. This project spread the appeal of Japanese culture and the message of Tokyo as a city working on environmental problems and disaster prevention measures by holding the exhibitions and workshops at Tokyo prefectural cultural facilities and placing furoshiki cloths at the Olympic and Paralympic Village so that athletes and officials could pick them up.

📅 2019-2021

📍 Olympic and Paralympic village, Edo-Tokyo Museum, Edo-Tokyo Open Air Architectural Museum, etc.

TOKYO CULTURE LIVE STUDIO



Casual experience of Japan's traditional culture and performing arts

Because of the review of the Tokyo 2020 Live Site, a website was launched to enable people to casually watch performance videos and demonstration videos of traditional culture and performing arts, replacing the special booth that had been planned as a venue for cultural experience and introduction. It enabled the viewers in Japan and overseas to enjoy Japanese culture from home by introducing Japan's traditional culture and performing arts of the tea ceremony, Japanese-style flower arrangement, noh plays, and Japanese imperial court music and dance and more casual content, such as origami, hand printing of ukiyo-e, furoshiki, and tamasudare.

📅 2021.7-12

📍 Online

Tokyo Media Center introducing Japanese culture to the world



Introduce the appeal of traditional culture to the overseas media

As a news gathering base for reporters from abroad, the Tokyo Media Center introduced Japan's traditional culture and performing arts and provided opportunities to experience them. The videos about tea ceremony, Japanese-style flower arrangement, noh plays, and koto music were played and kimono (junihitoe), craft dolls, Japanese warrior armor and helmets, and furoshiki cloths were exhibited in an easy-to-understand way for non-Japanese people. In addition, the mini events to enjoy noh plays and koto music were held to introduce the appeal of various traditional cultures and performing arts of Japan and Tokyo.

📅 July 21, 2021- August 9, 2021
August 23, 2021- September 5, 2021

📍 Tokyo Media Center

Tokyo Grand Tea Ceremony



A large-scale tasteful tea ceremony that anyone can enjoy

A large-scale tea ceremony is held at the open-air museum and garden in Tokyo, where various schools of tea ceremony gather. Its aim is to introduce to people in Japan and abroad the culture of tea and the cultures of Edo and Tokyo that have fostered it. Those who are not familiar with tea ceremonies and non-Japanese people can enjoy the event. This tea ceremony has become popular and known as an iconic event of fall in Tokyo.

📅 2008-. The event was cancelled in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

📍 Hamarikyu Garden, Edo-Tokyo Open Air Architectural Museum

Tokyo Grand Tea Ceremony 2019

Roppongi Art Night



©Roppongi Art Night Executive Committee

Festival of arts in the town of Roppongi

It is a festival of arts that exhibits works scattered around the venue and creates extraordinary experiences by spreading various works, including not only artworks but also designs, music, videos, and performances, across the town of Roppongi. With the aim of creating an innovative model of urban development in a metropolitan city, this festival is improving year by year.

Japan Cultural Expo

beyond2020

🕒 2009-

📍 Roppongi Hills, Mori Art Museum, etc.

Genkō Yokoo Tadanori

From the original homeland to the realm of imagination, and what is the present state?



An exhibition of the comprehensive collection of Yokoo's creative works

Since his debut in the 1960s, legendary artist Tadanori Yokoo has always been active as one of the leading artists. In so many of his creative works, he has been depicting the realm of imagination as a wild and abundant world of images that is drawn from the original homeland of the souls of all humans. This is an exhibition of the comprehensive collection of his works.

Japan Cultural Expo

beyond2020

🕒 July 17, 2021- October 17, 2021

📍 Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo

Recital for everyone Tomin Performer's Corner (TOPACO)



A new opportunity for every citizen to participate and perform

TOPACO is a project aimed at creating opportunities for amateur performer groups active in Tokyo to present what they have been practicing by utilizing various venues in cooperation with private companies. Through the presentations of the artistic and cultural activities by citizens, the project spread the appeal of the culture of Tokyo, the host city of the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

🕒 March 2017- March 2021

📍 In front of Shibuya Stream, Inaribashi Square, etc.

A New Fine Day: Shinoyama Kishin



<A Fine Day> 1974 collection of the Tokyo Photographic Art Museum

The first large-scale retrospective exhibition to introduce the works of Kishin Shinoyama and his career for 60 years

It is the first large-scale retrospective exhibition of the works of Kishin Shinoyama who has been active since the 1960s as one of the leading photographers known for contributing to the rise of publishing cultures, such as magazines. His masterpiece published in 1974, A Fine Day, is an edgy book of photographs in which he captured the social trends at that time from a broad perspective and criticized them. Based on that concept, this exhibition introduced his works and career of 60 years.

🕒 May 18, 2021- August 15, 2021

📍 Tokyo Photographic Art Museum

Isamu Noguchi: Ways of Discovery



An exhibition where visitors can feel the essence of Noguchi's art

Isamu Noguchi (1904–1988) is one of the leading artists of the 20th century. Born to a Japanese father and an American mother, he developed his own sculptural philosophy while struggling with identity conflicts. This exhibition enables visitors to follow the ways of discovery to his unique stone sculptures in his later years while enjoying various works by Noguchi.

Japan Cultural Expo

🕒 April 24, 2021-August 29, 2021

📍 Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum

Special exhibition Splendors of Edo: Rites of the Samurai, Festivals of the Merchants



Black-lacquered woman's pairoku with plum and arabesque patterns and scattered three diamonds-in-a-circle crests in maki-e The late Edo Period Collection of the Edo-Tokyo Museum

A closer look at the bright, vibrant aspects of Edo, one of the largest cities in the world

This exhibition introduces the bright, vibrant aspects of Edo, a city with an estimated population of 1 million, with a focus on celebratory occasions, such as rites, festivals, and marriages of samurai, merchants, and townspeople living in Edo. The exceptional pieces from the museum's collection, items to be exhibit for the first time, and other outstanding items were exhibited.

Japan Cultural Expo

beyond2020

🕒 July 10, 2021- September 20, 2021

📍 Edo-Tokyo Museum

RENÉ LALIQUE REMIX: Searching for Inspiration in the Times



Plaque du Cou - Brooch Sylphide c. 1900, Private Collection, Courtesy of Albion Art Jewellery Institute

Focus on René Lalique's rich source of inspiration

René Lalique (1860–1945) carved out his own path as an artist, evolving beyond being a jewellery/glass designer. In response to the changing times, he shifted his focus from valuable jewellery to glass art, which was closer to people's lives. This programme introduced how he observed the world and pursued ornaments as art.

🕒 June 26, 2021- September 5, 2021

📍 Tokyo Metropolitan Teien Art Museum

Feature exhibition Color Sumo Wood-Block Prints and Edo Culture



Draw in the bout between Onogawa and Tanikaze, Shunei Katsukawa/around 1791, collection of the Edo-Tokyo Museum

Introduce various appeals of sumo of the Edo Period by mainly exhibiting sumo nishiki-e

In the Edo period, watching sumo wrestling became a popular form of entertainment among common people and sumo flourished around the end of the 18th century with the success and growing popularity of wrestlers. Around the same time, nishiki-e wood-block prints fascinated people. Sumo nishiki-e, which realistically depicts body shapes and facial features that differ wrestler to wrestler, appeared. The exhibition focused on the relationship between sumo and nishiki-e that had developed into the sport and art that represent Japan, respectively.

🕒 July 17, 2021- September 5, 2021

📍 Edo-Tokyo Museum

Ensembles Tokyo



A music festival where artists and participants play together

It is an interactive music festival that aims to enable all the participants with different backgrounds and styles to create a new platform for music, under the direction of the musician Yoshihide Otomo. The workshops were held in advance, and the participating visitors and the artists got on the stage together and played music.

📅 2015-2020

📍 Tokyo Tower, online streaming, etc.

Heaven Artists



Provide places where people can casually enjoy playing music and giving performances

Heaven Artists are artists who have passed the screening by experts in music and performance conducted by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government and obtained a license. They play music or give performances at the designated public places, such as parks and provide opportunities for people to casually enjoy culture and arts.

📅 2002-

📍 Multiple locations in Tokyo (73 locations (54 facilities))

Shibuya StreetDance Week



Spread the appeal of street dance from Shibuya to the world

This programme connects performers (dancers), participants (audience), and venues (stages), establishes the position of street dance as a new form of arts and culture that is supported by a wide range of people, and introduces the appeal and real value of street dance from Shibuya, the mecca of street dancers, to the world. It is a festival of street dance held to create a vibrant town.

📅 2015-

📍 Yoyogi Park, online streaming, and other venues

Performance Kids Tokyo



Artists are sent to help children produce their own stage performance

Professional performing artists in the fields, such as dance, theater, and music, are sent to schools and halls for around 10 days to hold workshops and help children produce their original stage performance and present it on the last day. Artists respect children's ideas and help them produce their own performance to foster their creativity and autonomy and improve their communication skills.

📅 2008-

📍 Elementary and junior high schools and halls in Tokyo

Tokyo Festival



Outdoor play NIPPON CHA! CHA! CHA! Photographer: Magu Sumita

A comprehensive urban art festival that introduces the appeal of Tokyo's arts and cultures

The Tokyo Festival is a comprehensive urban art festival aimed at connecting with the world through Tokyo's diverse and sophisticated arts and culture. Performing arts festivals are held mainly in the Ikebukuro area, Toyoshima City. Under the direction of theater director Satoshi Miyagi, 7 field-specific directors work together to offer unique programs. Tokyo Festival aims to improve creativity in arts and culture in Tokyo.

📅 2016-

📍 Tokyo Metropolitan Theatre, Owlspot Theatre, and other venues

Tokyo Festival Special Performance Fantastic Site



Dairakudakan Temptenshiki Crazy Camel Garden Photographer: Hiroyuki Kawashima

Butoh, a form of dance created in Japan, and dance performances

In Tokyo, there are some sites where we can feel Tokyo's transition from Edo to Tokyo. At such historical sites in Tokyo, the dancers of butoh (ankoku butoh), a form of bodily expression that arose in Japan and then received international recognition as one of the genres of performing arts, and other dance styles that have developed from butoh performed.

📅 2020-2021

📍 Garden of the Tokyo Metropolitan Teien Art Museum, online streaming

Legendary Tamatebako -Tama Traditional Culture Festival-



Introduce the appeal of the traditional culture of the Tama District, Tokyo

This festival introduces the appeal of the traditional culture of the Tama district with various programmes such as kurumaningyo puppet plays, ohayashi, rural kabuki, and shadow plays. The programme provides new experiences by combining new and old cultures and Japanese and Western cultures through performances on the outdoor stages and concerts on the streets.

Tokyo 2020 NIPPON Festival

📅 2016-

📍 Hachioji and Tama Districts, online streaming

Kagurazaka Street Stage O-edo Tour



Traditional performing arts presentations in the Kagurazaka area

Sophisticated, stylish traditional performing arts presentations are held live in various locations in the Kagurazaka area where tradition meets modernity, such as Bishamonten Zenkokuji Temple, Akagi Shrine, Kagurazaka-dori, and cobblestoned alleys. In this two-day event, everyone including people from abroad and young people casually enjoy Japanese traditional culture and performing arts and discover the town of Kagurazaka through activities, such as ozashiki party experience with geishas and the stamp rally.

📅 2018-

📍 Kagurazaka area, online streaming

Wassai

A special festival that enables people to form wa (circle) and creates harmony

Under the theme "Participation, Interaction, and Dialogue," the online event in which various people interacted with each other through Japanese culture was held in the virtual Olympic Stadium as a programme to set the mood for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games right before the opening. The programme aimed to enable people all over the world to create a new festival and interact with each other by allowing the participants to use the avatars created with illustrations that had been posted by people from all over the world in advance and dance together in the virtual space with the dancers performing on the stage.

Executive producer/ Komei Sugano

🕒 2021.7.18 📺 Online streaming



Rediscover Tohoku

MOCCO's Journey from Tohoku to Tokyo Presented by ENEOS

Story of MOCCO's journey to bring messages of hope for recovery

It is a cultural programme held around Tohoku and in Tokyo from May to July 2021 under the theme "Recovery of Tohoku." With the original song "Tohoku's Happiness," 10-meter tall giant puppet MOCCO created for the event spread Tohoku's message of gratitude for the support the region had received from various countries around the world since the Great East Japan Earthquake, the region's vigorous efforts for recovery, and the appeal of Tohoku's culture, and contributed to the Recovery Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Creative director/ Michihiko Yanai

🕒 May 15, 2021, Rikuzentakata City, Iwate; May 22, 2021, Iwanuma City, Miyagi; May 29, 2021, Minamisoma City, Fukushima; July 17, 2021, Shinjuku Gyoen National Garden (online streaming)



ONE -Our New Episode-
Presented by Japan Airlines-
MAZEKOZE Island Tour

Experience the joy and comfort of mazekeze (diversity) by traveling through the nine unique islands

Under the theme "Toward the Realization of an Inclusive Society," this programme enabled viewers to experience the joy and comfort of "mazekeze" by traveling through the nine unique islands where the appeal of diversity and an inclusive island were expressed with the power of entertainment.

General organizer, producer, and executive director/ Chizuru Azuma

🕒 2021.8.22 📺 Online streaming

Japan Cultural Expo



Japan Cultural Expo

CANAL ART MOMENT SHINAGAWA 2021

~Art Empowerment~



Provide traditional culture and performing arts contents along the canal

This programme utilizes the Tennozu Canal as an innovative, creative venue and the barges moored on the canal as a stage and audience seats. The contents to introduce Japanese traditional culture and performing arts were provided to tourists from home and abroad and local residents and people working in the area, along with the images mapped on the walls of the buildings using projection mapping technology.

beyond2020

🕒 August 28, 2021
📺 Online streaming

The Mahabharata

~Chapter of Desire/Chapter of Tempes



Theatrical production of the full story of the ancient Indian epic Mahabharata

The Mahabharata, one of the three greatest epics of the world and the source of Asian philosophy, was performed. The programme depicted the story of the conflict between two tribes while comparing it with the modern society and spread the message of peace and inclusiveness by incorporating the themes of good and evil, life and death, love, and battle to question how humans should live. It was the first stage performance of the full story of the Mahabharata by Asians.

🕒 August 20, 2021- August 23, 2021
📍 Nakano Zero Main Hall

The concert played by the kocarina made of the National Stadium tree

~Peaceful World for Children~



The sound of kocarina! Hoping for a peaceful world with children

The kocarina is a wooden ocarina. Japanese musicians and woodcrafters developed it into an instrument with a beautiful tone and wide sound range. In this concert, kocarina players and children played the kocarina made of the tree cut down when the former National Stadium had been demolished to construct the new stadium, hoping that children all over the world struggling in the COVID-19 crisis could return together to peaceful life as soon as possible.

🕒 August 22, 2021
📍 Shinjuku Bunka Center

INCLUSIVE NIPPON

2020 Noh and Kyogen special performance from Shinagawa City



Introduce the potential of Japanese traditional theater to achieve an inclusive society

A special performance of noh and kyogen was given by the two organizations that have been engaging in unique activities in the field of noh plays. The aim of this programme was to help achieve an inclusive society where people could meet, enjoy together, and find new values, regardless of disability, age, and nationality. It introduced the potential of noh plays, the traditional theater Japan boasts of to the world, to promote inclusion to the world from Shinagawa where some of the games were held.

🕒 August 1, 22, 28, 2021
📍 National Noh Theatre, Kita Noh Theatre

Premium Yosakoi in Tokyo



Introduce the appeal of Yosakoi, one of Japan's most famous festivals

Through live streaming, this event introduced the diverse appeal of Yosakoi, one of Japan's most famous festivals that is now performed in 33 countries and regions in the world, brought about by the fusion with various cultures of Japan and foreign countries. Programmes, such as the dance performances by the Yosakoi teams that represented each region and the all-team dance that viewers were also able to join, were held. With so many viewers, the event set the mood for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

- 📅 July 4, 2021
- 📺 Online streaming

Tamabi DNA - A Genealogy of Contemporary Nihonga Japanese Paintings Since 1965



Exhibit the spirit that has been handed down through the Japanese paintings in Tama Art University Museum

Nihonga (Japanese painting) is a traditional form of painting that thrived in Japan for more than 1,000 years. Nihonga has been passed down to the present day while changing with the times because this form of painting adjusted Japan's cultural climate and the aesthetics and spirit of the Japanese people. This exhibition enabled people from all over the world to feel the spirit of the Japanese people and introduced the appeal of Nihonga and Japanese culture to the world.

- 📅 April 3, 2021- June 20, 2021
- 📍 Tama Art University Museum, etc.

Yabusame Ceremony to Wish for the Safe Holding and Success of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games



Yabusame Ceremony was held to wish for the safe holding and success of the Games

At the venue, explanations on the history and highlights of Yabusame were given in Japanese and English, as well as a running commentary. The event was live streamed, and the Yabusame performance video was also created and streamed online to provide an environment where people could watch Yabusame and understand its appeal at home.

Japan Cultural Expo

beyond2020

- 📅 July 17, 2021
- 📺 Online streaming

Performing Arts of Edo-Tokyo



Introduce traditional performing arts of Edo and Tokyo to people around Japan and the world

This programme was held to familiarize a wide range of generations with the traditional performing arts of Edo and Tokyo and introduce their appeal on the occasion of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The programme introduced Japan's traditional performing arts to the world during the Olympic Games in coordination with the exhibition held at the Edo-Tokyo Museum adjacent to the boxing venue (Kokugikan Arena).

beyond2020

- 📅 July 23, 2021- August 7, 2021 (Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays during the period)
- 📍 Edo-Tokyo Museum

beyond2020

Special exhibition "The Mount Fuji Challenges: Hokusai and Hiroshige"

Distributing VR experience online

A complete set of woodblock prints from Katsushika Hokusai's masterpiece "Thirty-Six Views of Mt. Fuji" series and works of Utagawa Hiroshige, who had tried to surpass Hokusai, were exhibited among others to shed light on their approaches for depicting nature, most notably Mt. Fuji, that Japanese people had long felt close to and worshiped. Special photo spots were set up in the gallery, and VR content was created to enable those who were not able to visit the venue to virtually experience the exhibition space and enjoy the works on display.

- 📅 April 24, 2021- June 20, 2021
- 📍 Edo-Tokyo Museum

Presented by: The Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture, the Edo-Tokyo Museum, the Asahi Shimbun Company, the Agency for Cultural Affairs, and the Japan Arts Council



Under the Wave off Kanagawa, also known as the Great Wave, from the series Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji
c. 1831-33 KATSUSHIKA Hokusai Edo · Tokyo Museum

Special Exhibition in Commemoration of the 260th Birth Anniversary "The Complete Hokusai" Immersive Theater

A theater-type digital exhibition that uses the cutting-edge technologies

It is an unprecedented special exhibition where all the pages, pieces, and illustrations of Hokusai's masterpieces "Hokusai Manga", "Thirty-Six Views of Mt. Fuji", and "One Hundred Views of Mt. Fuji" were showcased. In addition to the display of all the pieces, an immersive theater-type digital exhibition was showcased using the cutting-edge image processing technology and the high-definition archive technology.

- 📅 July 22, 2021- September 17, 2021
- 📍 Tokyo Midtown Hall

Sponsors: TOPPAN INC., Nikkei Inc., Hakuho DY media partners Inc., TV TOKYO Corporation, BS TV TOKYO Corporation

Special cooperation: Uragami Sokyū-do

Cooperation: Hagi Uragami Museum, Yamagata Museum of Art, Aioi Nissay Dowa Insurance Co., Ltd.

HOKUSAI

The movie about the life of Hokusai Katsushika, a fanatic painter who is famous all over the world

It is the first movie to depict the untold story of the life of Hokusai Katsushika who inspired a large number of artists, such as Manet, Monet, Van Gogh, and Gauguin, and laid the foundation for modern Western paintings.

- 📅 May 28, 2021-
- 📍 Theaters in Tokyo

Director: Hajime Hashimoto

Cast: Yuya Yagira, Min Tanaka, Hiroshi Abe, Eita Nagayama, Hiroshi Tamaki and more

Distribution: S.D.P **Production:** "HOKUSAI" Production Committee



©Special Exhibition The Complete Hokusai / Photo by TOPPAN INC.



©2020 HOKUSAI MOVIE

KIMONO: Fashioning Identities



KIMONO: Fashioning Identities Gallery Teiko

Spotlight the transition of kimono and introduce Japanese people's living culture

This exhibition featured kimono, a garment that represents Japan and had been worn by Japanese people for a long time. This exhibition spotlighted kimono's transition from the Kamakura Period to today and introduced the living culture of Japanese people who had loved the seasons and nature through kimono's forms such as colors, patterns, and shapes originated from nature.

beyond2020

📅 June 30, 2020- August 23, 2020

📍 Tokyo National Museum, Heiseikan Special Exhibition Galleries

Kuma Kengo

Five Purr-fect Points for a New Public Space



Photo of the exhibition ©Kioku Teiko

A major exhibition of the work of Kengo Kuma, one of Japan's leading contemporary architects

The exhibition categorized the 68 highly public buildings selected from Kuma's architectural projects all over the world based on his five essential principles of "Hole," "Particles," "Oblique," "Softness," and "Time" and introduced them using models and videos. A 360-degree VR that allowed visitors to experience the interior space of the building and a research project that reinterpreted the urban environment from the perspective of cats were also presented.

beyond2020

📅 June 18, 2021- September 26, 2021

📍 The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo

Sacred Treasures from Ancient Nara: The Eleven-Headed Kannon of Shōrinji Temple



The venue

National treasure the Eleven-Headed Kannon of Shōrinji Temple, the cultural properties of Ōmiwa Shrine

The Eleven-Headed Kannon of Shōrinji Temple was created in the Nara period and is recognized as a masterpiece of Japanese sculpture for its solemn facial expression and well-proportioned, majestic bodily expression. This exhibition also introduced the cultural properties that had been handed down at Ōmiwa Shrine near the venue and nature worship that focused on Mt. Miwa as a deity.

beyond2020

📅 June 22, 2021- September 12, 2021

📍 Tokyo National Museum, Japanese Gallery (Honkan) Room T5

Japanese Architecture

Traditional Skills and Natural Materials



Sammon Gate, Todokujji Temple 1/10 scale model

Introduce the characteristics of the formation of Japanese architecture using models

The exhibition gave an overview of the characteristics of the formation of Japanese architecture from ancient times to the present day that utilized natural materials by exhibiting the elaborate architectural models, drawings, and tools. The valuable architectural models that had never been shown to the public mainly of the buildings designated as national treasures and important cultural properties were brought together and exhibited.

beyond2020

📅 December 8, 2020- February 21, 2021

📍 Tokyo National Museum Hoeyeikan, etc.

Kōgei 2020 -The Art of Crafting Beauty from Nature- Kōgei Dining



Kazumi Murose Hexagonal covered box with oak leaf design in maki-e 2014 Private collection

The value and beauty of Japanese kōgei (art crafts) under the theme of relationship with nature

This exhibition showcased the contemporary Japanese kōgei works highly regarded worldwide under the theme of relationship between nature and kōgei and reintroduced their value. The Kōgei Dining programme, held in conjunction with the exhibition, provided a valuable opportunity for the participants to appreciate, through the meals, the beauty that lies in the practical use of kōgei works that cannot be understood by just observing them.

beyond2020

📅 September 21, 2020- November 15, 2020

📍 Tokyo National Museum Hoeyeikan

Special Exhibition National Parks of Japan: Stories to Experience



Photo provided by the National Museum of Nature and Science

Introduce the 34 national parks around Japan from scientific and cultural aspects

The national parks are designated, conserved, and managed by the country to pass down Japan's beautiful nature to future generations. The 4K video footage taken from the air, natural history specimens, and paintings that had played an important role in designating national parks were introduced using the interpretive panels written in multiple languages. This exhibition introduced Japanese people's diverse, rich culture through national parks.

beyond2020

📅 2020.8.25-11.29

📍 National Museum of Nature and Science, Tokyo

Nature in Japan and the Spirit of Sho "200 Selected Works by Japanese Calligraphers - in commemoration of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games"



Keido Ishige "Yamatogokoro"

How the work was created (Kenichi Kuroda)

Introduce Japan's calligraphy culture through the works and the videos of the works being created

The new works created by the 202 leading contemporary calligraphers in Japan using various forms of expression, the powerful calligraphic works of the disabled people, and the works of the children and young people who would bear the next generation were exhibited. This exhibition comprehensively introduced Japan's calligraphy culture by playing the videos of some of the calligraphers creating their works and exhibiting the four important tools of calligraphy (brush, ink stone, ink stick, and paper).

beyond2020

📅 June 11, 2020- June 21, 2020

📍 The National Art Center, Tokyo

Japan Cultural Expo Special Performance Japanese Music, Song and Dance



Kabuki "Shakkyo" Kikunosuke Onoe © Japan Arts Council

The performing arts, such as Kabuki, Bunraku, and Noh, were given on the special stage

In the first part, Ainu Ancient Ceremonial Dance and the 2.5-dimensional musical Touken Ranbu: The Musical were performed. In the second part, the performing arts, such as Kabuki, Bunraku, Noh, Gagaku, Ryukyuan Classical Music, and chorus, were given on the special stage under the title of "Celebrating the Natural Beauties of Japan." Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the performances were recorded with no audience and broadcast on TV.

beyond2020

📅 March 14, 2020

📍 Tokyo National Museum Heiseikan building (No audience)

Japan Cultural Expo Special Performance at the Kokyo Gaien National Garden -Representation of Prayer-



"Okina" ©Japan Arts Council



Noh "Shakkyo" ©Japan Arts Council



Ryukyuan Dance "Yutsidaki" ©Japan Arts Council

A selection of performing arts was given at the special stage in the Kokyo Gaien National Garden in prayer for the recovery

At the special stage with the Nijubashi Bridge of the Imperial Palace in the background, the traditional performing arts event was held. The event featured Noh and Kyogen as the main performances in consideration of the historical background of Edo Castle because the Imperial Palace is located on the former site of Edo Castle. On the 14th, the performances of Ryukyuan Dance were given, praying for the reconstruction of Shuri Castle that had burnt down in a fire in 2019. Ryukyuan Dance was given at Shuri Castle in the era of the Ryukyu Kingdom and the Ryukyuan missions also gave performances in Edo. As this March marked 10 years since the Great East Japan Earthquake, the dancers of Urahama Nenbutsu Kenbai (sword dance) were invited from Ofunato City, Iwate, on the 13th to pray for the recovery from the earthquake (the performance was cancelled due to bad weather). This event provided opportunities for visitors to enjoy a selection of performing arts as well as the rich natural environment in the Imperial Palace.

beyond2020

- Plays and cast
March 12, 2021 "Okina" Kiyokazu Kanze and Mansai Nomura/ Kyogen "Sanbon Bashira" Mansaku Nomura/ Noh "Takasago" Kiyokazu Kanze, and more
March 14, 2021 Ryukyuan Dance "Yutsidaki" and other performances. Seigi Tamagusuku, Yukichi Agarie, Satoru Arakaki, and Shigeo Miyagi/ Kyogen "Kusabira" Yukio Ishida/ Noh "Shakkyo" Kiyokazu Kanze, Tetsunojo Kanze and more
*The performances on March 13, 2021, were cancelled due to bad weather.

- March 12, 2021- March 14, 2021
- Kokyo Gaien National Garden

LIVE JAPAN



Provided by: LIVE JAPAN

Providing useful information helping inbound tourists plan their trip to Japan

As a one-stop guide providing sightseeing support to inbound tourists, this website introduces Japanese culture, food, and tourist attractions, among others. Accessible via smartphone and PC browsers, it also provides information on events and facilities in eight languages in real-time. LIVE JAPAN also streams tourism videos and provides comprehensive information related to COVID-19 prevention in multiple languages.

- 2016-
- Online

Introduction of the Japanese food culture business



Provided by: MOS FOOD SERVICE, INC.

Provide a space for information and menus in foreign languages

In cooperation with the willing host town governments, MOS FOOD SERVICES, INC. provided a space on the host town activities in their stores located in those host towns. In addition, the company provided menus in 42 languages for the partner countries and regions, introduced them in their stores in those host towns, and released them on the official website of MOS BURGER. Through these efforts, the company helped exchanges with foreign countries and globalization of local communities.

- 2019-2021
- Some of MOS BURGER stores

National Museums & The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo X Isetan Mitsukoshi Collaboration Project



Product image Provided by Isetan Mitsukoshi Holdings

Provide special gifts with famous works of art printed on them

This project aims to introduce Japanese culture of gift giving through aesthetic gift products. Collaboration gifts with various famous works of art housed by National Museums and the National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo printed on their packages are sold as special season greeting gifts such as Ochugen, Oseibo, and souvenirs. Each product includes a descriptive note about the work written in English to target inbound tourists.

- 2019-
- Some of Isetan Mitsukoshi Group's departments, online shop

Talk to offer help/ Support Campaign



Provided by: The Tokyo Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Pass down the spirit of mutual assistance as the legacy of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games

This campaign encourages people to talk to those who seem to be in trouble or need support such as elderly people, children, pregnant women, people with children, disabled people, and non-Japanese people, with compassion and the spirit of hospitality. It aims to achieve an inclusive society where everyone can live comfortably and pass it down to future generations as our legacy.

- 2015-
- In Tokyo