

THE SAISON FOUNDATION

The Saison Foundation

2021 Grant Awards

Independently Organized and Co-Organized Programs
(as of March 2021)

Contact: The Saison Foundation
4F Kyobashi Yamamoto Bldg
3-12-7 Kyobashi, Chuo-ku Tokyo 104-0031, Japan
Tel: +81 3 3535 Fax: +81 3 3535 5565
foundation@saison.or.jp
<http://www.saison.or.jp/>

TOKYO (March 2021) – The Saison Foundation* of Tokyo, Japan, announces grants totaling ¥69,000,000 awarded to the following forty-three individuals and organizations, in addition to grants for its Independently Organized and Co-Organized programs. All grants are for activities taking place from April 2021 to March 2022.

Please note the information listed below is based on applications as of January 27, 2021, and is subject to change without notice.

1. Direct Support to Artists

① Contemporary Theater and Dance: **Saison Fellows I / II** (25 Recipients / ¥39,500,000)

Saison Fellows I

¥1,000,000 each per year

Newly Selected First-Time Grantees (for fiscal 2021 and 2022)

Masashi Nukata (theater)

Nuthmique <http://www.nukata.tokyo> <https://nuthmique.com>

First year of a two-year grant awarded to the Tokyo- and Kanagawa-based director and composer. Masashi Nukata established **Nuthmique** in 2016 and won the Aichi Arts Foundation Drama Award that same year. Founded on an inquiry into the nature of performance, Nukata employs musical concepts in his scripts and directing as he seeks to expand the framework of the performing arts. His work utilizes the fundamental musical structure of repetition, as opposed to melody as employed in musicals and opera. In 2018, he won Best Director at the 2018 Komaba Agora Directors Concours.

Nagara Wada (theater)

Shitatame <http://shitatame.blogspot.jp>

First year of a two-year grant awarded to the Kyoto-based director who founded **shitatame** in 2011. Nagara Wada's practice is known for her interpretation of theater as a "scene" where the resolution of the body and language increases, and for her engagement with daily memories and literal use of texts. She collaborates with artists from such other fields as visual art, photography, and music. She is also involved with planning and running projects to improve creative environments and serve as platforms for diverse forms of expression. In 2015, she won Best Play at the Fukuoka City Foundation for Arts and Cultural Promotion Competition.

Ayano Yokoyama (dance)

lal banshees <http://yokoyamanaa.com>

First year of a two-year grant awarded to the Tokyo-based choreographer and dancer, who launched the female dance company **lal banshees** in 2016. Ayano Yokoyama has developed a highly particular kind of movement with a profound relationship between sound and motion, and which deliberately focuses on a singular body. Her work is based on the senses she has acquired from living amid the rich natural environment of Nagano, where she is from. Envisioning contemporary problems and sensations, reality and unreality, and the other, past, and future she does not know, Yokoyama composes the music for her performances and also does the stage design, and creates work that is highly conscious of landscape. She received the Jury Prize at the Yokohama Dance Collection 2020 Competition 1 as well as the Porosus Endowment Fund Camping 2020 Prize.

Akira Nakazawa (performance)

Spacenotblank <http://spacenotblank.com>

First year of a two-year grant awarded to the Tokyo-based theater artist, director, choreographer, and performer. Akira Nakazawa founded **Spacenotblank** in 2012. He works as a theater maker with Ayaka Ono. Without using the concepts of choreography in dance or playwriting in theater, and without adding artificial force to the human values that the creative team and audiences maintain or to values that things and places retain, he seeks to discover new values. As the source of creativity, he arranges these elements in a pure, unadulterated form on the stage. In 2017, he won the Grand Prize at the Sengawa Theatre Concours and, in 2019, he won the Best Director Award at the Toga Theatre Concours (jointly with Ono).

*The Saison Foundation was established in July 1987 by its founder and president, Seiji Tsutsumi (1927–2013), and supports activities involving contemporary Japanese theater and dance by awarding grants and priority use of its studio facilities and guest rooms in Tokyo to professional, private, and nonprofit individuals/organizations working in these fields. The Foundation owns Morishita Studio—a facility comprising two buildings with four studios and three guest rooms in Tokyo—which award recipients may rent at minimal rates for rehearsals, workshops, creative work projects, symposia, lectures, and residencies.

Newly Selected Second-Time Grantees (for fiscal 2021 and 2022)

Midori Kurata (dance)

<https://akakilike.jimdofree.com>

First year of a second two-year grant awarded to the Kyoto-based director, choreographer, dancer, and founder of the dance company **akakilike**.

Shuntaro Matsubara (theater)

https://twitter.com/shuntaro_m

First year of a second two-year grant awarded to the Kyoto-based playwright.

Second-Time Continuing Grantees (for fiscal 2020 and 2021)

Shinichi Anasako (theater)

<http://buru-egonaku.com/>

Final year of a second two-year grant awarded to the director, playwright, and founder of the theater company **Blue Egonaku**. Shinichi Anasako is based in the city of Kitakyushu in Fukuoka Prefecture.

Satoko Ichihara (theater)

<http://qqq-qqq-qqq.com>

Final year of a second two-year grant awarded to the Tokyo-based playwright and director, who founded the theater company **Q** in 2011.

Naoki Sugawara (theater)

<http://oibokkeshi.net>

Final year of a second two-year grant awarded to the director, playwright, caregiver, and founder of the theater company **OiBokkeShi**. Naoki Sugawara is based in the town of Nagi in Okayama Prefecture.

Yuri Yamada (theater)

<https://zeitakubinbou.com/Zeitakubinbou>

Final year of a second two-year grant awarded to the Tokyo-based director, playwright, and founder of the theater company **ZEITAKUBINBOU**.

Koichiro Tamura (dance)

<https://danceprojectrevo.wixsite.com/dance-project-revo/profile>

Final year of a second two-year grant awarded to the choreographer and dancer based in Tokyo, Yokohama, and Kobe. Koichiro Tamura established **DANCE PJ REVO** in 2011.

Mari Fukutome (dance)

<https://marifukutome.tumblr.com>

Final year of a second two-year grant awarded to the choreographer and dancer based in Tokyo and Yamaguchi. Following time with the dance group Ho Ho-Do, Mari Fukutome started working as a solo artist from 2014.

Third-Time Continuing Grantees (for fiscal 2020 and 2021)

Kishodai Kageyama (theater)

<https://noruha.net>

Final year of a third two-year grant awarded to the Tokyo-based playwright, director, and founder of the theater company **Gettingonthe-flyingsaucerists**. Since 2016, Kishodai Kageyama has also based himself in his hometown of Hamamatsu.

Suguru Yamamoto (theater)

<https://www.hanchuyuei2017.com>

Final year of a third two-year grant awarded to the Tokyo- and Kanagawa-based playwright and director, who founded the theater company **HANCHU-YUEI**.

KITAMARI (dance)

<https://ki6dance.jimdofree.com>

Final year of a third two-year grant awarded to the Kyoto-based choreographer and director, who founded the dance company **KIKIKIKIKIKI** in 2003 while at university.

Saison Fellows II

Newly Selected Grantee (for fiscal 2021 to 2024)

¥1,000,000 per year

Megumi Kamimura (dance)

<http://kamimuramegumi.info>

First year of a four-year grant awarded to the Tokyo-based choreographer and dancer. Megumi Kamimura started her solo practice in 2004. In 2011, she formed a group with the visual artist Shinichi Takashima called Zengo (Before and After). In 2016, she formed another group, baby tooth, with the visual artist Michiko Tsuda. Working with collectives of various dancers, she develops her activities in multifaceted ways. Kamimura observes and reconstructs the human form and complexity of its movement, exploring the contradiction whereby we live for fundamentally no reason even though our bodies exist materially. She recently presented a new work at Festival/Tokyo 2019.

Newly Selected Grantees (for fiscal 2021 to 2023)

¥2,500,000 per year

Kaori Seki (dance)

<http://www.kaoriseki.info/en>

First year of a three-year grant awarded to the Tokyo-based choreographer and dancer Kaori Seki, who founded **KAORI SEKI Co. PUNCTUMUN** in 2013. In her work, she investigates the extralinguistic communication (emotion) that humankind lost when it acquired language, and draws inspiration from the ecology of insects, animals, and plants to reflect on the fundamental nature of the living creature that is a “person.” She searches for time that can measure the sensory functions and senses of the audience through smell and sight. In 2012, she won the French Embassy Prize for Young Choreographer at Yokohama Dance Collection EX (jointly with Teita Iwaguchi) and the Toyota Choreography Award Next Generation Choreographer Award. She was previously a 2014–15 and 2016–17 Junior Fellow.

Takuro Suzuki (dance)

<http://chairoiplin.net/videos.html>

First year of a three-year grant awarded to the Tokyo-based choreographer and director Takuro Suzuki, who formed **CHAIROIPLIN** in 2007. Combining superior physicality and focused narrative, his work is accessible to all audiences regardless of age and experience of watching dance. His projects include the “danced plays” series in which he adapts famous theater works into dance performances. His accolades include, in 2014, Best Director at the Young Directors Contest 2013 and, in 2015, the Japan Dance Forum Award and the Dance Critics Society of Japan Newcomer Award. In 2019, he was given the Agency for Cultural Affairs New Artist Award. He was previously a 2016–17 and 2018–19 Junior Fellow.

Continuing Grants

(for fiscal 2020 to 2023)
Masako Yasumoto (dance) ¥2,000,000 per year

<http://yasumotomasako.net>

Second year of a four-year grant awarded to the Tokyo-based director and choreographer.

(for fiscal 2020 to 2022)
Ruri Mitoh (dance) ¥2,500,000 per year

<http://rurimito.com>

Second year of a three-year grant awarded to the Tokyo-based director/choreographer and founder of **Co. Ruri Mito**.

(for fiscal 2019 to 2022)
Tetsuya Umeda (performance) ¥2,000,000 per year

<https://www.siranami.com>

Third year of a four-year grant awarded to the Osaka-based performance artist.

(for fiscal 2019 to 2021)
Junko Emoto (theater) ¥3,000,000 per year

<http://junko-emoto.com>

Final year of a three-year grant awarded to the Tokyo-based playwright, director, and founder of the theater company **Kegawazoku**.

Takahiro Fujita (theater) ¥3,000,000 per year

<http://mum-gypsy.com>

Final year of a three-year grant awarded to the Tokyo-based theater artist and founder of **Mum & Gypsy**.

(for fiscal 2018 to 2021)
Yukinosuke Itoi (theater) ¥3,000,000 per year

<https://www.fukaiproduce-hagoromo.net>

Final year of a four-year grant awarded to the Tokyo-based playwright, director, and founding member of the theater company **FUKAIPRODUCE HAGOROMO**.

Keita Shirai (theater) ¥3,000,000 per year

<https://www.onsendragon.com>

Final year of a four-year grant awarded to the Tokyo-based playwright, director, and member of the theater company **Onsen Dragon**.

② Contemporary Theater and Dance: Sabbatical Program

This program awards fellowships up to ¥1,000,000 to individual artists who wish to travel abroad and experience intercultural encounters. Applicants must have: (a) a working base in Japan; (b) more than ten years of professional working experience in one of the following occupations: playwriting, directing, or choreography; and (c) plans to travel abroad for more than one month.

Newly Selected Grants: None

2. Partnership Programs

This category includes programs in which The Saison Foundation provides up to three years of support to individuals and organizations whose aims are to improve the infrastructure of contemporary performing arts in Japan or to conduct international exchange projects and thus enhance the visibility of Japanese performing arts around the world.

① **Contemporary Theater and Dance: Creative Environment Innovation Program**

Grants and studio/guestroom awards are given to individuals and organizations conducting projects aimed at improving the infrastructure of contemporary performing arts in Japan. (7 Recipients / ¥9,000,000)

Organization / Representative

countroom Inc. / Makoto Goto

Q&A Art Network

<https://www.countroom.co>

This project will create a FAQ-style website about arts administration. The project will build a network of practitioners.

Online

April 2021–March 2022

¥1,000,000

Open Network for Performing Arts Management (ONPAM) / Mariko Tsukaguchi **Lecture Series on Contracts in the Performing Arts 2021: Toward Sustainable Creative Environments** (tentative title)

<http://onpam.net>

This is a year-long series of lectures. The inaugural year offers participants the opportunity to learn about foundational knowledge and thinking in relation to contracts. In addition to lectures by invited guests, ONPAM members will serve as session leaders and reporters, conducting surveys and reports.

Online

May 2021–February 2022

¥1,000,000

Pacific Basin Arts Communications / Hiromi Maruoka **YPAM Fringe**

<https://www.tpam.or.jp/2021/ypam>

This five-year project will reorganize the current TPAM Fringe into a festival capable of running by itself. The project aims to spread recognition of the fringe festival in the community as well as nationally and internationally, and to achieve a level whereby it runs independently through the voluntary participation of members of the public.

Kanagawa

April 2021–March 2022

¥3,000,000

Support for Startup Projects: from 2020

Tatsuya Ogino

<http://fringe.jp/blog>

This grant supports the **Performing Arts Gifting Project**, which aims to expand audiences. In order to create opportunities to attract even people without particular interests in the performing arts, the project has established a gift ticket scheme for people to give tickets to others.

April 2021–March 2022

¥1,000,000

Toshiki Kamiya

<https://haisen8100.tumblr.com>

This grant supports the ongoing preparations at **Open Art Laboratory HAISEN**, a facility in the city of Otsu, Shiga Prefecture, that anyone can use as a professional-standard rehearsal and work space. It will function as a low-cost place for people to work and rehearse as well as stay overnight, contributing in this way to the development of the arts in the Kansai region.

April 2021–March 2022

¥1,000,000

Osaka Contemporary Performing Arts Association (DIVE) / Nobuyuki Kohara

<http://www.ocpa-dive.com/mij.html> <http://tfap.info/index.html>

Organizations each formed after natural disasters, DIVE, Art Revival Connection TOHOKU, and SASHIYORI Art Revival Connection KUMAMOTO have started to collaborate. The grant supports **The First Action Project**, which aims to bring together know-how and share case studies of artists' activities during times when creative approaches to emotional and community recovery are needed in areas affected by disaster.

April 2021–March 2022

¥1,000,000

Support for Startup Projects: from 2019

precog co., LTD. YAMABUKI Factory / Akane Arimitsu

<https://www.yamabukifactory.tokyo>

This grant supports **CONNELING STUDY**, a project for developing audience-centered learning methods. It positions the performing arts as new “educational materials” and converts the ideas of contemporary artists into curricula for audiences.

June–December 2021

¥1,000,000

② Contemporary Theater and Dance: International Project Support Program

This program is designed to support long-term international projects in which contemporary Japanese theater or dance artists/companies are involved for more than two years until completion.

(9 Recipients / ¥9,000,000 with Studio and Guest Room use at Morishita Studio)

Newly Selected Grants

FujiyamaAnnette / Ney Hasegawa (performance)

International Collaboration: Invasion Body

<http://www.fannette.net/index.html>

This is the third year of a four-year project featuring a tour of a work co-created by the Japanese director and choreographer Ney Hasegawa and the Taiwanese director, choreographer, and dancer Sunny Yang Nai-hsuan, in partnership with Tang Fu Kuen, the director of the Taipei Arts Festival. The research and creative development for the work has taken place since 2018 at a residency. It examines the nature of apology while exploring history.

April–December 2021

Tokyo, Kanagawa, and Taipei, Taiwan

¥1,000,000

Wayla Amatathammachad (theater)

Parallel Normalities: Empowering regional cities with performing arts (tentative title)

<https://en.prayoonforart.org>

This is the second year of a three-year project. In the Thai province of Loei and the Japanese city of Shizuoka, the Thai arts manager Wayla Amatathammachad and Japanese playwright Natsuki Ishigami are developing a proposal for a theater venue as an extension of people's lives while interacting with local people and the land.

June 2021

Shizuoka and Loei, Thailand

¥1,000,000

Nicola Gunn (theater)

The Interpreters

<http://www.nicolagunn.com>

This is a three-year project in which the Norwegian playwright and performance artist Nicola Gunn and the Japanese translator and interpreter Nobuko Aiso will build a translation structure, and then transform differences and diversity of communication and culture into a multilingual artwork.

May 2021–March 2022

Tokyo and Bergen, Norway

¥600,000

Continuing Grants

Tabaimo Theater Project / Tabaimo (performance)

Visual artist Tabaimo and circus performer Jörg Müller are collaboratively developing a new production in their respective locations of Japan and France, with the intent of touring the finished work to France. The work explores the theme of fear.

April–December 2021

Japan and France

¥1,000,000

shuffleyamamba / Yasuko Yokoshi (dance)

<https://www.yasukoyokoshi.com>

Yasuko Yokoshi partnered with the composer Gelsey Bell to create a new performance based on the noh play *Yamamba* (Mountain Crone). The work explores ideas of femininity connected with the image of the mountain crone as well as how an art is passed down by female performers. In 2021, the project will undertake a creative residency at Mount Tremper Arts, followed by a performance in Yokohama. In autumn 2022, the project plans to stage a performance in New York.

May–December 2021

Kyoto and New York, USA

¥1,200,000

P Institution / Megumi Mizuno (theater)

Collaborative Research: Rereading History from the South

In this collaborative research project that “rereads ‘history’ in terms of the south,” Yudai Kamisato and the Malaysian theater artist Mark Teh follow each other’s research and then share their respective creative processes.

July 2021–March 2022

Okinawa and Tokyo

¥1,000,000

Teater Garasi/Garasi Performance Institute / Yudi Ahmad Tajudin (theater)

<http://teatergarasi.org>

This grant supports the production of *Multitude of Peer Gynts*, an international collaboration that reinterprets our current world through an adaptation of Ibsen’s *Peer Gynt*.

June–July 2020

Online, Colombo, Ho Chi Minh City, Yogyakarta

¥1,000,000

Nibroll / Mikuni Yanaihara (dance)

Dance in ASIA

<http://www.nibroll.com>

This grant was selected in fiscal 2015–16. By bringing together different companies and bases, and creating new work, this project aims to build a network centered on culture and the arts in Asia. Partnering with Taiwan’s Century Contemporary Dance Company and following exchange with companies in Indonesia and Malaysia, Nibroll’s *Drama Queen* will be staged at the National Theater & Concert Hall in Taiwan. (This project was postponed from fiscal 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic.)

August–September 2021

Online, Taiwan

¥1,200,000

Association Achles / David Wampach (dance)

INOUTSIDE

<http://www.davidwampach.eu/index.php>

This is the final year of a grant for a project that began in 2018 and, following a hiatus in 2019, undertook remote creative development and then filming in 2020. In 2021, the project plans to present a work in Japan combining performance and video.

September–October 2021

Kyoto and Tokyo

¥1,000,000

③ **Artistic Exchange Project Grant Program** (designated fund program)

Grants and other awards are given to activities and projects by non-profit organizations outside of Japan that have an ongoing relationship with The Saison Foundation with the aim of making Japanese culture and art known in their respective countries and areas. (Applications to this program are not publicly invited.)

Japan Society, Inc. (New York)

This grant supports the second year of another three-year series of the Japan Society's ***Play Reading: Contemporary Japanese Plays in English Translation*** that began in 2005. The 2021 grant will support the staged reading of *Cooking Up* by **Shoko Matsumura**, translated into English by Aya Ogawa and directed by Jordana De La Cruz, co-director of the OBIE Award-winning performance venue JACK in Brooklyn. (¥500,000)

3. Contribution Program: Research Grants for Activating the Next Generation of Artistic Creativity

This grant program is newly launched this fiscal year. It supports research and survey activities aiming to propose policies for activating the next generation of artistic creativity. (1 Recipient / ¥498,000)

Yoshiko Sato

Study of Public Support for the Sustainable Development of Regional Networks Supporting Cultural and Artistic Activities

In order to raise awareness of public support for regional networks, this research project will examine examples of regional networks with a focus on nonprofits and public halls organizing sustainable theater, dance, music, and other activities, and then analyze the situation regarding network structures and support. The study will consider future challenges and better frameworks for public support, and make policy proposals.

April 2021–March 2022

Iwate and Hyogo

¥498,000

4. Contemporary Theater and Dance: Flight Grant (open only to applicants based in Japan)

This program supports those in immediate need of outbound travel funds from Japan to abroad. (¥502,000)

Details to be announced at a later date on The Saison Foundation website.

5. Contemporary Theater and Dance: COVID-19 Special Grant

This special program supports performing arts projects and activities affected by the coronavirus pandemic, providing grants so that artists can continue or launch their work. (¥10,000,000)

Details to be announced at a later date on The Saison Foundation website.

**The Saison Foundation
Independently Organized and Co-Organized Programs 2021**

As part of its work to support and enhance creative development for contemporary theater and dance and to boost the performing arts scene in Japan, The Saison Foundation also independently organizes and co-organizes programs and projects with not-for-profit organizations.

Saison Artist in Residence (AIR)

Residency exchange program with international partners

This program offers residency and research opportunities in Japan to artist-in-residence (AIR) organizations and other art-related establishments based outside of Japan, whom we expect to become our international partners inviting Japanese artists to their residency programs and sending artists to The Saison Foundation's residency program in the future.

Saison AIR Partnership

Indonesia Dramatic Reading / Muhammad Abe (Indonesia / theater)

Performance and Space Japan-Indonesia Playwrights Exchange Project

This is an exchange program in partnership with a festival that holds stage readings in Indonesian and focuses on playwrights working in Asia, especially Indonesia.

Yogyakarta, Tokyo

Morishita Studio residency: July 5–24, 2021

Mapped to the Closest Address / Alex Viteri Arturo (Germany / dance)

G Project: World constellations through poetic performance encounters

This is a collaboration between playwright Alex Viteri Arturo and the choreographer Shuntaro Yoshida. Following research on ecosystems and the environment that treats them equally, the project will reach completion in 2022 as a lecture performance.

Berlin, Tokyo

Morishita Studio residency: June 15–July 3, 2021

Footscray Community Arts Centre / Daniel Santangeli (Australia / performance)

RESIDENCE Exchange

This is an exchange program with an art center that has a strong network among minority communities like Aborigines, migrants, refugees, the disabled, and LGBTQIA+.

Melbourne, Tokyo

Morishita Studio residency: February 1–March 2, 2022

Co-Organized Programs

Creative Environment Innovation Program Startup Grant Report Session

Creating a Diverse Audience—Stepping Stones for English Speakers

This session will include a report and discussion about the project in the Creative Environment Innovation Program that has reached the end of its three-year grant (2018–20), including the solutions it found and the challenges that remain.

Partner: Kyoto International Performing Arts Festival Executive Committee

October 2021 (TBC)

Venue: Kyoto (TBC)

Activating the Next Generation of Artistic Creativity Grant Report Sessions

Proposal for Multifaceted Assessment Guidelines for Dance-Related Programs in Public Cultural Facilities (tentative title)

Toward New Efficiency Targets for Arts and Culture Funding Allocations to Local Governments (tentative title)

These sessions will include reports and discussions on the results of the surveys and research conducted since 2020 with the aim of proposing policies for activating the next generation of artistic creativity.

Partners: Arts Council Niigata, Open Network for Performing Arts Management

Summer 2021 (TBC)

Venue: Online

Hiroshi Koike Bridge Project: The Complete Mahabharata—Love and Wind

In the making since 2013, this is director Hiroshi Koike's project to stage in full the *Mahabharata*, the classic Sanskrit epic. It will bring together the previous productions to present a complete and unabridged version in Tokyo. This grant provides the production team with use of Morishita Studio as a rehearsal space.

Partner: The Complete Mahabharata Executive Committee

Morishita Studio residency:

Studio: June 2–August 14, 2021 (with a talk on August 24)

Guest Rooms: June 1–August 25, 2021

Performances: August 20–23, 2021 (Nakano ZERO Hall)

(This project was postponed from fiscal 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic.)

Seminar in Taipei 2021

Co-organized by Pro Helvetia, a foundation promoting Swiss culture overseas, and the Hong Kong-based Materialise, a nonprofit group involved with international productions, this is a training camp–style seminar aiming to foster mutual understanding and exchange among European and Asian artists aged thirty-five or younger working in the performing arts. It takes place at an international performing arts festival. Following on from 2019, another artist will be sent from Japan to participate in Taipei.

Organizers: Pro Helvetia, Materialise

Two weeks in mid-August 2021 (TBC) in Taipei, Taiwan

Venue: Taipei Arts Festival 2021

###