

KIX to showcase the works of eight popular manga artists as part of CULTURE GATE to JAPAN

Kansai Tourism Bureau and Kansai Airports are jointly hosting an exhibition at Kansai International Airport (KIX) from March 20, 2021 to May 31, 2022* as part of CULTURE GATE to JAPAN, a new-style project launched by the Agency for Cultural Affairs (ACA) to promote the appeal of Japanese culture to the world. CULTURE GATE to JAPAN features a series of exhibitions which have been held in seven airports and other facilities across the country since February 2021, where artists and creators active in the field of media art present their works inspired by cultural resources of the regions.

Kansai and its surrounding region has been a political, commercial and cultural center of Japan since ancient times, blessed with a rich tradition and historical heritage. The exhibition at KIX, designed under the theme of *LIFE*, redefines the region as eight unique ways—*Pilgrim Way* (Kii Peninsula), *Artisan Way* (Harima), *Water Way* (Lake Biwa and Hokuriku), *Cape Way* (San'in Coast), *Myth Way* (Ise and Nara), *Ocean Way* (Awajishima and Tokushima), *Harvest Way* (Tamba), and *Craft Way* (Fukui, east shore of Lake Biwa, and Mie), focusing on co-existence with nature. Eight renowned manga artists (Daisuke Igarashi, Yuki Urushibara, Sumako Kari, Machiko Satonaka, Yuki Sekine, Yoshikazu Yasuhiko, Yoshihiro Yamada, and Yuichi Yokoyama; in the Japanese syllabary order) depict beautiful nature, diverse cultures, and people's lives in the areas. Their art pieces are exhibited at eight canyon bridges (open-ceiling walkways) leading from the entrances to the second floor of KIX Terminal 1 building.

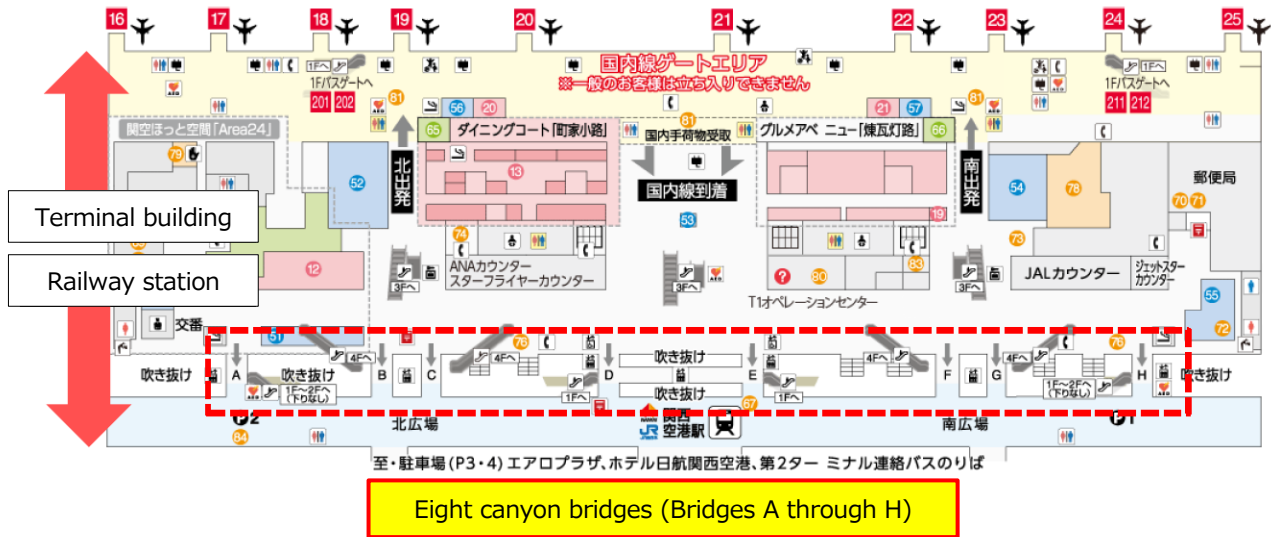
*Subject to extension



***Pilgrim Way* (Kii Peninsula)**

CULTURE GATE to JAPAN exhibition outline

- Date: Saturday, March 20, 2021 to Tuesday, May 31, 2022 *Subject to extension
- Location: Canyon bridges (second floor of KIX Terminal 1 building)
- Exhibition theme: LIFE
- Details: Eight manga artists depict cultures of eight areas of Kansai
- Artists: Daisuke Igarashi, Yuki Urushibara, Sumako Kari, Machiko Satonaka, Yuki Sekine, Yoshikazu Yasuhiko, Yoshihiro Yamada, Yuichi Yokoyama (in the Japanese syllabary order)
- Official website: <https://culture-gate.jp/>
- Location details:



Bridge A: *Craft Way* (Fukui, east shore of Lake Biwa, and Mie) by Yoshihiro Yamada

Bridge B: *Harvest Way* (Tamba) by Sumako Kari

Bridge C: *Cape Way* (San'in Coast) by Daisuke Igarashi

Bridge D: *Myth Way* (Ise and Nara) by Yoshikazu Yasuhiko

Bridge E: *Ocean Way* (Awajishima and Tokushima) by Machiko Satonaka

Bridge F: *Pilgrim Way* (Kii Peninsula) by Yuki Urushibara

Bridge G: *Artisan Way* (Harima) by Yuichi Yokoyama

Bridge H: *Water Way* (Lake Biwa and Hokuriku) by Yuki Sekine

Contact Information

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Reference

Artist profile (in the Japanese syllabary order)

*The names in [] represent the publishers.

Daisuke Igarashi

Manga artist. Born in Saitama. Graduated from the Department of Painting, Tama Art University. With his unique vision, Igarashi depicts the connection between nature and human, the world of myth and folklore, and the origins of ecosystem and life. Received the award of excellence in the manga category of the 8th ACA Japan Media Art Festival for *Witches* [Shogakukan] in 2004. Also, *Children of the Sea* [Shogakukan] won the 38th Japan Cartoonists Association Award and the 13th ACA Japan Media Art Festival's award in the manga category in 2009. His major works include *Little Forest*, *Designs* [Kodansha], *SARU* [Shogakukan], and *Adventure of Kabocha* [Takeshobo]. *Little Forest* was adapted into live-action films in Japan and South Korea in 2014 and 2018, respectively. And *Children of the Sea* was made into an animated movie in Japan in 2019. Igarashi has also published a number of picture books and illustrations.

Yuki Urushibara

Born in Yamaguchi in 1974. Won the Afternoon Four Seasons Award for *Mushishi* (renamed as *The Light of the Eyelid* when published as a comic book) in 1998 and made her debut in a commercial magazine. An animation film and live-action movie were created for *Mushishi* in 2005 and 2007, respectively. Urushibara's lyrical and delicate yet familiar style in depicting mysterious events happening in settings filled with nostalgic and bittersweet mood attracts many fans. *Mushishi* won the 7th ACA Japan Media Art Festival's award in the manga category and the 30th Kodansha Manga Award in the general category. Her major works include *Mushishi*, *Water*, and *If the Cat Faces West* [Kodansha].

Sumako Kari

Born in Fukuoka. Since her debut in 1994 with *SWAYIN' IN THE AIR* in the magazine *Ranmaru* [Ohta Publishing], Kari has been active in different genres including m/m slash, girls' and adults' comics. With her unique humor, sensitive psychological descriptions, and colorful characters, Kari has drawn a huge following of readers. Her major works include *Kayo-chan no Nimotsu* [Takeshobo], *Ibara la Lullaby* [Kodansha], *Nohara no Harano* [Taiyohotosho], and *Ikuhyaku Seisou* [Ohta Publishing]. In 2006, her work *Family Restaurant* [Ohta Publishing] was adapted into a live-action film. Received the award of excellence in the manga category of the 23rd ACA Japan Media Art Festival for *To Die Tomorrow* [Ohta Publishing] in 2020.

Machiko Satonaka

Born in Osaka in 1948. Won the New Faces Award in the 1st Kodansha Manga Award for *Portrait of Pia* and made her professional debut during her second year of high school. Many of her works feature historical subjects, such as *Celestial Rainbow* depicting the life of the Japanese Empress Jitō which was created over 32 years. Her major works include *Tomorrow Will Shine*, *Ladies of Aries*, *Aurora of the Ocean*, *Cypress Hill*, *Constellation of the Hunter*, and *Kojiki*.

Won the prize from the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology commending her lifetime works and cultural activities (2006). Other awards include the Commendation of the Commissioner for Cultural Affairs (2010), Kojiki Publishing Grand Prix Ō no Yasumaro Award (2013), and Japanese Foreign Minister's Commendation (2014). Apart from her career as a manga artist, Satonaka serves as Professor at Osaka University of Arts, the director of the Japan Cartoonists Association, and the representative of the NPO Asian Manga Summit Administering Authority, engaging in a wide range of activities to promote manga and Japanese culture.

Yuki Sekine

Illustrator and manga artist. Born in Kawagoe City, Saitama. Lives in Isumi City, Chiba. Graduated from the Department of International and Cultural Studies, Tsuda University. Her works are inspired by everyday life and characterized by watercolor painting with a warm and fuzzy touch. Earned the award of excellence in the manga category of the 9th ACA Japan Media Art Festival for her first picture book *Late Summer* [Shimpusha Publishing]. Illustrated for literary works such as *Silver Wind up in the Sky* [Komine Shoten] (assigned for the 51st Nationwide Children's Book Report Competition), *Last Class* [Poplar Publishing], *Gentle Sound* [Komine Shoten] (won the 28th Niimi Nankichi Children's Literature Award), and *The Country with No Tomorrow* (a fiction serialized in Asahi Gakusei Shimbun newspaper). Her manga works include *Easygoing Macrobiotics Life: An Essay on No-fuss Diet with Brown Rice and Vegetables* [KADOKAWA].

Yoshikazu Yasuhiko

Born in Hokkaido in 1947. Active as an animator since 1970. Involved in the creation of *Space Battleship Yamato* (1974), *Brave Rydeen* (1976), and *Zambot 3* (1977). Played a leading role in creating the animation for *Mobile Suit Gundam* (1979) as an animation director and character designer. Began working as a full-time manga artist since 1989. Created a number of works with a historical theme ranging from ancient history and myths to modern history of Japan. Won the 19th Japan Cartoonists Association Award for *Namuji*, and the 4th ACA Japan Media Art Festival's award in the manga category for *Revolutionary Dog*. Also received the 43rd Seiun Award in the comic category for *Mobile Suit Gundam: THE ORIGIN*.

Yoshihiro Yamada

Born in Niigata in 1968. Won Kodansha's Tetsuya Chiba Award for *Taisho Yarou* in 1987 while in college, and made a debut in the weekly magazine *Comic Morning*. In his works, Yamada has tirelessly pursued a portrait of Japanese, and his sinful yet attractive characters and unique storytelling have gained a devoted following of readers across many genres. His major works include *Decathlon* [Shogakukan], *Dokyoboshi* [Shogakukan and then Kodansha], *Giant*, and *Heugemono* [Kodansha]. Won the award of excellence in the manga category of the 13th ACA Japan Media Art Festival and the Manga Grand Prix in the 14th Tezuka Osamu Cultural Prize for *Heugemono* in 2009. His work *Bokyo Taro* has been serialized in the weekly comic magazine *Morning* since 2019.

Yuichi Yokoyama

Artist and manga artist. Born in Miyazaki in 1967. Graduated from the Department of Oil Painting, Musashino Art University. Made a debut with a comic book *New Engineering* in 2004. Described as *Neo-manga*, Yokoyama's works have no clear storyline but purely represent the flow of time by depicting multiple characters' unfriendly interactions and actions with no obvious purpose, as well as mysterious objects' moving and transforming their shape. His major works include *Travel*, *NIWA*, *Baby Boom*, and *The Room of World Map*. *Baby Boom* was selected as the award committee's recommended work in the manga category of the 14th ACA Japan Media Art Festival. Yokoyama has been active as an artist, too, holding a series of solo exhibitions both at home and abroad.