

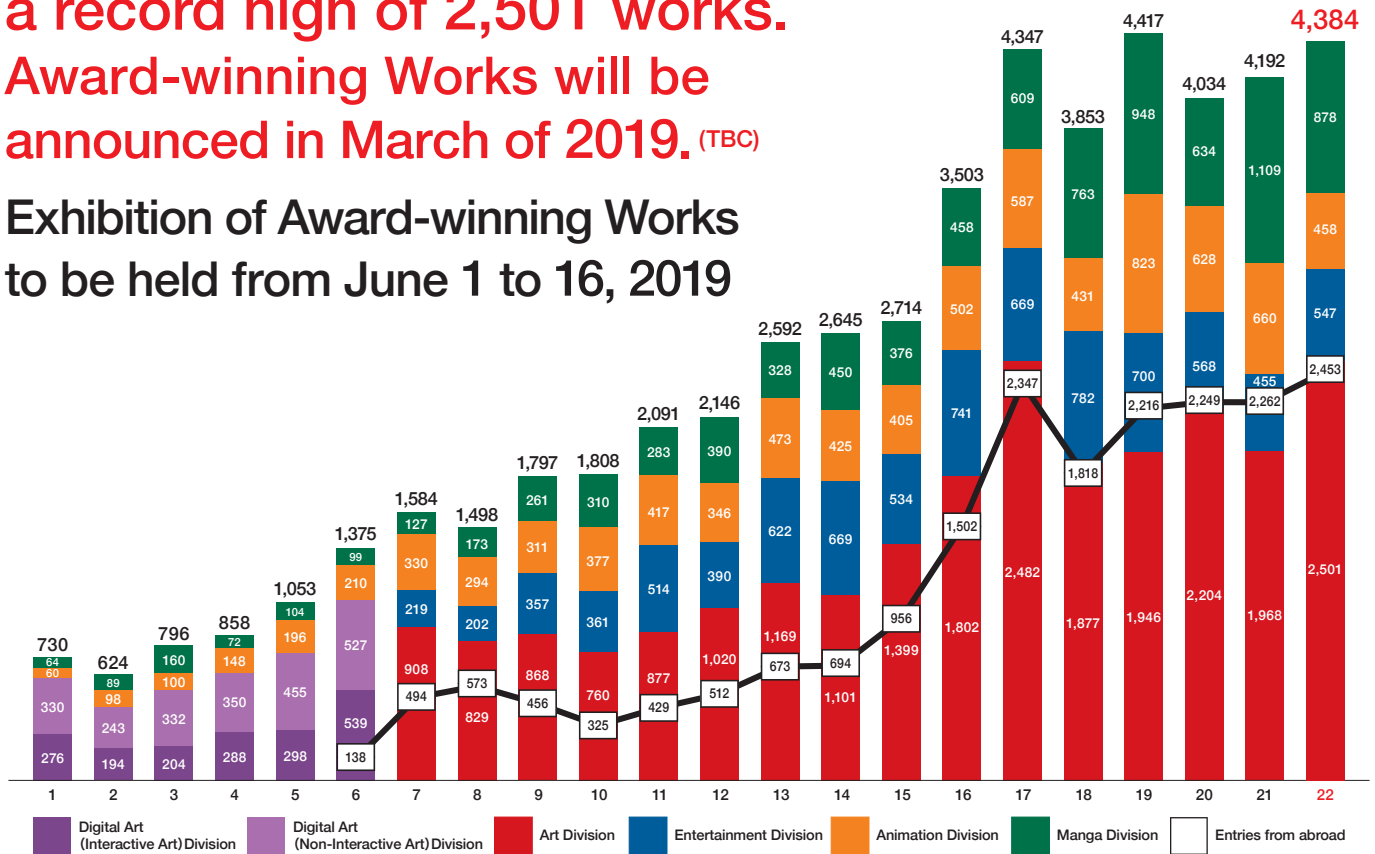
The 22nd Japan Media Arts Festival

Total number of entries: 4,384

Record-high international entries from 101 countries and regions. Entries for the Art Division also marking a record high of 2,501 works.

Award-winning Works will be announced in March of 2019. (TBC)

Exhibition of Award-winning Works to be held from June 1 to 16, 2019



The 22nd Japan Media Arts Festival closed entries on October 5, 2018. As last time, the festival saw enthusiastic participation with a total of 4,384 works submitted. 2,453 international entries from 101 countries and regions reached record high, while the entries for the Art Division also marking a record high of 2,501. These numbers reflect the festival’s increasing international recognition as a showcase that widely presents diverse and contemporary artistic expressions in the field of “Media Arts.” In the following months, jury members of each division will review the entries. Significant works from each division exhibiting a high degree of artistry and creativity will be awarded the Grand Prize, the Excellence Award, and the New Face Award. These works will be announced together with the Special Achievement Awards and Jury Selections in March of 2019. (TBC) The Exhibition of Award-winning Works is planned to be held from June 1 to 16 at venues in Odaiba area (Tokyo), including Miraikan.

Japan Media Arts Festival Overview Website <http://j-mediaarts.jp>

The 22nd Japan Media Arts Festival Website <http://festival.j-mediaarts.jp>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/JapanMediaArtsFestival>

Twitter @JMediaArtsFes

Summary of Entries

Divisions: Four Divisions (Art, Entertainment, Animation, Manga)

Entry Period: Wednesday, August 1 - Friday, October 5, 2018 66 days

■ Number of Entries

Art Division	
Interactive art	230
Media installations	250
Video works	603
Video installations	208
Graphic art	1,073
Internet art	55
Media performances	82
計	2,501

Entertainment Division	
Games	61
Video / sound works	271
Multimedia productions	98
Gadgets, electronic devices	58
Websites	25
Application software	34
計	547

Animation Division	
Animated feature films	57
Animated series	
Animated short films	401
計	458

マンガ部門	
Comics published in book form Comics published in a magazine	708
Comics published online	49
Self-published comics	121
計	878

Total number	4,384
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■ Entries from Abroad

2,453 works from 101 countries and regions

(last time's festival received 2,262 works from 97 countries and regions)

Algeria, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Canada, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guernsey, Hong Kong, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Malaysia, Malta, Martinique, Mexico, Moldova, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Syria, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela, Vietnam, Yemen, Zimbabwe
(Alphabetical order)

Award-winning Works will be announced in March of 2019. (TBC)

Announcement of Award-winning Works : March of 2019 (TBC)

Exhibition of Award-winning Works : Saturday, June 1 – Sunday, June 16, 2019
Venue : National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation (Miraikan)
(2-3-6 Aomi, Koto-ku, Tokyo, Japan) etc.

■ Jury Members

Art Division

ABE Kazunao [Curator, Art Producer]
AKIBA Fuminori [Aesthetician and Associate Professor, Nagoya University]
Georg TREMMEL [Artist and Researcher]
IKEGAMI Takashi [Researcher of Complex Systems Sciences and Professor, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at the University of Tokyo]
MORIYAMA Tomoe [Curator, Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo]

Entertainment Division

ENDO Masanobu [Game Creator and Professor, Tokyo Polytechnic University]
KAWADA Tom [AR3Bros.(Three Brothers of Augmented Reality)]
NAKAGAWA Daichi [Critic, Editor]
SAITO Seiichi [Creative Director and CEO, Rhizomatiks co.,ltd.]
SATO Naoki [Art Director and Professor, Tama Art University]

■ Selection Members

Art Division

FUJIKAWA Haruka [Curator, Chigasaki City Museum of Art]
IMURA Yasuko [Lecturer, Institute of Advanced Media Arts and Sciences]
KANAZAWA Kodama [Independent Curator and Senior Deputy Director of Curatorial Affairs, Towada Art Center]
MIZUNO Masanori [Associate Professor, Department of Creative Media Studies, Konan Women's University]
TADOKORO Atsushi [Creative Coder]
WATANABE Tomoya [Artist and Talent]

■ Awards

Significant works exhibiting high levels of artistry and creativity in each division will be awarded the Grand Prize, the Excellence Award, and the New Face Award. In addition, based on the recommendation of the jury members, individuals or groups who have made special contributions to the field of Media Arts will be presented with the Special Achievement Awards.

Grand Prize: Certificate*, trophy, 1,000,000 Japanese Yen

Excellence Award: Certificate*, trophy, 500,000 Japanese Yen

New Face Award: Certificate*, trophy, 300,000 Japanese Yen

Special Achievement Award: Certificate*, trophy

Other outstanding works will be chosen by the jury as Jury Selections.

* Certificates will be presented by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology

Animation Division

KIFUNE Tokumitsu
[Animation Artist and Representative, IKIF+ and Professor, Tokyo Zokei University]
MORINO Kazuma [Director and CG Artist]
NISHIKUBO Mizuho [Director]
UDA Konosuke [Animation Director]
YOKOTA Masao [MD and Ph.D., Professor, Nihon University]

Manga Division

KAWAHARA Kazuko [Manga Essayist]
MINAMOTO Taro [Manga Artist and Manga Researcher]
NISHI Keiko [Manga Artist]
OMOTE Tomoyuki [Researcher, Kitakyushu Manga Museum]
SHIRAI Yumiko [Manga Artist]

Manga Division

KURAMOCHI Kayoko [Researcher, Kyoto International Manga Research Center]
MATSUDA Naomasa [Manga Artist and Lecturer, Kyoto University of Art and Design]
MIURA Kazushi [Associate Professor, Shokei University]
NISHIHARA Mari [Lecturer, Aichi Gakusen University]
ODAGIRI Hiroshi [Freelance writer]
OGINO Hitoshi [Manga Artist and Assistant Professor, Tokyo Polytechnic University]



Image from the 21st Japan Media Arts Festival

Organizer: Japan Media Arts Festival Executive Committee

Contact Information: Japan Media Arts Festival Secretariat [c/o CG-ARTS] Email : jmaf@cgarts.or.jp

■ Schedule

2018	2019
8	10
Entry Period	Judging and Selection
2018.8.1 – 10.5	2018.10 –
	3
	Announcement of Award-winning Works
	2019.3 (TBC)
	6
	Exhibition of Award-winning Works
	2019.6.1 – 16

Jury Member | Art Division

**ABE Kazunao** | Curator, Art Producer

Born in 1960 in Nagano Prefecture, ABE graduated from the Department of Aesthetics and Art History, Tokyo University of the Arts. From 1990 to 2001 he worked as a curator for the Canon ARTLAB project. Since then, he has worked on numbers of original projects including LOVERS [Kyoto Art Center, 2016] by FURUHASHI Teiji, *molecular informatics* [Yamaguchi Center of Arts and Media "YCAM", 2011] by MIKAMI Seiko, and *IO_DENCIES* [Canon ARTLAB, 1997] by Knowbotic Research. He worked for the "YCAM" pre-opening office from 2001, and from 2003 to March 2017, he had been both the Artistic Director and the Deputy Director of "YCAM". At "YCAM", he has curated and produced various original projects including *datamatics* [2006] and *supersymmetry* [2014] by IKEDA Ryoji, *ENSEMBLES* [2008] by OHTOMO Yoshihide, *LIFE-fluid, invisible, inaudible...* [2007] by SAKAMOTO Ryuichi and TAKATANI Shiro, *polar m* [2010] by Carsten NICOLAI and Marko PELJHAN, *particles* [2011] by Daito Manabe + Motoi Ishibashi, *Vanishing Mesh* [2017], and *Korogaru koen series* (Rolling Park) [2016]. 2016 Berlin "transmediale award 06" International Jury, 2009 Taipei "The 4th Digital Art Festival Awards" International Jury, 2014-2016 "The Art Encouragement Prizes" Jury of the Media Arts Division, and 2017 Gwangju "The Third ACC Festival" Guest Director.

**AKIBA Fuminori** | Aesthetician and Associate Professor, Nagoya University Newly Appointed

An associate professor at the Nagoya University Graduate School of Informatics. He specializes in aesthetics and arts. For nearly twenty years, he has worked among mathematicians, biologists, computer scientists, complex systems scientists, cognitive scientists, psychologists, philosophers of science, robot ethicists and information philosophers. Since information and life are common topics among scholars in a diverse array of fields, Akiba aims to consider beauty and art in terms of those topics. He is enjoying more opportunities to talk with creators after publishing *Creating New Aesthetics* [Misuzu Shobo, 2011].

**Georg TREMMEL** | Artist and Researcher Newly Appointed

Born in Burgenland, Austria in 1977. He earned a master's degree in media art from the University of Applied Arts Vienna, and a master's degree in interaction design from the Royal College of Art. In 2005, Tremmel and Shiho Fukuhara formed BCL, an artistic research framework, in London. He works out of Tokyo, where he mainly explores the impact of biotechnology development and water problems on society, and how our consciousness is reflected in natural, social and cultural environments. He also continues to work on activities outside the fields of science, art, and design. His mission is to use social hacking and other projects to break into closed technologies and monopolized markets to open them up to everyone. Tremmel currently works as a researcher in the Laboratory for DNA Information Analysis at the Human Genome Center at the University of Tokyo Institute of Medical Science, and as a visiting researcher at metaPhorest, a life aesthetic platform at the Hideo Iwasaki Lab at the Waseda University Faculty of Science and Engineering. He is the program director of BioClub, a platform to practice and discuss the potential of biotechnology.

**IKEGAMI Takashi** | Newly Appointed
Researcher of Complex Systems Sciences and Professor,
Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at the University of Tokyo

Graduated from the University of Tokyo Department of Physics in 1984 and earned his doctorate from the University of Tokyo Graduate School of Science in 1989. He worked as an assistant at the Kobe University Graduate School of Science in 1990. He also worked as an associate professor in the Department of General Systems Sciences at the University of Tokyo Graduate School of Arts and Sciences in 1994, and has held his current position since 2008. Ikegami is a Doctor of Science. He works energetically to connect the fields of art and science while continuing his research on complex systems and artificial life. His published works include "Life Emerges in Motion: A Constructive Approach to Life and Consciousness" (Seidosha, 2007), "Sandwich Theory of Life" (Kodansha, 2012), and "Between Human and Machine" (co-authored) (Kodansha, 2016).

**MORIYAMA Tomoe** | Curator, Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo

MORIYAMA was engaged in the launch of the Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography and its Images and Technology Gallery as a curator from 1989. While teaching at universities including the Graduate School of the University of Tokyo, Waseda University, and Bauhaus University, she has curated approximately 50 media art exhibitions in Japan and abroad. She has held her current position at the Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo since 2007. With a scholarship from the Agency for Cultural Affairs, Government of Japan, she worked at ZKM and MIT Media Lab as an invited researcher. She served as a consulting curator at the J.P. Getty Research Institute and as a jury member for the Prix Ars Electronica. At SIGGRAPH Asia in 2008 (Singapore), she was the first Japanese chair of the program "Art Gallery / Emerging Technologies." She also served as a jury member for NHK's Japan Prize. Among the major exhibitions she has curated are *IMAGINATION, A Universe in Storyboards—Birth of an Image, Meta-Visual, Haptic Literature—intersection of text/media art, Kohei Nawa—SYNTHESIS, Tokujin Yoshioka_Crystallize, mission [SPACEART]—beyond cosmologies*, and the Japan Media Arts Festival Linz Exhibition and Aichi Exhibition. Among her main published books are *Re-Imagination* and *Meta-Visual* (French Edition) (co-author and supervisor).

Jury Member | Entertainment Division



ENDO Masanobu | Game Creator and Professor, Tokyo Polytechnic University

ENDO is a pioneer among Japanese game creators. Since the 1980s he has created numerous works in a variety of fields and genres, including arcade games, home video games, PC games, card games, mobile phone applications, and smart phone applications. He is currently working on the development of game-related textbooks and the education of the next generation of game creators, while also active as a leading force in game research in Japan.



KAWADA Tom | AR3Bros. (Three Brothers of Augmented Reality)

Newly Appointed

Born in 1976 in Kumamoto Prefecture. KAWADA went to work for a sewing machine manufacturer in 1999. At his interview with the company, he presented a "Future Resume" that outlined a multitude of achievements that he eventually accomplished, including designing the company's servers and overall web environment, creating a system capable of handling parts orders throughout the world, and devising patented technology to connect sewing machines to the internet. He left the corporate world in 2009 to become the eldest of the AR 3Bros. (Three Brothers of Augmented Reality), an innovative team of developers. He has appeared on TV shows such as *Waratte itomo!* (It's Okay to Laugh!), *Jonetsu Taijiku* (Passionate Continent), and *Kagai Jugyo Yokoso Sempai* (Welcome to the Extracurricular Lesson, My Senior). His recent works include the *Hoshi ni touch panel gekijo* (Touch Panel Theater in the Stars) at Roppongi Hills in Tokyo, and the *Warp suru romen densha* (The Warping Streetcar) in Hiroshima. KAWADA is breaking new ground to augment real space through such efforts as the launch of *Techno konto* (an event for comedians to unveil new skits) in Shibuya. He hosts the critically acclaimed radio show "INNOVATION WORLD" on J-WAVE on Friday nights at 22:00. His genius does not recognize the bounds of genre or media.



NAKAGAWA Daichi | Critic, Editor

Born in 1974 in Tokyo, NAKAGAWA completed the coursework for the Doctoral Program at Waseda University Graduate School of Science and Engineering. Focusing mainly on games, animations and dramas, but expanding his interest into Japanese philosophy, urban theory, anthropology and information technology, he has written many reviews that bridge reality and fiction. He is currently the Associate Editor of *PLANETS*, a magazine of cultural criticism. Author of *Tokyo Skytree Ron* (Tokyo Skytree Theory) [Kobunsha, 2012] and *Gendai Game Zenshi Bunmei no Yugishikan kara* (The History of Contemporary Game: From the Historical View of Amusement in Civilization) [Hayakawa Shobo, 2016]. Co author and editor of works such as *Shiso Chizu vol.4* (Thought Map vol.4) [NHK Publishing, 2009] and *Amachan Memories [PLANETS and Bungeishunju, 2013]*. He worked on the screenplay and story editing of the animation *6HP* by MURAKAMI Takashi.



SAITO Seiichi | Creative Director and CEO, Rhizomatiks Co., Ltd.

Born in 1975 in Kanagawa Prefecture, SAITO began his career in New York in 2000 after graduating from Columbia University with a Master of Science degree in Advanced Architectural Design (MSAAD). Since then, he has been active in creative work at the Arnell Group, and returned to Japan upon being selected for the Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennial event. He produces works in the commercial art field which are three-dimensional and interactive while also being based on the firm grounding in logical thought that he cultivated through architecture. He has won numerous international awards from 2009. He currently serves as Director of Rhizomatiks Co., Ltd., while also lecturing part-time at the Department of Graphic Design in the Faculty of Kyoto Seika University. 2013 D&AD "Digital Design" Jury, 2014 Cannes Lions "Branded Content and Entertainment" Jury. Milan Expo Japan Pavilion theatre space director, Media Art Director at Roppongi Art Night 2015. Good Design Award 2015-2016 Jury.



SATO Naoki | Art Director and Professor, Tama Art University

Born in Tokyo in 1961. Professor at Tama Art University and instructor at Bigakko. After graduating from the Hokkaido University of Education, he studied the sociology of education and language at Shinshu University, and also studied painting under KIKUHATA Mokuma at Bigakko. In 1994 he became the art director for WIRED magazine's launch in Japan. In 1998 he founded ASYL DESIGN inc. (current Asyl). From 2003 to 2010 he produced Central East Tokyo (CET), an art, design and architecture event. In 2010 he was involved in the establishment of 3331 Arts Chiyoda. His work is included in the permanent collection of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, receiving awards from Japan and overseas. His artwork *There, it has grown* has been exhibited in Trans Arts Tokyo 2013-, Odate/Kita-Akita Arts Festival 2014, and other locations.

Jury Member | Animation Division



KIFUNE Tokumitsu | Animation Artist and Representative, IKIF+ and Professor, Tokyo Zokei University

Born in 1959 in Kanagawa Prefecture. He graduated from the Department of Fine Arts at Tokyo Zokei University, where he majored in painting. In 2001 he was appointed a professor at the same university. In 1979 he formed the unit IKIF together with KIFUNE Sonoko. They began creating animations and continuously released experimental animations and video installations. From the late 1980s he began engaging with CG animation and founded IKIF+ in 1997. Thereafter, he participated in the creation of the 3DCG animations for *Metropolis*, *Innocence*, *Steam Boy* and *Sky Crawler*, among others. He served as 3D director for the NHK Educational Petit Anime Series *Bu-, ba-, ga-* (1995-1997), *BLOOD THE LAST VAMPIRE* (2000), and *Tachiguishi-Retsuden* (2006). He participated in *Doraemon the Movie* as creator of the opening animation as well as 3D director and supervisor from 2007 to 2009. He is a board member of the Japan Animation Association and a member of the executive committee of the Inter College Animation Festival (ICAF). He is also a member of the Japan Society for Animation Studies, the Japan Society of Image Arts and Sciences, and Association Internationale du Film d'Animation (ASIFA).



MORINO Kazuma | Director and CG Artist

Born in Shizuoka Prefecture in 1966. He is the representative of Stripe Factory, Inc. and a lecturer at Tama Art University. At SIGGRAPH, the leading academic conference for computer graphics, he has won ten awards since 1993 for both his artwork and commercial work such as TV commercials. He has won numerous awards at festivals outside Japan such as Prix Ars Electronica and IMAGINA. His vigorous activity has international and domestic reach, and he has participated in a large number of group exhibitions at museums, including the Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography and the Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Art. He is also active as a director for commercials. He has created motion graphics for Toshiba, Suntory, and Japan Television among others. At the Aichi Expo he was the director of the first floor of the Seto Japan Pavilion. He has created promotion videos for Ken ISHII and INOUE Yosui and is also drawing attention as a VJ at live concerts. In 2015, a solo exhibition of his 3D works was held under the title *PINK SKIN*.



NISHIKUBO Mizuho | Director

Born in 1953 in Tokyo Prefecture, NISHIKUBO joined the Waseda University Broadcasting Society in 1972, and joined Tatsunoko Production Company in 1976. After leaving the company in 1979 he worked under the guidance of DEZAKI Osamu. He then became a freelance director for TV and original video animations, films, commercials, promotional videos, and games. He worked as a director for the films *Atagoal: Cat's Magical Forest*, *Musashi: The Dream of the Last Samurai*, and *Giovanni's Island*; the original video animations *Radio City Fantasy* and *Video Girl Ai*; the animated TV series *Miyuki*, *Red Photon Zillion*, *Legend of the Heavenly Sphere Shurato*, and *Otogi zoshi*; the commercials *Where Dreams Come True* and *NEXT A-Class*; and the *Yarudora* game series. He has also worked as a sequence director in a series of works directed by OSHII Mamoru, such as *Ghost in the Shell 2: Innocence*. *Giovanni's Island* has won 15 awards in eight countries, including at the Annecy International Animated Film Festival (France), the Fantasia International Film Festival (Canada), the Mainichi Film Awards (Japan), and the Chicago International Children's Film Festival (United States).



UDA Kounosuke | Animation Director

Born in Shizuoka Prefecture in 1966, UDA graduated from the Animation Department of Tokyo Design Academy. Starting off as an assistant director trainee in the feature animation film *Transformers: The Movie* in 1986, he became the assistant director and production assistant of the TV animation *Transformers: The Headmasters* from 1987, and has since directed many Toei Animation films including *SAILOR MOON* and *YOUNG KINDAICHI'S CASE BOOK*. Also directed several TV animations and animated feature films including *Galaxy Kickoff*, *GALAXY EXPRESS 999 Eternal Fantasy*, *ONE PIECE THE MOVIE*, *Rainbow Fireflies* (included in the Jury Selection of the 16th Japan Media Arts Festival) and *Onagawa Chuu Basuke Bu: 5-nin no Natsu* (The Summer of the Five Members of Onagawa Junior High School Basketball Team).



YOKOTA Masao | MD and Ph.D., Professor, Nihon University

Born in 1954 in Saitama Prefecture, YOKOTA studied animation in the Creative Image Course of the Department of Cinema at the College of Art, Nihon University. Upon graduation he entered the Psychology Program of the Graduate School of Literature and Social Sciences at Nihon University and received a master's degree in 1979. Starting with a presentation at the 19th Convention of the Japan Society of Image Arts and Sciences titled "A Psychological Analysis of Motion in Animation," he has presented his research results on animation at the Japan Society of Image Arts and Sciences, the Japan Society for Animation Studies, and the Society for Animation Studies. He has also published articles in academic journals. His animation related activities include guest lecturer at I Castelli Animati, and serving as both a jury member and a lecturer at Puchon International Student Animation Festival. His major publications include *Japanese Animation: East Asian Perspectives* [University Press of Mississippi, 2013; co-editor and author], *Animation no jiten* (The Encyclopedia of Animation) [Asakura Shoten, 2012; co-editor and author], *Nikkan animation no shinri bunseki: deai, majiwari, tojikomori* (A Psychological Analysis of Japanese and Korean Animation: Encounter, Interaction, and Withdrawal from Society) [Rinsen Shoten, 2009], and *Media kara yomitoku rinsho shinrigaku: manga, anime wo aishi, kenko na kokoro wo hagukumu* (Clinical Psychology of the Media: How to Love Manga and Anime and Develop a Healthy Mind) [Science-sha, 2016].

Jury Member | Manga Division



KAWAHARA Kazuko | Manga Essayist

Newly Appointed

Born in 1968 in Hiroshima Prefecture, raised in Fukuoka Prefecture. KAWAHARA worked as a preschool teacher, in the PR department of animation studio Gainax, and at other jobs before turning freelance. Now, she writes essays and provides commentary about manga. She wrote *Jinsei no taisetsu na koto ha omune, manga ga oshiete kureta* (Everything I Know, I Learned from Manga) [NTT Publishing, 2009]. Her major columns include *Renai no otehon ha, itsumo shojo manga* (Girls' Manga Was My Model for Love) for the women's website SmartWoman (currently Nikkei WOMAN [Nikkei Inc.]) in 2005, and the manga commentary *Kore yomazu ni nani wo yomu?* (Well, What Should I Read, Then?) for the web magazine Webnttpub. [NTT Publishing] from 2007 to 2014. Her current column for Webnttpub. is entitled *Manga koso ha dokusho da!* (Manga Is Reading!). KAWAHARA has contributed essays to publications such as *Sotokushu MIHARA Jun* (Full Review of Jun MIHARA) [Kawade Shobo Shinsha, 2015]. She was a contributing editor and writer for the book entitled *IKEDA Riyoko no sekai* (The Wonderful World of Riyoko IKEDA) [Asahi Shimbun Publications, 2012]. She was a symposium panelist at the 10th Conference of the Japan Society for Studies and Cartoons and Comics in 2010, and has served as a guest lecturer at Tokyo Polytechnic University.



MINAMOTO Taro | Manga Artist and Manga Researcher

Born in 1947 in Kyoto Prefecture, MINAMOTO made his debut as a manga artist in 1967. He is known for his distinctive mixture of jokes and serious scenes. In 2004 he received the 8th Tezuka Osamu Cultural Prize Special Award in recognition of his pioneering of new areas in manga and his contributions to manga culture. He was awarded an Excellence Prize at the 14th Japan Media Arts Festival in 2010. His works include the *Fuunji-tachi* (The Adventurers) series, *Homohomo7*, *Chosensha-tachi* (The Challengers), and a World Classics series including *Don Quixote* and *Les Miserables*.



NISHI Keiko | Manga Artist

Newly Appointed

Born on December 26 in Kagoshima Prefecture. Her debut as a manga-ka was in the March 1988 volume of Shogakukan's *Petit Flower* with a story entitled *Matteiru yo* (I'm Waiting). Some of her most well-known works are the *STAY* series (2002-06), *Denpa no hito yo* (Radio Wave Man) (2007), *Otoko no issho* (A Man's Lifetime) (2008-12), and *Ane no kekkon* (My Big Sister's Wedding) (2010-14). *Otoko no issho* was a Jury Selection at the 14th Japan Media Arts Festival in 2010. In addition to writing and drawing manga, she also illustrates novels. In 2006, *STAY - Aa kotoshi no natsu mo nanimo nakatta wa* (Stay - Ahh, Nothing's Happening This Summer Either) was made into a live-action movie directed by FURUTA Wataru, and HIROKI Ryuichi directed a live-action movie of *Otoko no issho* in 2015. Currently she has series running in several magazines, including *Hatsukoi no sekai* (The World of First Love) in *Monthly Flowers* and *Ta-tan* (Ta-tan) in *Big Comic Original*.



OMOTE Tomoyuki | Researcher, Kitakyushu Manga Museum

Newly Appointed

Born in 1969 in Osaka Prefecture. OMOTE earned a Ph.D. in literature from the Graduate School of Letters at Osaka University. He was involved in the opening of the Kyoto International Manga Museum at Kyoto Seika University and worked as a researcher of general arts before assuming his current position as manager of art-related affairs in 2011. He also works as the vice president of Kyushu Comitia Meeting, a voluntary group that puts on Kyushu Comitia, a fanzine exhibition and sale established in 2017. OMOTE also served as a director for the Japan Society for Studies in Cartoons and Comics from 2013 to 2017. His major works include *Manga to museum ga deau toki* (When Manga Meets Museums) [Rinsen Book Co., 2009; co-author with KANAZAWA Kodama and MURATA Mariko], *Sabetsu to mukiau manga tachi* (Mangas Who Face Discrimination) [Rinsen Book Co., 2007; co-author with YOSHIMURA Kazuma and TANAKA Satoshi], and *Hadashi no Gen ga ita fukei: manga, senso, kioku* (Contexts of Barefoot Gen: Manga, War, Memory) [Azusa Shuppansha, 2006; co-editor with YOSHIMURA Kazuma and FUKUMA Yoshiaki]. On many occasions, he has also provided commentary and chronological compilations of authors' bodies of work for special editions of books.



SHIRAI Yumiko | Manga Artist

Born in 1967 in Ehime Prefecture. SHIRAI graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts, Painting at Kyoto City University of Arts. She has published her manga mainly through Comitia and other selling events for self-published works. In 2007, she received the Encouragement Prize in the Manga Division at the 11th Japan Media Arts Festival (JMAF) for her self-published work *Tenken-sai*, which was published commercially in 2008 by Sanctuary Publishing. In 2009, she started serial publication of *WOMBS* in the *Monthly IKKI*. This work was a Manga Division Jury Selection at the 14th JMAF in 2010 and won the 2016 Nihon SF Taisho Award after the story was concluded. Her work includes *SHIRAI Yumiko shoki tanpenshu* (SHIRAI Yumiko's Early Short Stories (2010)), *RAFNAS* (2013-2015, Manga Division Jury Selection at the 19th JMAF in 2015), and *Iwa to niki no shinkon ryoko* (The Honeymoon of Iwa and Niki) (2017). *Osaka kanjo kekkai toshi* (Osaka Circular Kekkai City) is currently running in *Misuteri-bonita* (Mystery Bonita magazine). Website: <http://yumikoubou.com/>