

KATAOKA MAMI, DIRECTOR OF MORI ART MUSEUM, APPOINTED *CHEVALIER DE L'ORDRE DES ARTS ET DES LETTRES* BY THE FRENCH REPUBLIC

On Tuesday, September 8, 2026, Kataoka Mami, Director of the Mori Art Museum, was appointed *Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres* (Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters) by the French Republic. A joint investiture ceremony with artist Shiota Chiharu, who was appointed *Officier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres*, was held at the Residence of the Ambassador of France to Japan, and the insignia were presented by Ambassador Béatrice Le Fraper du Hellen.



photo: Tayama Tatsuyuki

Her summarized remarks regarding the honor are as follows:

"The Mori Art Museum, where Kataoka Mami serves as Director, has evolved into an indispensable venue for international dialogue, where talent, ideas, and imagination converge. Ms. Kataoka's work has extended beyond Japan's borders by actively engaging with numerous institutions and events around the world, including curating the *Shiota Chiharu: The Soul Trembles* exhibition at the Grand Palais in Paris. She has consistently championed the idea that contemporary art should foster intellectual openness and encourage the exchange of ideas, perspectives, and experiences, not just the circulation of artworks. At the National Center for Art Research (NCAR), Japan, she launched a pilot program for the mutual exchange of curators with the Centre Pompidou. Furthermore, the upcoming Roppongi Art Night 2026 will feature art from France. In light of her outstanding contributions to contemporary art and cultural dialogue, we appointed Ms. Kataoka *Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres* on behalf of the Minister of Culture of the French Republic."

Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres

L'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres was established in 1957 to recognize eminent artists and writers, as well as people who have contributed significantly to furthering the arts in France and throughout the world. The French Ministry of Culture makes appointments to three grades under this order: Chevalier (Knight), Officier (Officer), and Commandeur (Commander). Previously, former Mori Art Museum Director Nanjo Fumio was appointed *Officier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres* in 2016. Earlier still, the first chairperson, the late Mori Yoshiko, was appointed a *Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur* by the French Republic in 2013.

Kataoka Mami

Director of Mori Art Museum; Executive Advisor of the National Center for Art Research (NCAR), Japan; and Director of ICA Kyoto at Kyoto University of the Arts Graduate School. Kataoka joined the Mori Art Museum in 2003 and has held her position as Director since 2020. Her extensive curatorial leadership includes serving as Co-Artistic Director for the 9th Gwangju Biennale (2012), Artistic Director for the 21st Biennale of Sydney (2018), and Artistic Director for the Aichi Triennale 2022. She has also been appointed Co-Curator for the 2027 Helsinki Biennial. From 2014 to 2022, she served on the Board of CIMAM (International Committee for Museums and Collections of Modern Art), holding the position of President from 2020 to 2022. Additionally, she serves as Senior Director of the Mori Contemporary Art Foundation (MoriCAF), Representative Director of the Fukushima Tomioka Cultural Foundation, Councilor of the Odawara Art Foundation among other roles. She actively contributes to numerous arts and culture committees, serves as a juror for international art awards, and lectures extensively. Kataoka was awarded the 17th Western Art Promotion Foundation Award for Academic Achievement in 2022.



Photo: Shintsubo Kenshu

Roppongi Art Night 2026

The "RAN Focus" program of Roppongi Art Night 2026, for which Kataoka serves as the Executive Committee Chair, slated from Saturday, October 31 through Sunday, November 1, 2026, will focus on French art with the support of the Embassy of France in Japan/Institut français du Japon and Institut français (Paris Headquarters). Curated by José-Manuel Gonçalves (former artistic director of CENTQUATRE-PARIS), it will feature installations, videos, and performances.

Dates: Saturday, October 31 – Sunday, November 1, 2026

Venues: Roppongi Hills, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo Midtown, Suntory Museum of Art, 21_21 DESIGN SIGHT, The National Art Center, Tokyo, Roppongi Shopping Arcade, and other participating facilities and public spaces in the Roppongi area

Organizers: Tokyo Metropolitan Government, Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture Arts Council Tokyo, Minato Ward, Roppongi Art Night Executive Committee (The National Art Center, Tokyo, Suntory Museum of Art, Tokyo Midtown, 21_21 DESIGN SIGHT, Mori Art Museum, Mori Building, Roppongi Shopping Street Promotion Association)

* For details, please visit the official website (<https://roppongiartnight.com/>).

■ *Shiota Chiharu: The Soul Trembles*

The largest-ever solo exhibition of Shiota Chiharu, *Shiota Chiharu: The Soul Trembles*, curated by Kataoka, has so far toured eight cities worldwide following its presentation at the Mori Art Museum in 2019. Over 300,000 people visited the exhibition at the Grand Palais (Paris), and the total number of visitors has surpassed two million as of the tour at the MAO Museo d'Arte Orientale (Turin, Italy) *.

The exhibition is scheduled to tour the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts (Canada, Saturday, September 26, 2026 – Sunday, February 14, 2027).

* Total visitors count from the following 9 venues

MAO Museo d'Arte Orientale (Turin, 2025-2026)

Grand Palais (Paris, 2024-2025)

Shenzhen Art Museum (China, 2023-2024)

Museum MACAN (Modern and Contemporary Art in Nusantara) (Jakarta, 2022-2023)

Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art (Australia, 2022)

Long Museum (Shanghai, 2021-2022)

Taipei Fine Arts Museum (2021)

Busan Museum of Art (Korea, 2019-2020)

Mori Art Museum (Tokyo, 2019)

Shiota Chiharu

Born in Osaka in 1972 and based in Berlin, Shiota draws inspiration from personal experiences and emotions, expanding them into universal human concerns such as life, death, and relationships. She redefines memory and consciousness by gathering everyday objects—shoes, keys, beds, and dresses—and engulfing them in immense thread structures, exploring a poignant sense of "presence in the absence" across monumental installations, sculptures, drawings, performance videos, and canvases. In 2025, Shiota received Japan's prestigious MEXT Art Encouragement Prize, having previously won the newcomer prize in 2008.

<https://www.chiharu-shiota.com/>

FRENCH-RELATED EXHIBITIONS HELD AT THE MORI ART MUSEUM TO DATE

Ron Mueck (2026)

The first large-scale solo exhibition in Japan in 18 years comprehensively presenting the entire scope of Ron Mueck's creative journey. Starting with the presentation at the Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain in Paris (2023), touring to Milan and Seoul, it is currently being held at the Mori Art Museum co-organized with the Fondation.

Louise Bourgeois: I have been to hell and back. And let me tell you, it was wonderful. (2024-2025)

The first large-scale solo exhibition in Japan in 27 years by Louise Bourgeois (born 1911 in Paris; died 2010 in New York), one of the most important artists of the last century.

Simple Forms: Contemplating Beauty (2015)

Jointly organized exhibition with Pompidou Centre-Metz and Fondation d'entreprise Hermès showcasing "simple forms" from around the world and across the ages, from prehistoric stone implement to dynamic, cutting-edge installations by contemporary artists.

French Window: Looking at Contemporary Art through the Marcel Duchamp Prize (2011)

To commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Prix Marcel Duchamp created by ADIAF (France's most prestigious group of contemporary art collectors), this exhibition presented the work of 28 artists including that of Marcel Duchamp himself and winners of the Prix Marcel Duchamp.

Annette Messenger: The Messengers (2008)

The first large-scale exhibition in Japan to present one of France's most representative female artists, Annette Messenger.

Le Corbusier: Art and Architecture—A Life of Creativity (2007)

Commemorating the 120th Anniversary of the birth of the greatest architect of the 20th century, Le Corbusier, the retrospective featured his Architecture and Art, giving the comprehensive presentation of his vast body of work.

Archilab: New Experiments in Architecture, Art and the City 1950-2005 (2004-2005)

The largest-scale exhibition of architecture in Japan showcasing a number of works and projects by some 90 architects and artists, mainly from the collections of the FRAC Centre Collection, Orléans, and the Centre Pompidou, Paris.

■ MORI ART MUSEUM'S ORIGINAL EXHIBITION HELD IN FRANCE

Floating Worlds: From Japonisme to Contemporary Art from Japan (Les Franciscaines, 2024)

A jointly organized exhibition with the Les Franciscaines Cultural Center in the Normandy town of Deauville, France. The year 2024 marked 150 years since the first "Impressionist" exhibition was held in Paris, and this exhibition was held as part of the Normandie Impressionniste 2024 arts festival. Featuring 35 works by 17 artists from the Mori Art Museum Collection, the exhibition shed light from both past and present perspectives on Japanese culture and its intimate connection to the development of Impressionism.

■ MORI ART MUSEUM'S ORIGINAL EXHIBITIONS TOURING TO FRANCE

Shiota Chiharu: The Soul Trembles (Mori Art Museum, 2019)

[Toured as] *Chiharu Shiota: The Soul Trembles* (Grand Palais, 2024-2025)

The Smile in Japanese Art: From the Jomon Period to the Early Twentieth Century

(Mori Art Museum, 2007)

An exhibition exploring laughter and humor in art, and was held concurrently with *All about Laughter: Humor in Contemporary Art* at the Mori Art Museum. Featuring only traditional Japanese art, the exhibition examined the diversity of the smile in Japanese art through 5 themes.

[Toured as] *WARAI : L'humour dans l'art japonais de la préhistoire au XIXe siècle*

(Maison de la Culture du Japon à Paris, 2012)