

Nissan Art Award 2020 Statement by the International Jury

Aug. 26, 2020

This edition of the Nissan Art Award was a very special one. The finalists' work revealed the current global situation, vital themes, and the importance of artists in the context of the present crisis. But above all, this edition of the award conveyed more acutely than ever a sense of the things that make us human.

With such talent on display among Grand Prix winner Ishu Han and all the finalists, the judging process was incredibly difficult.

Sachiko Kazama presented a timely and very witty way of thinking about the future through the negative legacy of the past. Her work also demonstrated just how relevant the traditional art technique of woodblock printing can still be today as a means of expression. The marvelous meeting of science and aesthetics that Soichiro Mihara conjured up visualized the three states of matter in water, something of fundamental importance in our world, and evoked the tenuousness of the threads that connect the material and the biological. Nobuko Tsuchiya's work ushers in a spirit of empathy and humor that is much in need during these difficult times for society. She is a superb artist and the most mature of the finalists, employing a unique language of expression that begets biological and organic implications. Ei Wada gives new value to old electrical appliances, in the process contributing to the fields of both music and visual art. His charismatic practice has developed into an extremely important activity when it comes to thinking about how a society can be more sustainable, especially at a time like now when it is hard for people to connect with one another.

Continuity and support are especially important in this time of a global pandemic, and holding this award is truly a sign that artistic activities can contribute greatly to human life. We would like to congratulate and express our admiration for Nissan for continuing to support culture through this award in the adverse conditions in which we are living.

International Jury

- Fumio Nanjo
(Senior Advisor, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo) (Jury Chair)
- Jean de Loisy
(Director, Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts, Paris)
- Ute Meta Bauer
(Founding Director, NTU Centre for Contemporary Art Singapore / Professor, Nanyang Technological University School of Art, Design and Media, Singapore)
- Suhanya Raffel
(Museum Director, M+, Hong Kong)
- Lawrence Rinder
(former Director and chief curator, Berkeley Museum and Pacific Film Archive, Berkeley, California)