

## Notice Regarding Change of Director General

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The National Art Center, Tokyo hereby announces that current Director General Osaka Eriko will step down on March 31, 2026, and that Sugaya Tomio will assume the position of Director General on April 1, 2026.

Since assuming the directorship in October 2019, Osaka Eriko has led the National Art Center, Tokyo for six years, and since July 2021 she has also served concurrently as President of the Independent Administrative Institution National Museum of Art.

Incoming Director General Sugaya Tomio organized numerous exhibitions in the fields of modern design, photography, and contemporary art while at the Osaka City Museum of Modern Art Planning Office, including Discovering Osaka, City of Art (1997) and The Age of Hayakawa Yoshio (2002). From 2017, he was in charge of supervising the establishment of Nakanoshima Museum of Art, Osaka, and since 2022 has served as Director of the newly opened museum, where he has pursued an ambitious program of operations.

\*A message from outgoing Director General Osaka Eriko follows on the next page.



### <Biography>

Sugaya Tomio

Born in Chiba Prefecture in 1958. Served as curator at the Shigaraki Ceramic Cultural Park and at the Osaka City Museum of Modern Art Planning Office before being appointed as head of the Nakanoshima Museum of Art, Osaka Planning Office in 2017. Has held his current position since 2019. In charge of supervising the establishment of the new museum, as well as the fields of modern design, photography, and contemporary art. Also actively engaged in criticism and commentary in these fields. Has organized major exhibitions, including Discovering Osaka, City of Art (1997) and The Age of Hayakawa Yoshio (2002). Co-authored books include Approaches to Urban Design (1998) and Critical Words for Design History (2006).

## Message from the Outgoing Director General

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I will leave my positions as President of the Independent Administrative Institution National Museum of Art and as Director General of the National Art Center, Tokyo on March 31, 2026. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the many people who have supported me over the past six years.

The National Art Center, Tokyo has offered visitors a wealth of opportunities to encounter art through a diverse lineup of exhibitions spanning not only fine art but also design, fashion, architecture, manga, anime, and performance. As the COVID-19 pandemic began to recede, the Center made full use of its 2,000-square-meter special exhibition galleries to present a dynamic major retrospective of Lee Ufan, as well as solo exhibitions by Cai Guo-Qiang and Ohmaki Shinji, and also launched NACT View, an initiative that utilizes the Center's public area for small-scale projects featuring emerging contemporary artists.

Among its educational initiatives, the Center implemented NACT Youth Project: SHINBI-JUKU!, a program for teenagers with artists serving as head instructors. The NACT also worked to strengthen international networks and overseas outreach, including co-organizing an exhibition with M+, Hong Kong, and took creative approaches to generating self-sustaining revenue, making first forays into both crowdfunding and renting out its unique spaces for events. While visitor numbers from Japan and abroad have risen in the post-pandemic period, the National Art Museums as a whole have entered a challenging period of transition, and the Center will continue to meet this moment with fresh perspectives.

Sugaya Tomio, who has put into practice a new model of museum management through the PFI (Private Finance Initiative) concession method (a public-private partnership framework in which operational rights to a publicly owned facility are granted to a private-sector entity) at the Nakanoshima Museum of Art, Osaka, will assume the position of fourth Director General of the National Art Center, Tokyo. Like the NACT, the Nakanoshima Museum of Art, Osaka maintains a wide-ranging exhibition program, and there is a natural affinity between the two institutions' activities. As the National Art Center, Tokyo moves forward, Director Sugaya's experience will be invaluable in shaping the vision of what a national art institution can be, and in building the organizational frameworks and talent to realize it. I hand over the reins with confidence in Director Sugaya, who has guided a museum to success through an approach without precedent in Japan, and trust that he will bring the same sure leadership to the National Art Center, Tokyo. I ask for your continued support as we enter this new chapter.

Director General

Osaka Eriko

## Special Exhibitions in 2026

YBA&BEYOND: British Art in the 90s from the Tate Collection February 11 (Wed) - May 11 (Mon)

HANAE MORI Vital Type: The 100th Anniversary of Birth April 15 (Wed) - July 6 (Mon)

Picasso, through the Eyes of Paul Smith June 10 (Wed) - September 21 (Mon)

Masterpieces of the Renaissance from the Musée du Louvre September 9 (Wed) - December 13 (Sun)

Shojo Manga Infinity: Moto Hagio, Ryoko Yamagishi, and Waki Yamato October 28 (Wed) - February 8 (Mon), 2027

## About The National Art Center, Tokyo

The National Art Center, Tokyo (NACT) was the fifth institution to be established as part of the Independent Administrative Institution National Museum of Art. Our mission is to make a contribution to culture through art in order to achieve mutual understanding and coexistence. While we do not have a permanent collection, since opening in 2007, we have constantly worked to become an art center that enables people from various regions and countries to experience a wide range of artistic expressions, acquire knowledge, and encounter diverse values. Moreover, in addition to hosting a broad spectrum of exhibitions in the facility's 14,000-meter-square space (one of the largest of display areas in Japan), the Center works to collect, present, and provide access to art-related information and resources, initiate educational programs, and facilitate cross-cultural exchanges.

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The exhibition press images are available on our website for downloads:

<https://forms.office.com/r/Ja7xqZg2d7>

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