

Press Release

To: Local Education / Arts & Culture / Feature Editors

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**Exclusively presented by Hong Kong Art School  
【Japan Art Tour】 is back again in April 2016**

**Embrace Art in City and Nature &  
Experience the fusion of Art and Nature in Japan!**

**15 January 2016 | Hong Kong** - In this coming April, Hong Kong Art School will be launching the Japan Art Tour with a newly designed itinerary, including a first-time exploration to the Tohoku Region of Japan. Since the Tohoku Region is well-known by its natural beauty and outdoor artworks, tour participants will be able to experience how the contemporary art and the splendid nature come together. The tour will also visit world-class museum in Tokyo, participants can attend a very exclusive art lecture given by a local art school in Tokyo and have their artistic horizons widened.

Led by experienced art lecturers of the School, whose professional views and knowledge about Japan Art and Culture are widely recognized, the Japan Art Tours conducted by Hong Kong Art School have always been well-received. Since 2011, the exclusive tours have been attracting hundreds of art lovers from a wide range of backgrounds and ages.

In this upcoming tour, participants will be visiting Aomori and Towada, the major cities in the Aomori Prefecture and the scenic sites therein, and experiencing the intriguing blend of Art and Nature. Alongside their artistic viewing of the masterpiece by Yoshitomo Nara and Yayoi Kusama, there is the embracement of the enchanting natural beauty of Aomori. Lake Towada and Oirase Stream in Aomori are considered as some of the most exquisite landscapes in Japan. The summer festival in Aomori, Nebuta Matsuri, is also an annual key event, participants in this tour may have the opportunity to visit the magnificently hand-crafted floating lanterns used in the festival. In the Tokyo City, in addition to exploring art museums with a behind-the-scene insight, participants will be able to take part in an Art Lecture that is exclusively conducted by a local contemporary art school which is specialized in innovative approaches in art teaching for the public in Tokyo.

### **Key attractions:**

#### **Aomori**

##### **Aomori Museum of Art**

##### **- Look for Yoshitomo Nara's Puppy**

A primary goal of the museum is to share the art and culture of local citizens of Aomori. Yoshitomo Nara (奈良美智) is a local of Aomori and the museum carries many of his pieces in their collection, including one of his commissioned works: the 8.5-meter Aomori Puppy.

<http://www.aomori-museum.jp/>

##### **Towada Art Center**

##### **- Discover Yayoi Kusama's Yellow Pumpkin**

Opened in 2008, the museum is the central highlight epitomizing the efforts of Towada City in its transformation into a "City of Arts". Visitors can experience artworks with the surrounding nature and cityscape. In addition to the museum spaces, there are several large, outdoor artworks installed around the ground, among which you will find the Yellow Pumpkin by Yayoi Kusama (草間彌生) and many of her public artworks! <http://towadaartcenter.com/web/towadaartcenter.html>

##### **Lake Towada**

##### **- Visit the largest crater lake on Honshu island of Japan**

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Lake Towada is part of the Towada-Hachimantai National Park, a popular recreation area in the region. It is also the largest crater lake on the Honshu island, and the third deepest lake in Japan. Its natural beauty attracts millions of visitors each year.

<http://towadako.or.jp/>

##### **Oirase Stream**

##### **- Enjoy the most scenic river valley in Japan**

The valley is made of fresh, mossy green forest, small boulder-crashing

waterfalls, where you can enjoy the Japanese style forest bath and immerse yourself in the nature!

### **Nebuta Matsuri**

**- Learn more about the making of the traditional hand-crafted Japanese lantern**

Apart from its natural attributes, Aomori is famous for its summer festival, Aomori Nebuta Matsuri (青森ねぶた祭り).

The festival is with a history of 300 years, and "Nebuta" refers to the floating of warrior figures in the streets at the city center. In this upcoming trip, you may be able to visit the large-scaled handcrafted floating lanterns at the museum, Nebuta Warasse (ねぶたの家 ワ・ラッセ)!

<http://www.nebuta.or.jp/>

### **Tokyo**

#### **Mori Art Museum / Mori Tower**

**- Explore areas that are normally off-limits to visitors**

Mori Art Museum is a privately founded world-class contemporary art institution located at the Mori Tower in Roppongi (六本木). Mr. Fumio Nanjo (南條史生), the Director of Mori Art Museum is also the Art Education International Director of Hong Kong Art School.

<http://www.mori.art.museum/jp/index.html>

#### **Arts Initiative Tokyo (AIT)**

**- Enhance your art educational experience at Making Art Different (MAD) 現代アートの学校 of AIT.**

AIT is a non-profit arts organization established in Tokyo in 2001 for a general public to come together and learn about art. The Lecture with a specialized topic is arranged particularly by the AIT/MAD for our Art Tour participants.

Following the visit to Aomori and Towada, Dr. Roger McDonald from AIT/MAD will further introduce the many art events and festivals in rural parts of Japan. Themes to consider include the relationship between art and nature, communities, old and current industries, the creative industries and art volunteering.

<http://www.a-i-t.net/ja/>

Photos of the above attractions can be downloaded from the

link: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/gxw11mbi9ndtyz1/AABP2MTGDDDL-VdMotH8W--ka?dl=0>

**Tour's highlights and related information are as follows:**

**Date:** 19 April – 23 April, 2016 (Total: 5 days)

**Highlights**

**(may vary according to itinerary):** Experience contemporary art in Japan by visiting the Aomori Museum of Art and Towada Art Centre in Aomori, Mori Art Museum / Mori Tower and Arts Initiative Tokyo (AIT) in Tokyo City;  
Visit the beautiful natural scenery in Lake Towada and Oirase Stream in Aomori, appreciating the relationship between art and nature

**Tour fees:** HKD 22,000 each

(Tour fees include flights, accommodation, daily breakfast, most of the lunches and dinners, museums' entrance fees, highway charges and coach fees. Airport tax, passenger fuel surcharge, tour guide and coach driver's service charges, travel insurance and personal expenditures are not included.)

**Application deadline:** 15 February 2016 (Monday)

**Briefing Session:** (conducted in Cantonese)

Date: 26 January 2016 (Tuesday)

Time: 7:00pm - 8:00pm

Venue: Main Campus of Hong Kong Art School (10/F, Hong Kong Arts Centre, 2 Harbour Road, Wanchai)

Details of the Tour and Online registration: <http://www.hkas.edu.hk/en/japan-art-tour-april-2016>

Enquiries: 29222822

Email: [enroledu@hkac.org.hk](mailto:enroledu@hkac.org.hk)

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**About Hong Kong Art School**

Hong Kong Art School (HKAS), founded in 2000, is a division of the Hong Kong Arts Centre (HKAC). Closely associated with HKAC's environment of cultural venues, client art groups and creative enterprises, HKAS offers a unique setting for students to draw on a vast spectrum of artistic practices.

HKAS is an accredited institute staffed by a group of dedicated artists, who are active and distinguished practitioners in the field. The focus of HKAS award-bearing curriculum lies in four core academic areas, namely, Fine Art, Applied Art, Media Art, and Applied Theatre & Drama Education, and its scope covers programmes with academic levels ranging from Higher Diploma, Professional Diploma, Bachelor Degree to Master Degree. The short courses and the outreach projects of the School that run parallel to the award-bearing curriculum span an even wider variety of artistic disciplines, and they genuinely bridge art and the community.

[Hong Kong Art School is a self-financed and non-profit-making institution, all income of the School is solely devoted to the teaching and learning activities, the research and development, as well as the operation of the School.]



**For media enquiries, please contact:**

Ms. Sumi Li – Administrative Officer, Communication and Development, Hong Kong Art School

Tel: 2824 5371 Email: [sli@hkac.org.hk](mailto:sli@hkac.org.hk)

Ms. Law Chung Foon – Manager, Communication and Development, Hong Kong Art School

Tel: 2824 5370 Email: [cflaw@hkac.org.hk](mailto:cflaw@hkac.org.hk)