

## ART OSAKA 2026 Reframes Contemporary Art in Japan from Kansai



### Osaka, Japan | May–June 2026

ART OSAKA 2026 will return this spring with an expanded, two-venue format that positions Osaka—and the Kansai region more broadly—as a key lens through which to view contemporary art in Japan and across Asia.

One of Japan’s longest-running contemporary art fairs, founded in 2002, ART OSAKA has developed a distinct identity rooted in Kansai while maintaining close ties to East and Southeast Asia. In 2026, the fair enters a new phase, aligning its structure more clearly with Osaka’s evolving urban and cultural landscape.

ART OSAKA 2026 brings together **60 galleries** from **6 countries and regions** across **15 cities**, reinforcing its position as one of Japan’s leading contemporary art fairs. Participating galleries represent Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, the Philippines, and Hong Kong. Through this dynamic mix of established and emerging galleries, ART OSAKA 2026 highlights the diversity and vitality of contemporary art in Asia and beyond.

### Two Venues, Two Perspectives

The fair will unfold across two contrasting sites. The **Galleries Section** takes place from May 29–31, 2026 at Congress Square, Grand Green Osaka, located in the city’s rapidly redeveloping Umekita district. Meanwhile, the **Expanded Section** runs from May 28–June 1, 2026 at Creative Center Osaka, a former shipyard in Kitakagaya, long associated with large-scale and experimental art projects.

Together, the two sections articulate a curatorial approach that moves fluidly between market-oriented presentations and site-responsive exhibition making.

### Galleries Section: A Cross-Section of Asian Contemporary Art

The Galleries Section brings together 52 galleries from Japan and across Asia, organized into four formats: **Galleries**, **Focus**, **Wall**, and **Screening**. This structure allows historically significant figures, mid-career artists, and emerging voices to coexist on a single floor, offering a cross-sectional view of contemporary practice in Japan and East Asia.



1. Grand Green Osaka, where Congress Square Osaka—the new venue for the Galleries Section—is located.



2. Creative Center Osaka, venue of the Expanded Section.

Participating galleries include leading spaces from Tokyo and Kansai, alongside international galleries from South Korea, the Philippines, and Taiwan. Among them are **Galerie Stephanie**, **Gallery Shilla**, **Gallery Chosun** and **Woong Gallery**, reinforcing ART OSAKA’s role as a regional platform within Asia.

Within the **Focus** section, **Gallery Nomart**, known for its experimental ethos and for supporting the early career of **Kohei Nawa**, presents a solo exhibition by **Kana Ueda** (b. 1988), a recipient of the **Sakuya Konohana Award**, a long-established prize organized by the City of Osaka.

Also in Focus, **Unfold Gallery**, directed by a Taiwanese-born curator and gallerist, stages a two-person presentation by **Wei-Ni Lu** and **Yuki Miyake**, bridging Taiwanese and Japanese contemporary practices.

The **Screening** format builds on ART OSAKA’s 2025 historical program *Exploring Artistic Expression in Moving Image Works from the 1960s to Today in Japan*, foregrounding three artists working with moving images: **Shuhei Nishiyama**(b. 1976), **Bo Na Park** (b. 1977), and **Nobuyuki Osaki**(b. 1975).

### Expanded Section: Installation, Scale, and Experience

The Expanded Section brings together **13 projects by 15 artists (including two duo units)**, spanning generations from those born in 1961 to 2001. Working with large-scale installations, video, and immersive environments, the artists engage directly with the industrial architecture of the former shipyard.



3. Aisho, ART OSAKA 2025 Galleries Section.  
Photo by Taiya Yuico.



4. Masayuki Kawai, *Four Elements + natura:data* / MORI YU GALLERY, ART OSAKA 2025 Expanded Section.  
Photo by Yamamoto Yuto.

Highlights include a neon-based spatial installation by the artist duo **antitail**(**Takashi Kunitani and Tomoko Hashimoto, +1art**) , an interactive projection-based work by **Goki Muramoto** (b. 1999, **MUG**), and video installations by **Keito Mitoma**. On the upper floors, **Takeshi Nishimoto** presents a 30-metre-long site-specific installation responding to the scale and memory of the shipyard space. International perspectives intersect with local practices through works such as ceramic installations by Taiwanese artist **Lai Ko-Wei** (**Der-Horng Art Gallery**), reflecting broader currents in Asian contemporary art.

A special collaborative project with **Fukugan Gallery** traces the evolution of Kansai’s underground culture through exhibitions and live performances, highlighting how street-based practices in music, fashion, and performance have expanded the boundaries of contemporary art in Osaka.

## **Special Exhibition: *Another 1990s — Kansai Artists Beyond Time***

Presented **within the Galleries Section venue** of ART OSAKA 2026, the curated exhibition *Another 1990s — Kansai Artists Beyond Time* revisits pivotal works produced during the 1990s by artists connected to Japan’s Kansai region.

In recent years, major Japanese museums have increasingly undertaken historical reassessments of contemporary art since the 1990s. Notable examples include *Prism of the Real: Making Art in Japan 1989–2010* (September 3–December 8, 2025), co-organized by **The National Art Center, Tokyo** and **M+**, as well as *Sekai no Kotowari: Art of Our Time*(December 20, 2025–March 8, 2026) at **The National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto**, which examines artistic practices shaped by accelerating globalization from the 1990s to the present.

Responding to this broader institutional momentum, *Another 1990s* proposes an alternative historical narrative. The exhibition centers on works created during the 1990s by artists based in the region whose practices, while deeply rooted in Japanese sensibilities, have not always been fully integrated into the dominant narratives shaped by national survey exhibitions. The decade, marked by the aftermath of Japan’s economic bubble collapse and social upheavals including the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake (1995), fostered a generation that sustained rigorous experimentation amid prolonged uncertainty. Featuring works by **Mima Akasaki**(b.1965-), **Yasue Kodama**(b.1961-), **Shiro Matsui**(b.1960-), **Yoshinobu Nakagawa**(b.1964-), **Chieko Oshie**(b.1969-), **Katsuo Tachi**(b.1964-2009), and **Etsuko Tajima**(1959-), the exhibition reexamines practices shaped by Kansai’s specific social and cultural environment and continuously developed into the present. By reconsidering postwar Japanese art history from a Kansai vantage point, *Another 1990s* illuminates a parallel and enduring lineage of artistic inquiry—one that remains active and vital, yet comparatively underrepresented within institutional narratives to date.

## **Beyond the Fair: Osaka as a Citywide Context**

ART OSAKA 2026 coincides with major museum exhibitions across the city, including presentations at **the National Museum of Art, Osaka**, and **the Osaka Nakanoshima Museum of Art**, offering historical depth and institutional context. Artist-led spaces in Kitakagaya, including **Super Studio Kitakagaya** and **M@M**, the private museum founded by Yasumasa Morimura, further situate the fair within Osaka’s living artistic ecosystem.

Seen together, ART OSAKA 2026 positions the city as a gateway for experiencing contemporary art in Japan and Asia today—linking market, experimentation, history, and urban context within a single visit.

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## Supplementary Information

### Event Overview

#### Event: ART OSAKA 2026 – Galleries Section

**Venue:** Congress Square Grand Green Osaka  
(Grand Green Osaka South Building 4F, 5-54 Ofuka-cho, Kita-ku, Osaka)

**Dates:** May 29 (Fri) – May 31 (Sun), 2026

#### Schedule

VIP Preview: May 29 (Fri) 13:00–15:00 (*VIP invitation only*)

Preview: May 29 (Fri) 15:00–19:00 (*VIP, invited guests, and press only*)

Public Opening: May 30 (Sat) 11:00–19:00

May 31 (Sun) 11:00–17:00

### Participating Galleries

\* indicates first-time participation

#### Galleries Section (28)

AaP/roidworksgallery (Tokyo)

AKIINOUE\* (Tokyo)

Art Court Gallery (Osaka/Kyoto)

Art Zone Kaguraoka (Kyoto)

AWASE gallery (Tokyo)

biscuit gallery (Tokyo)

CANDYBAR Gallery (Kyoto)

FUMA Contemporary Tokyo | Bunkyo Art (Tokyo)

GALERIE STEPHANIE\* (Philippines)

gallery Ren-i (Kanagawa)

GALLERY RIN (Tokyo)

Gallery Zakuro (Nagano)

Gallery Shilla (Korea)

GALLERY TOMO (Kyoto)

imura art gallery (Kyoto)

Kawata Gallery (Hyogo)

KOICHI FINE ARTS (Osaka)

MAKI Gallery (Tokyo)

Marco Gallery (Osaka)

Megumi Ogita Gallery (Tokyo)

MORI YU GALLERY (Kyoto)

Nishimura Gallery (Tokyo)

s+arts (Tokyo)

SOM GALLERY (Tokyo)

√K Contemporary (Tokyo)

TEZUKAYAMA GALLERY (Osaka)

Woong Gallery\* (Korea)

Yoshiaki Inoue Gallery (Osaka)

#### Focus Exhibitions (15)

AISHO (Tokyo/Hong Kong)

beak 585 Gallery\* (Osaka)

Capacious (Osaka)  
eitoeiko (Tokyo)  
EUKARYOTE (Tokyo)  
Gallery Kawamatsu (Tokyo)  
Gallery MOS (Mie)  
Gallery Nomart (Osaka)  
gallery Unfold (Kyoto)  
KOKI ARTS (Tokyo)  
LEESAYA\* (Tokyo)  
MEM (Tokyo)  
Nii Fine Arts (Osaka)  
Otherwise Gallery (Tokyo)  
the three konohana (Osaka)

### **Wall Projects (6)**

gekilin. (Osaka)  
MtK Contemporary Art\* (Kyoto)  
Salon Mosaic\* (Osaka)  
Tachibana Gallery (Tokyo)  
TomuraLee\* (Tokyo/Vietnam)  
Yu Harada (Tokyo)

### **Screening Projects (3)**

gallerychosun (Korea): Bo Na Park  
Hosokawa Gallery + TEZUKAYAMA GALLERY (Osaka): Nobuyuki Osaki  
MORI YU GALLERY (Kyoto): Shuhei Nishiyama

## **Event: ART OSAKA 2026— Expanded Section**

**Venue:** Creative Center Osaka

(4-1-55 Kitakagaya, Suminoe-ku, Osaka)

**Dates:** May 28 (Thu) – June 1 (Mon), 2026

### **Public Opening Hours**

May 28 (Thu): 13:00–19:00

May 29 (Fri) – May 31 (Sun): 11:00–19:00

June 1 (Mon): 11:00–16:00

### **Participating Artists**

*(gallery affiliations in parentheses)*

antitail / Takashi Kunitani, Tomoko Hashimoto (+1art, Osaka)

Mizue Fukagawa (GALLERY IDF, Nagoya)

Hideshi Ide (MORI YU GALLERY, Kyoto)

Kantaro Isezaki (GALLERY KOGURE, Tokyo)

Ryo Koizumi (SH GALLERY, Tokyo)

Lai Ko-Wei (Der-Horng Art Gallery, Taiwan)

Keito Mitoma (Hakari Contemporary\*, Osaka)

Sayaka Miyata (YOD Gallery, Osaka/Tokyo/Kyoto)

Goki Muramoto (MUG, Tokyo)

Takemii Nishimoto (TEZUKAYAMA GALLERY, Osaka)

Warauga Nijie / Hijiri Tamazumi, Ikawa Tsuyoshi (gekilin., Osaka)  
Ikuya Sagara (Wa.gallery, Osaka)  
Atsuo Suzuki (AIN SOPH DISPATCH, Nagoya)

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## **Major Museum Exhibitions in Osaka (Spring–Summer 2026)**

At the **National Museum of Art, Osaka**, the exhibition *Nakanishi Natsuyuki: Devices for Gentle Gazing and Endless Linger* (March 14–June 14, 2026) revisits the legacy of Nakanishi Natsuyuki, a pivotal figure in postwar Japanese art whose practice explored perception, time, and the act of viewing itself.

Simultaneously, the **Osaka Nakanoshima Museum of Art** presents *Goodbye, Our Cabinet of Curiosities* (April 25–July 20, 2026), featuring Yasumasa Morimura, Kenji Yanobe, and Miwa Yanagi —artists who have significantly shaped the international visibility of Japanese contemporary art since the 1990s.

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### **Contact:**

Noriko Miyamoto | [miyamoto@artosaka.jp](mailto:miyamoto@artosaka.jp)

ART OSAKA Organizing Office

Association for the Promotion of Contemporary Art in Japan, APCA JAPAN

Tel: +81(0)06-6777-8303