

AWARE: Archives of Women Artists, Research and Exhibitions launches a new photography programme in Japan

In June 2024, AWARE introduced a new Japanese-language section on its website, extending its mission of amplifying women artists' voices to a wider international public. The addition not only reflects the association's growing activities and global reach but also responds to a deepening cultural dialogue through academic and educational content. Since the launch, visits from Japan have surged, moving the country from eighteenth to fourth place among AWARE's online audiences in only one year. On October 2025, AWARE broadens the scope of its content, opening the platform to women architects such as Nobuko Tsuchiura and Kazuyo Sejima, internationalising the profiles available in Japanese through the Stars programme, and adding an in-depth focus on women photographers through *Traces of the Future: Women Photographers from Japan*.

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AWAREについてプログラム作家記事ご支援

AWARE-日本

AWARE Archives of Women Artists, Research & Exhibitionsは、2014年に設立された非営利団体です。創設者のひとりでディレクターを務める、キュレーターで美術史家のカミュー・モリノーは「女性のアーティストは存在しない、あるいは非常に少ないという固定観念のために、あまりに多くの時間が失われてきました。今日、その存在は無視できなくなり、これまでとは異なる言葉、異なる運動、異なる前衛的な手法を用いて異なる物語を書くよう、私たちを促しています」と語ります。AWAREはさまざまな国や地域を渡りチームを組み、18世紀、19世紀、20世紀の女性アーティストたちを可視化するため、彼女たちの功績についてのコンテンツをフランス語と英語の2ヶ国語で作成し、ウェブサイトでも無料公開しています。AWAREは、世界中の500人以上の研究者、キュレーター、フェミニスト美術史家、美術評論家やアクティビストによって書かれたテキストを通して、多様な声を代弁しています。このウェブサイトのデータベースは1664年から1974年の間に生まれ、視覚芸術の分野で活躍する女性およびノンバイナリーのアーティストを、表現媒体や国の制限なく集めています。研究記事とイ... 続きを読む

最近公開された作家



土浦 信 (信子)
1900 - 東京または仙台、日本生まれ
1998 - 東京、東京にて逝去



宮脇 愛子
1929 - 日本、東京都生まれ
2014 - 日本、神奈川県にて逝去



奥原 晴湖
1817 - 日本、長門生まれ
1910 - 日本、山口県にて逝去



大田垣 蓮月
1791 - 日本、京都生まれ
1875 - 日本、京都にて逝去

研究論文



2025年7月18日 | 小川知子
大阪の女性日本画家
はじめに 近代日本を代表する女性画家は間違いなく上村松園 (1875-1949年) である。また、今日も名前が残る者は少ないが、松園以外にも画家として活動していた女性たちは各地に少なからずいた。こうした従来の美術史... 続きを読む



2025年5月10日 | 編織屋子
オノデラユキ インタビュー：身体性と物質性を探索する写真
オノデラユキは1962年に東京で生まれ、1993年からパリを拠点に制作を行うアーティストだ。キャリア初期における日本の写真展覧会時に「面白いことは貴重である」と称賛されて以来、非視覚的・多層的なイメージ... 続きを読む



2025年4月18日 | オリア・ミル
EXPERIMENTS IN ART AND TECHNOLOGY (E.A.T.): 女性アーティストの参画
E.A.T.は1966年9月、アーティスト、エンジニア、科学者の協働促進を目指し、非営利の事業体としてニューヨークで誕生した。20世紀におけるテクノロジーを基盤としたアートのあり方を形作る上で、E.A.T.が果たした... 続きを読む


Over the last 11 years, the website of AWARE: Archives of Women Artists, Research & Exhibitions has become a one-of-a-kind resource, with 1,400 artist biographies, texts written by over 500 researchers, curators, and art historians from all over the world, and over 150,000 visits per month. The chronological and geographical scope of the website, as well as the diversity of its content and multimedia offerings, make it a tool for professionals and the general public alike. To widely disseminate research on women artists and gender studies, AWARE also organises symposiums, round tables, and seminars locally at the Villa Vassilieff or in partnership with institutions, universities, museums, and other independent structures internationally.

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Mako Idemitsu

1940 | TOKYO, JAPAN





Japanese film and video artist.

Mako Idemitsu is a pioneer of Japanese feminist art and visual expression. She studied in New York following her graduation from Waseda University in 1962, in order to escape the control of her father, the founder of the Idemitsu Kosan Co., Ltd. In 1965 she married the painter Sam Francis (1924–1994), moving to California and subsequently having two sons. However, due to the stress of being the wife of a famous painter, and the sense of isolation she felt as an Asian woman in American society, she began to feel that if she continued to do nothing, she would go utterly mad. Thus, she purchased an 8 mm film camera and began teaching herself to create video art. In 1970 she joined a consciousness-raising group tied to the then-flourishing Women's Liberation Movement. With the encouragement of the groups' members, she began using a more professional 16 mm camera.

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PUBLICATIONS+

EXHIBITIONS+

- ✓ Audiovisual
- ✓ Film
- ✓ Video
- ✓ Women's status
- ✓ Human body
- ✓ Feminism
- ✓ Nature
- ✓ Everyday life
- ✓ Japan
- ✓ 1970s
- ✓ 1980s
- ✓ 1990s
- ✓ 2000s
- ✓ 2010s
- ✓ 2020s
- ✓ 20th century
- ✓ 21st century

Mako Idemitsu biography on AWARE's website ©AWARE: Archives of Women Artists, Research and Exhibitions

The Japanese-language section offers a dedicated portal into the work of Japanese women artists, opening pathways of discovery for audiences both within Japan and beyond. Rooted in years of research and exchange with local scholars, curators, and institutions, this initiative builds on a series of collaborative programmes, namely *Women Artists in Japan: 19th-21st Century*, *TEAM: Teaching, E-learning, Agency, Mentoring, and Living with Two Brains: Women in New Media Art, 1960s-1990s*. Thanks to these programmes, the platform underscores the presence of Japanese women artists across movements and generations, including diverse profiles such as Nihonga painter Tamako Kataoka, video art pioneer Mako Idemitsu, and contemporary artist Rei Naito. Complementing short biographical texts, research articles situate their practices within broader artistic currents, societal transformations, and feminist thought, offering deeper insight into their careers and contributions.

Focus on photography

New research programme: *Traces of the Future¹: Japanese women in photography changing the perspectives of their time*

AWARE has launched a new research programme devoted to expanding the study and visibility of Japanese women photographers. Conceived in close dialogue with an advisory committee, the initiative explores their practices within broader historical contexts and contemporary discussions. The texts have been commissioned from curators who are actively engaged in art and photography today.

¹ *Traces of the Future* comes from the title of the exhibition by Miyako Ishiuchi, the first woman photographer to be exhibited at the Japan Pavilion at the Venice Biennale, organized by curator Michiko Kasahara, who has long been a pioneer in building the context for Japanese women photographers.

The programme starts with the publication of biographies of pioneering photographers such as Ryū Shima, Toyoko Tokiwa, and Tokuko Ushioda, as well as leading contemporary voices including Sakiko Nomura and Tomoko Yoneda, alongside an interview with Kunié Sugiura. They will provide an in-depth look at women's contributions to photography in Japan, tracing a lineage from the period of Japan's modernization and the postwar era to the present day. The selection of photographers reflects the historical significance of their achievements, as well as the diversity of generations, subjects, and artistic approaches that have shaped the field. The programme also aims to diversify narratives and perspectives in Japanese culture and art.

This initiative is supported by Marukawa Collection.

Advisory committee:

Michiko Kasahara, Director of the Nagano Prefectural Art Museum

Mariko Takeuchi, Professor at Kyoto University of the Arts

Organisation of a round table at the T3 Photo Asia Festival: Traces of the Future: Women Photographers from Japan and Korea changing the perspectives of their time

This panel at the T3 photo fair and festival, organised by AWARE, will highlight the active role of women in photography in Korea and Japan from the 1960s, focusing on the practices of the pioneering artists Ishiuchi Miyako - present at the event - and Park Young-sook, whose work will be presented by art historian Kim Hong-hee.

Both artists engage with women's lives: Park Youngsook (b. 1941), through portrait photography that challenges traditional gender roles as well as power structures surrounding women's bodies and identities, and Ishiuchi Miyako (b. 1947), through the highlighting of scenes, body parts, clothing, and personal objects that carry memories and explore the traces of human existence. The panel will also open discussion on their roles in collective initiatives such as the self-published magazine *Main photo magazine* (1996–2000) and the Sookmihoe Club (1961–), which allowed women to articulate their own narratives, challenge gendered expectations, and open new spaces within the photographic community and the broader art world. Building on transnational dialogue, the panel will shed light on the evolving landscape and gender-specific conditions of photographic practice in Korea and Japan from the 1960s to the present.

Miyako Ishiuchi

1947 | KIRYŪ, GUNMA PREFECTURE, JAPAN



Portrait of Ishiuchi Miyako, 2022,
Courtesy of The Third Gallery Ayn

- ✓ Photography
- ✓ Analogous photography
- ✓ Digital photography
- ✓ Autoethnography
- ✓ Women & status
- ✓ Human body
- ✓ Documentary
- ✓ Party & nightlife
- ✓ Memory
- ✓ Fashion & clothing
- ✓ Portrait
- ✓ Domestic scene
- ✓ Old age
- ✓ Japan
- ✓ 1970s
- ✓ 1980s
- ✓ 1990s
- ✓ 2000s
- ✓ 2010s
- ✓ 2020s
- ✓ 21st century
- ✓ 21st century

PUBLICATIONS +

EXHIBITIONS +

VIDEO ARCHIVE +



Japanese photographer.

Miyako Ishiuchi grew up in Yokosuka, in a threatening environment, close to the largest United States Navy base in Japan; she left the city as soon as she could. She began working as a photographer at the end of the Vietnam War (1955–1975). Returning to Yokosuka she started to confront her past, making this her main subject. Three books were consecutively published with Shashin Tsushin-sha editions. The first, *Apartment* (1978) – snapshots of a small room in an old apartment similar to the one M. Ishiuchi grew up in – won the Kimura Ihei Award in 1979; she was the first woman to win this prize. The other two, *Yokosuka Story* (1979) and *Endless Night* (1981), documented the city's brothels and bars. In 1990 M. Ishiuchi published *い・ろ・ろ・ろ・ろ* (IPC), a collection of close-up shots she made of the hands and legs of women born the same year as her. Her subsequent series, *Scars* (Sokyusha, 2005), focused on marks on the human body. At the end of the decade she started working with her mother's belongings and ageing, scarred body. Each item in *Mother's* is carefully captured one by one from a frontal perspective. Because of a long-running feud, she had always refused to let M. Ishiuchi take her picture but she agreed just before her death after a short illness. *Mother's* was presented in the Japanese Pavilion at the Venice Biennale in 2005. For the artist, this work was a way to confront the loss and understand her mother. It also reflects the significant changes Japanese women experienced during the post-war era.

READ MORE

Kasahara Michiko

A biography produced as part of the "Women Artists in Japan: 19th - 21st century" programme
© Archives of Women Artists, Research and Exhibitions, 2023

The panel will be preceded by a presentation of AWARE's mission, its research programs—including Women Artists in Japan: 19th - 21st century and Traces of the future: Japanese Women Photographers from Japan—as well as its digital tools, which are designed to provide reliable, high-quality information to anyone interested in the arts, including professionals such as curators, researchers, and educators, for use in the development of their own projects.

Practical information

Sunday, October 12, 2025, from 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm

T3 Photo Fair and Festival

Kyobashi 3-6-6, Chuo-ku, Tokyo, Japan



International Symposium “Living with Two Brains: Women in AI and New Media Art” Day I on February 15, 2025 (MACHINE LOVE: Video Game, AI and Contemporary Art, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, 2025), co-organised by AWARE: Archives of Women Artists, Research and Exhibitions and the Mori Art Museum
Photo: Tayama Tatsuyuki / Photo courtesy: Mori Art Museum, Tokyo

”Stars” programme - Internationalising the AWARE Japan website

Since its founding, AWARE has published a wide range of artist biographies in English and French. A selection of these texts will be translated and, beginning on October 15, 2025, released in Japanese, offering Japanese audiences a richer educational and research resource. The series features a diverse range of women and non-binary artists, from historically significant pioneers to leading voices in contemporary art, including Lois Mailou Jones, Judy Chicago, Sophie Calle, Theresa Hak Kyung Cha, and Amanda Heng, among others.

The programme begins with the publication of the biography of Louise Bourgeois, an influential figure in contemporary feminist art whose work has long resonated with Japanese audiences through major exhibitions. This editorial initiative reflects AWARE's mission to foreground voices whose contributions remain under-recognized, yet are vital to the global narratives of art history.

Presentation of AWARE

AWARE: Archives of Women Artists, Research & Exhibitions is a non-profit organisation, co-founded by art historian Camille Morineau in 2014, which works to make women artists visible by producing and publishing free, fully bilingual (French/ English) content about their work on its website. In 11 years, the AWARE website has become a unique online resource, aimed at professionals in the art world as well as the general public. This resource currently features over 1,400 richly illustrated biographical texts and has over 150,000 visits per month.

AWARE is located in the Villa Vassilieff in the 15th arrondissement of Paris, where the artist Marie Vassilieff had her studio in the 1910s. In this highly symbolic space, reimagined by designer matali crasset, AWARE has set up a research and documentation centre entirely dedicated to women artists and feminist art. The association also hosts residencies, events, meetings and workshops for schools.

AWARE in numbers

1 website dedicated to women artists of the 15th to the 21st century, 1 library and research centre in Paris, with over 3,800 books	65 artist biographies in Japanese in September 2025
2 podcast series: "Women House", "Great Women of Art"	100 events - international conferences, study days and round tables - organised by AWARE since 2014 in partnership with international museums and universities
3 languages on the website (French, English and Japanese)	232 articles published in the Magazine section of the AWARE website
10 print publications of interviews and conference proceedings	500 contributors to AWARE worldwide
15 AWARE Prize-winning artists	1,400 artist biographies
20 episodes of the animated series	2,000 artists listed for publication over the next few years
31 themed guides aimed at all audiences, especially secondary school students and/or art lovers	150,000 connections to the site on average each month

Practical information

Website: <https://awarewomenartists.com>

AWARE Japanese website : https://awarewomenartists.com/en/aware_japan/

Social Media (Facebook, Instagram) @AwareWomenArt

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