



Press Release

27 February 2015

Roppongi Art Night Executive Committee

'Roppongi Art Night 2015' theme confirmed!

"In spring it is the dawn – shining, connecting, joining in"

The main program featuring a big shining art truck!

Tokyo's one-night, all-night extravaganza "Roppongi Art Night(RAN) 2015," to be held from Saturday, April 25 to Sunday, April 26. Roppongi Art Night Executive Committee, in conjunction with artistic director for the third year running Katsuhiko Hibino and Rhizomatics director Seiichi Saito in the new role of media art director, have set the theme for Roppongi Art Night 2015: "In spring it is the dawn – shining, connecting, joining in."

Launched in 2009, this year marks the sixth Roppongi Art Night.*

For Roppongi Art Night 2015 with its spotlight on media art, the theme focuses on the things in changing times that never really change.

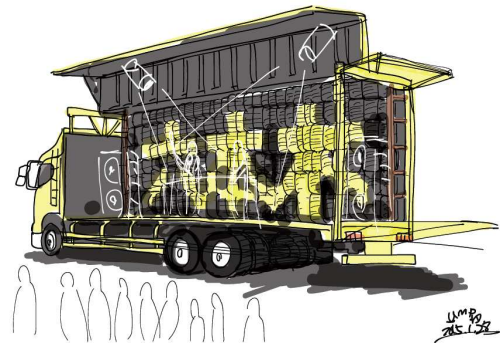
The world has undergone an amazing evolution since ancient times and it seems as if human life has changed completely. However, even in today's continuously changing world, as we communicate with the environment surrounding us, we nurture our sensibility as human beings, develop relationships with other people and form the communities in which people live. At this Roppongi Art Night, the theme "In spring it is the dawn – shining, connecting, joining in" will symbolize the timelessness of people and media and also serve as a catchphrase for the relationship between the city and media art.

* Canceled in 2011 due to the Great East Japan Earthquake

Plenty of surprises are sure to be in store when the formidable tag team of Hibino and Saito join forces to present Roppongi Art Night.

The main program will feature a big shining art truck!

Seiichi Saito is currently masterminding the large-scale plan for the main program that will symbolize this year's theme. The plan calls for a big shining truck covered with LEDs to make an appearance in Roppongi Hills and Tokyo Midtown, where a number of events are scheduled to take place, including some that have interactive elements in which the audience can participate using their smartphones.



※image

Roppongi Art Night 2015 will also feature a number of installations and performances going on across the Roppongi area, based on the theme of "In spring it is the dawn – shining, connecting, joining in." Exhibitions and special events are also being planned at venues such as Roppongi Hills, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo Midtown, Suntory Museum of Art, 21_21 DESIGN SIGHT and the National Art Center, Tokyo. This year too, we are planning to develop the partnership programs where various organizations approach the committee with their plans.

As in previous years, free shuttle buses will be operating between Roppongi and main terminal stations in Tokyo and free car parking will be available in Roppongi Hills and Tokyo Midtown from the midnight of Saturday, April 25 to the early morning of Sunday, April 26.

The next press release, which will contain more detailed information, is scheduled in March.



Katsuhiko Hibino, Artistic Director



Acclaimed for capturing the essence of the 1980s with his multidisciplinary style of art, Katsuhiko Hibino has also turned art into a highly functional medium to vitalize local communities by engaging people in art production to help express their emotions. In 2013, he conducted the Sea Floor Exploration Art Museum project “Day-Before-Yesterday Ship” at the Setouchi International Art Festival, and staged solo shows at the Taro Okamoto Museum of Art, Kawasaki and the Yokosuka Museum of Art. Hibino teaches at Tokyo University of the Arts and serves as a director of the Japan Football Association.

He was born in Gifu Prefecture in 1958 and completed postgraduate studies at Tokyo University of the Arts.

Seiichi Saito, Media Art Director



Born in Kanagawa in 1975, 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 to participate in the Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennale. He produces works in the commercial art field that are three-dimensional and interactive while also being based on the firm grounding in logical thought that he cultivated through architecture. Saito has won numerous international awards. He currently serves as Director of Rhizomatiks Co., Ltd., while also lecturing part-time at the Department of Architecture in the Faculty of Science and Technology at Tokyo University of Science. He served on the juries for the 2013 D&AD “Digital Design” and 2014 Cannes LIONS “Branded Content and

Entertainment” divisions.

Event Profile

Official title: Roppongi Art Night 2015

Mission statement: Roppongi Art Night is a one-night celebration of art staged in the district of Roppongi. A diverse range of works including not only artworks but also design, music, video and performance pieces are dotted around the Roppongi neighborhood with its high concentration of retail stores and cultural institutions, creating an extraordinary experience, while proposing a lifestyle that celebrates the enjoyment of art in everyday living. Bringing art and street together as one will also enhance the image of Roppongi as a cultural hub, and offer a trailblazing example of neighborhood initiative within the vast metropolis of Tokyo. Roppongi Art Night will continue to develop as the capital's premier art festival.

Date & Time: 10:00, Saturday, April 25 –18:00, Sunday, April 26, 2015

Core Time*: 18:22, Saturday, April 25 – 4:56, Sunday, April 26

(From sunset on Saturday 25 April until sunrise the following day)

*Core Time is the period during which many of the main installations and events will be held.

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

Admission: Free (Some programs and exhibitions are subject to fees)

Organized by: Tokyo Metropolitan Government, Arts Council Tokyo / Tokyo Culture Creation Project Office (Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture), Roppongi Art Night Executive Committee (Mori Art Museum, MORI Building Co., Ltd., The National Art Center, Tokyo; ROPPPONGI Shopping Streets Association, Suntory Museum of Art, Tokyo Midtown, 21_21 DESIGN SIGHT *In alphabetical order)

Website: www.roppongiartnight.com/2015/english

Inquiries +81-3-5777-8600 (Hello Dial: Only in Japanese) 8:00~22:00 (Everyday)





Theme for Roppongi Art Night 2015

In spring it is the dawn
shining, connecting, joining in

The world that surrounds us today looks nothing like that of times past. Yet though it may seem very different, one thing remains constant: people's desire for dialogue outside themselves.

"In spring it is the dawn..." is a line from Sei Shonagon's *Pillow Book*, her own musings on the dialogue between people and nature. A thousand years on, contemporary conversation with the world around us has ramped up enormously in both speed and intensity – thanks to the remarkable march of technology – being transformed into media by which people can communicate not only with each other but with the urban environment, with the planet, with everything around them. Eventually the day may come when our bodies connect with worlds unattainable by ourselves.

Our physical sensations will expand, our perception and cognitive senses fusing, the line between oneself, and that outside oneself, the division between now and not now, disappearing.

It is in just such an age that we should perhaps take care not to lose sight of the sense, the feeling that "in spring it is the dawn (that is the most beautiful)."

The sun sets, the sun rises. Within this unchanging cycle, we exist. No matter how much the environment around us, or the lifestyle it brings may change, the sun will invariably set in the west, and rise in the east.

At 6:22pm on April 25, 2015, the sun will set in the west in Tokyo's Roppongi district, and at last, the curtain will rise on 2015's Roppongi Art Night, this time featuring media art. Tens of thousands will take part, joining together on the streets of Roppongi, illuminating the night. The whole of Roppongi will be rendered media, seeming to dissolve the boundaries of time, an hour becoming a second. It will feel as if your body has expanded, as if you can touch the very stars in the sky. Yet no matter how those boundaries vanish, at 4:56am on April 26, 2015, the sun will rise in the east in Roppongi.

At that moment, in that "spring dawn" instant, time and bodies will return to life-size... In these turbulent times, some things never change.

And media art will light the way to our world 1000 years hence.

Katsuhiko Hibino
Artistic Director
Roppongi Art Night 2015