



National Center for
Art Research, Japan

PRESS RELEASE

March 16, 2026

Independent Administrative Institution National Museum of Art
National Center for Art Research, Japan

 **AWARE**
Centre Pompidou

**“NCAR × AWARE Women Artists Research Fellowship”
Inaugural FY2026 Fellowship Recipients to be announced
April 15, 2026, Institut français de Tokyo**

The National Center for Art Research, Japan (NCAR) (Director: **Kataoka Mami**) and AWARE: Archives of Women Artists, Research and Exhibitions, Centre Pompidou – Musée national d’art moderne (Head of department: **Camille Morineau**) have selected two research projects for the inaugural 2026 edition of the “NCAR × AWARE Women Artists Research Fellowship” jointly launched in December 2025. The selected fellows will be officially announced on **April 15, 2026**, at the **Institut français de Tokyo** (see details below).

The Fellowship aims to strengthen scholarship about women artists in Japan and contribute to the global advancement of art historical research through more diverse and inclusive perspectives. NCAR and AWARE invited research proposals from **researchers and curators residing in Japan**, whose projects focus on **visual artists with a connection to Japan who self-identify as women or non-binary**. Research funding of up to **EUR 5,000 (paid in JPY equivalent)** will be provided for each research project.

For this inaugural 2026 Fellowship, the open call was conducted from December 12, 2025, to January 31, 2026, attracting applications from researchers and curators with diverse expertise from Japan and abroad. Following a rigorous review by a panel of six experts, two research projects were selected. Fellows will conduct research activities for approximately one year, from April 2026 to March 2027, based on their proposed themes. The research outcomes will be published on both the websites of NCAR and AWARE to foster wider public and academic engagement.

Comments from the Organizers:

“Over the last decade, awareness of gender balance in museum collections and exhibitions has been growing internationally, and art museums in Japan have also begun taking steps to address existing imbalances. NCAR and AWARE have established the new fellowship in order to further advance these efforts, and its first edition received many strong and compelling research proposals, allowing us to recognize the emergence of a new generation of researchers. We sincerely look forward to this initiative helping to illuminate the history of art in a more layered and multifaceted way, while bringing greater recognition to many outstanding talents.”

by Mami Kataoka

“I am proud to partner with NCAR to advance research and highlight the work of women artists with ties to Japan. By deepening understanding of their artistic practices, the research fellowships will surface new perspectives and help shape more inclusive art historical narratives. Conceived as a long-term initiative, the program aims to bring their contributions into greater international focus and support the continued growth of their recognition.”

by Camille Morineau

◆About the National Center for Art Research, Japan (<https://ncar.artmuseums.go.jp/en/>)

Under the mission of “connecting, deepening, and expanding art,” NCAR continues to contribute to the activation and enhancement of museum activities in Japan. Our efforts include collecting and disseminating art resources both domestically and internationally, promoting the utilization of collection, building human networks, expanding learning opportunities, and supporting artists.

◆About AWARE: Archives of Women Artists, Research & Exhibitions, Centre Pompidou – Musée national d’art moderne (https://awarewomenartists.com/aware_japan/)

AWARE is dedicated to compiling and sharing knowledge about women and non-binary artists of the 16th to 21st centuries. Its aim is to shed light on their work through the organization of international events and the development of a trilingual website (French/English/Japanese) that presently contains over 1,400 biographical texts and draws up to 80,000 visitors per month. In 2025 AWARE was integrated as a unit within the Musée national d’art moderne, in order to pursue and expand its essential research and advocacy missions.

Event Overview

Event Title	NCAR×AWARE Women Artists Research Fellowship 2026 Selected Fellows Announcement	
Date & Time	Wednesday, April 15, 2026, 11:00–12:00 (followed by a networking reception)	
Venue	Institut français de Tokyo (15 Ichigaya-Funagawara-machi, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo)	
Program	Opening remarks (Mami Kataoka and Camille Morineau), jury comments, introduction of the selected fellows and their research projects (scheduled)	
Capacity	80 people (Priority given to reservations)	
Language	Japanese, French (Interpretation available)	
Organizers	National Center for Art Research, Japan, AWARE: Archives of Women Artists, Research and Exhibitions, Centre Pompidou – Musée national d’art moderne	
Co-organizer	Embassy of France in Japan / Institut français du Japon	
With generous support from	Kathy Matsui, the Per Ardua Ad Astra endowment fund, in collaboration with its residency programme for Japanese artists in France, Maison Kochimi.	
Registration	https://forms.gle/TBkVuTFQ5tP6GKRD8	

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< Website for AWARE >

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