

PRESS RELEASE

Mori Art Museum Director Mami Kataoka Appointed France's Republic's Order of Arts and Letters (Chevalier)

Tokyo, September 11, 2026 — Mori Building Co., Ltd., Japan's leading urban landscape developer, announced today that Mori Art Museum's Director Mami Kataoka has been appointed the Order of Arts and Letters (*Ordre des Arts et des Lettres*) at the rank of Chevalier by the government of France. Director Kataoka received her insignia alongside Chiharu Shiota, who was appointed the rank of Officier, from Her Excellency Béatrice Le Fraper du Hellen, Ambassador of France to Japan, in a joint decoration ceremony at the ambassador's official residence on September 8.

The Order of Arts and Letters was established in 1957 by the French Ministry of Culture to honor individuals who have distinguished themselves through their creativity in the fields of art or literature, or who have made significant contributions to the proliferation of the arts and literature in France and around the world. Previously, former Mori Art Museum Director Fumio Nanjo was appointed *Officier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres* in 2016. Earlier still, the first chairperson, the late Mori Yoshiko, was appointed a *Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur* in 2013.



photo: Tayama Tatsuyuki

Comments (Summary) by French Ambassador to Japan Regarding Mami Kataoka's Appointment

"The Mori Art Museum, where Kataoka Mami serves as Director, has evolved into an indispensable venue for international dialogue, where talent, ideas, and imagination converge. Ms. Kataoka's work has extended beyond Japan's borders by actively engaging with numerous institutions and events around the world, including curating the *Chiharu Shiota: The Soul Trembles* exhibition at the Grand Palais in Paris. She has consistently championed the idea that contemporary art should foster intellectual openness and encourage the exchange of ideas, perspectives, and experiences, not just the circulation of artworks. At the National Center for Art Research (NCAR), Japan, she launched a pilot program for the mutual exchange of curators with the Centre Pompidou. Furthermore, the upcoming Roppongi Art Night 2026 will feature art from France. In light of her outstanding contributions to contemporary art and cultural dialogue, we appointed Ms. Kataoka the Order of Arts and Letters on behalf of the Minister of Culture of the French Republic."

Mami Kataoka

Director of Mori Art Museum; Executive Advisor of the National Center for Art Research (NCAR), Japan; and Director of ICA Kyoto at Kyoto University of the Arts Graduate School. Kataoka joined the Mori Art Museum in 2003 and has held her position as Director since 2020. Her extensive curatorial leadership includes serving as Co-Artistic Director for the 9th Gwangju Biennale (2012), Artistic Director for the 21st Biennale of Sydney (2018), and Artistic Director for the Aichi Triennale 2022. She has also been appointed Co-Curator for the 2027 Helsinki Biennial. From 2014 to 2022, she served on the Board of CIMAM (International Committee for Museums and Collections of Modern Art), holding the position of President from 2020 to 2022. Additionally, she serves as Senior Director of the Mori Contemporary Art Foundation (MoriCAF), Representative Director of the Fukushima Tomioka Cultural Foundation, Councilor of the Odawara Art Foundation among other roles. She actively contributes to numerous arts and culture committees, serves as a juror for international art awards, and lectures extensively. Kataoka was awarded the 17th Western Art Promotion Foundation Award for Academic Achievement in 2022.



Photo by Kenshu Shintsubo

Roppongi Art Night 2026

Mami Kataoka will be the Executive Committee Chairperson of the upcoming Roppongi Art Night 2026, where the RAN Focus program will showcase French art. The program will feature a captivating lineup of installations, moving images, performances, and more. Support will include the Embassy of France in Japan/Institut français du Japon and Institut français (Paris Headquarters). José-Manuel Gonçalves, the former artistic director of CENTQUATRE-PARIS, will be curate the program.

October 31 to November 1

Venues: Roppongi Hills, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo Midtown, Suntory Museum of Art, 21_21 DESIGN SIGHT, The National Art Center, Tokyo, Roppongi Shopping Arcade, and other collaborating facilities and public spaces in the Roppongi area.

Organizers: Tokyo Metropolitan Government, Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture Arts Council Tokyo, Minato Ward, Roppongi Art Night Executive Committee (The National Art Center, Tokyo, Suntory Museum of Art, Tokyo Midtown, 21_21 DESIGN SIGHT, Mori Art Museum, Mori Building, Roppongi Shopping Street Promotion Association)

<https://roppongiartnight.com/>



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APPENDIX: FRANCE-RELATED EXHIBITIONS

France-Related Exhibitions Held at the Mori Art Museum

Ron Mueck (2026)

This exhibition, which marked the artist's first large-scale solo show in Japan in 18 years, presented a comprehensive overview of Ron Mueck's entire artistic practice. Beginning with an exhibition at Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain in Paris (2023), the exhibition traveled to Milan and Seoul before coming to the Mori Art Museum, where it was co-organized with the foundation.

Louise Bourgeois: I have been to hell and back. And let me tell you, it was wonderful. (2024–2025)

This was the first major solo exhibition in Japan in 27 years devoted to Louise Bourgeois (born in Paris in 1911, died in New York in 2010), widely recognized as one of the most influential and important artists of the 20th century.

Simple Forms: Contemplating Beauty (2015)

This exhibition explored the essence of “simple forms,” gathered from around the world and across different eras, spanning from prehistoric stone tools to contemporary art. The show was co-organized in partnership with the Centre Pompidou-Metz and the Fondation d'entreprise Hermès.

French Window: Looking at Contemporary Art Through the Marcel Duchamp Prize (2011)

This exhibition showcased works by Marcel Duchamp alongside 28 grand prix winners and nominated finalists, commemorating the 10th anniversary of the Marcel Duchamp Prize. It was organized by the Association for the International Diffusion of French Art (ADIAF), France's most prestigious association of contemporary art collectors.

Annette Messager: The Messengers (2008)

This was the first large-scale solo exhibition in Japan dedicated to Annette Messager, one of France's most prominent contemporary artists.

Le Corbusier: Art and Architecture—A Life of Creativity (2007)

This retrospective, held to commemorate the 120th anniversary of the birth of Le Corbusier, one of the 20th century's most iconic architects, explored his diverse achievements and creative evolution through his paintings and architectural designs.

Archilab: New Experiments in Architecture, Art and the City, 1950–2005 (2004–2005)

This exhibition focused primarily on the architectural collections of the FRAC Centre (*Fonds Régional d'Art Contemporain Centre-Val de Loire*) and the Centre Pompidou. It also showcased the theoretical concepts and practical works of some 90 international architects as one of the largest architectural exhibitions ever held in Japan.

Exhibitions Curated by the Mori Art Museum and Held in France

Floating Worlds: From Japonisme to Contemporary Art from Japan (2024)

This joint exhibition was co-curated with Les Franciscaines, a cultural institution in Deauville, Normandy. It was part of the official program for the Normandie Impressionniste 2024 festival, which marked the 150th anniversary of the first Impressionist exhibition. The exhibition featured 35 works by 17 artists from the Mori Art Museum Collection, highlighting historical and contemporary connections between Japanese culture and the development of Impressionism.

Exhibitions Curated by the Mori Art Museum and Held in France

Shiota Chiharu: The Soul Trembles (Mori Art Museum, 2019)

Chiharu Shiota: The Soul Trembles took place at the Grand Palais in Paris between 2024 and 2025.

The Smile in Japanese Art: From the Jomon Period to the Early Twentieth Century (Mori Art Museum, 2007)

Exploring “laughter” and “humor” in Japanese art, this exhibition featured classical Japanese art pieces organized into five themes that expressed diverse forms of humor. It was held at The Maison de la Culture du Japon à Paris in 2012.

Reference: Chiharu Shiota: The Soul Trembles Exhibition

Curated by Mami Kataoka, this is the largest solo exhibition of Chiharu Shiota's work to date. It originated at the Mori Art Museum in 2019, before embarking on an extensive international tour of eight global cities. During its presentation at the Grand Palais in Paris, the exhibition drew over 300,000 visitors. At its final stop at the Museum of Oriental Art in Turin, Italy (October 22, 2025 to June 28, 2026), the cumulative attendance across all nine participating museums since 2019 surpassed two million visitors.

The exhibition is scheduled to continue its tour at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts in Canada from September 26, 2026 to February 14, 2027.

About Mori Building

Mori Building is an innovative urban developer based in Tokyo. The company is committed to maximizing the magnetic power of cities by creating and nurturing safe, sustainable and cosmopolitan urban centers based on its unique Vertical Garden City concept of high-rise centers for business, education, leisure and residence. The concept is applied in the company's many leading-edge projects, including Roppongi Hills, Toranomon Hills, and Azabudai Hills in Tokyo, Shanghai World Financial Center and JAKARTA MORI TOWER. Mori Building is also engaged in real estate leasing, project management and consultation. Please visit www.mori.co.jp/en

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