THE UNIVERSE AND ART:
PRINCESS KAGUYA, LEONARDO DA VINCI, TEAMLAB

A FIRST FOR JAPAN: ASTRONOMY MANUSCRIPTS PENNED BY RENAISSANCE GENIUS LEONARDO DA VINCI, PLUS THE LATEST, IMMERSIVE INSTALLATIONS BY STARS OF THE CONTEMPORARY ART WORLD ALLOWING VISITORS TO EXPERIENCE THE COSMOS FIRST HAND!

Mori Art Museum is proud to present “The Universe and Art: Princess Kaguya, Leonardo da Vinci, teamLab” from Saturday, July 30, 2016 to Monday, January 9, 2017.

Our universe is of perennial interest, appearing in art all around the world as an object of worship and study over the centuries, and spawning countless stories. “The Universe and Art,” in just one exhibition, will offer a diverse selection of around 200 items from across the globe and down the centuries, in multiple genres, from meteorites and fossils to historic astronomical material by Leonardo da Vinci and Galileo Galilei; mandalas; Taketori Monogatari (The Tale of the Bamboo Cutter) which we may call Japan’s oldest sci-fi novel; installations by contemporary artists, and the latest from the frontline of space development. Comprising four sections: “How Have Humans through the Ages Viewed the Universe?” “The Universe as Space-Time” “A New View of Life – Do Aliens Exist?” and “Space Travel and the Future of Humanity,” the exhibition will offer novel, future-oriented views of the cosmos and mankind.

Join us in the summer of 2016 on a journey exploring where we came from, and where we are going, as Roppongi turns into a portal to the cosmos...
EXHIBITION HIGHLIGHTS

[SECTION 1] How Have Humans through the Ages Viewed the Universe?

This section focuses on one part of historical cosmologies: human views of the universe down the millennia, looking at myths and religious art objects from east and west, plus priceless astronomy material.

PARTICIPATING ARTISTS
Kitayama Yoshio
Kitawaki Noboru
Maeda Yuki
Mukaiyama Kisho
among others

ITEMS ON VIEW
Leonardo da Vinci’s sheets from Codex Atlanticus
Antiquarian books on astronomy by Galileo Galilei and on Ptolemy (Ptolemaeus)
Star Mandala, Mandala of the Two Realms, Tibetan Mandala, the Twelve Devas
Takekori Monogatari (The Tale of the Bamboo Cutter) handscroll
Rare Renaissance and Edo-period astronomy materials including celestial
globes, charts, telescopes and calendars
Meteorite sword
and more

Unraveling the Secrets of the Universe from a Buddhist Perspective: the Multidimensional Cosmos in Ancient Mandala

From the Nanbokucho through Muromachi periods, we present the
Mandala of the Two Realms, Star Mandala, and the Twelve Devas
depicting the deities of the twelve directions, joined by a Tibetan
Mandala and other displays in an exploration of cosmologies with an
Asian worldview or Buddhist perspective.

Japan’s Legendary Meteorite Sword Forged from Meteorite Iron

View a sword made from an iron meteorite that fell on Toyama
prefecture during the Meiji period, exploring the connection between
outer space and our own planet via this precious ancient Japanese
weapon.

With Lenses Still Crystal Clear 150 Years on: Edo Period Gunsmith Crafts Japan’s First Own Astronomical Telescope

Astronomical telescope made during the Edo period by gunsmith and
self-taught telescope maker Kunitomo Tobei Shigeyoshi (Kunitomo
Ikkansai) of Omi (present-day Shiga Prefecture), Japan.
[SECTION 2] The Universe as Space-Time

Black holes that suck up even stars; the fact that the starlight we gaze on now comes to us from hundreds of millions of light years away; the wonders of space — 11 dimensions of it apparently — and astounding advances in astral observation that have revolutionized our perceptions of space and time, all presented as works of contemporary art.

PARTICIPATING ARTISTS

Vija Celmins
Björn Dahlem
Andreas Gursky
Jia Aili
Mori Mariko
Trevor Paglen
Semiconductor
Conrad Shawcross
Wolfgang Tillmans
among others

The Cosmos as Presented by Stars of the Contemporary Art World

Includes installations made from mundane materials yet evoking a profound spirituality and cosmic phenomena by Björn Dahlem, Wolfgang Tillmans’ photographic works of deep space stars captured by ultrasensitive telescope juxtaposed with images of computer pixels, and large-scale painting produced especially for the exhibition by Jia Aili.

Plus an Array of Immersive Installations

Conrad Shawcross’s huge kinetic installation Timepiece, a piece on the artist’s enduring theme of “time” that expresses and arranges into a work of contemporary art the sundial — one of the first scientific methods employed by human beings when they began to measure time — and the sublime astronomical time experienced in relationship to the sun, offers visitors the initially contradictory, unimaginable experience of creating a primeval experience, via artificial sunlight. Meanwhile, Brilliant Noise, Semiconductor’s three-channel video installation of thousands of overlapping documentary images of solar activity, which expresses the sun’s intensity in sound, projects the massive waves of energy discharged by the sun’s thermonuclear fusion onto three giant screens that surround the viewer, coinciding changes in sound offering an experience akin to sensing the very pulse of the sun.
[SECTION 3] A New View of Life - Do Aliens Exist?

Starting with meteorites and fossils from a geohistory that extends far beyond the presence of homosapiens, this section features artworks that reference images of aliens as imagined by people down the centuries, plus the latest genetic engineering and A.I. technologies.

PARTICIPATING ARTISTS

Vincent Fournier
Laurent Grasso
Pierre Huyghe
Patricia Piccinini
Sorayama Hajime
Sugimoto Hiroshi
among others

ITEMS ON VIEW

Archival materials on “Utsurobune no Banjo (A Woman on the Hollow Boat)”
Aramata Hiroshi’s collection of sci-fi magazines
Charles Darwin’s On the Origin of Species (first edition)
and more

From a Mysterious Object That Startled the People of the Edo Period, to New Life Forms of the Future

From “Utsurobune no Banjo” — what some have described as an Edo-period UFO story — to Patricia Piccinini’s new life form that speaks to us with a peculiar gaze, this section offers plenty to stir the imagination.

Sexy Robot, Fembot Mechanoids by Sorayama Hajime Who Has Captured the Hearts of Creators the World over

A three-dimensional piece by Sorayama Hajime - known as an internationally rated illustrator as well and featured on the cover of Aerosmith album Just Push Play.
[SECTION 4] Space Travel and the Future of Humanity

As an era of space travel for all draws closer, this section offers artists’ visions of the relationships people will have with the universe, and how our lives will change in the future. There will also be displays on the history of the US and Soviet space programs, plus the latest from the frontline of modern space development including JAXA’s International Space Station (ISS)/Kibo Educational Payload Observation Pilot Mission, Mars Ice House, and Project by Team Hakuto.

PARTICIPATING ARTISTS
Jules de Balincourt
Maria Gruzdeva
Nomura Hitoshi
Osaka Takuro
Tom Sachs
teamLab
among others

ITEMS ON VIEW
Konstantin Tsiolkovsky’s Album of Cosmic Journeys (reproduction)
Yuri Gagarin, Neil Armstrong and Valentina Tereshkova’s photographs (reproduction)
Mars Ice House (maquette)
Hakuto
and more

Reproductions of Sketches by Konstantin Tsiolkovsky, “Father of Space Exploration”

Presenting for the first time in Japan the inspired sketches of scientist Konstantin Tsiolkovsky, pioneer of rocketry and cosmonautics as well as a sci-fi author, whose work contributed to the success of Russia’s space program.

Maquette of Mars Ice House, Hypothetical Future Habitat for Humans on the Red Planet

Maquette, also on display in Japan for the first time, of a New York architectural group’s potential habitat that won first prize in a NASA’s contest to design housing for Mars, ahead of its plan to have four astronauts live on and explore the planet for a year in the 2030s. Could this be the future of human habitation?
GENERAL INFORMATION

Exhibition Title: “The Universe and Art: Princess Kaguya, Leonardo da Vinci, teamLab”
Organizers: Mori Art Museum, NHK, NHK Promotions Inc., The Yomiuri Shimbun
Curated by: Nanjo Fumio (Director, Mori Art Museum), Tsubaki Reiko (Associate Curator, Mori Art Museum)
Curatorial Collaborators: Ryukoku Museum, Kanazawa Institute of Technology Library Center
Grant: l’Ambassade de France au Japon / Institut français
Corporate Sponsors: NEC, Obayashi Corporation, IHI Transport Machinery Co., Ltd.
Special Cooperation: Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)
Production Support: Panasonic Corporation
Support: Champagne Pommery

Venue: Mori Art Museum, 53F, Roppongi Hills Mori Tower, 6-10-1, Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo
Open Hours: 10:00-22:00 | Tue: 10:00-17:00 | * Admission 30 minutes before closing. | * Open everyday.
Admission: Adult: ¥1,600 / University/highschool student: ¥1,100 / Child (age 4 up to junior highschool student): ¥600
* All prices include tax. | * Additional entrance fee to the Tokyo City View observation deck, as well as the Sky Deck is required.
General Inquiries: +81-(0)3-5777-8600 (Hello Dial)
EXHIBITION-RELATED PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Talk Session “A Journey through Knowledge and Cosmologies”
* Japanese-English simultaneous interpretation available

In an age when the mainstream view of the universe was a geocentric one, and telescopes had yet to be invented, the Codex Atlanticus on display in “The Universe and Art” exhibition tells us that Leonardo da Vinci already had a strong interest in astronomy. As well as hearing about the history of the Codex Atlanticus from Alberto Rocca, Director of Milan’s Veneranda Biblioteca Ambrosiana, where it is housed, the Museum will welcome Chiku Kakugyo, Director of the Kanazawa Institute of Technology Library Center, which collects and studies precious first editions of scientific books, to discuss how human beings viewed the cosmos prior to modern advances in space science.

Speakers: Alberto Rocca (Director, Veneranda Biblioteca Ambrosiana)
Chiku Kakugyo (Director, Kanazawa Institute of Technology Library Center)

Moderator: Nanjo Fumio (Director, Mori Art Museum)

Date & Time: 14:00–16:00, Saturday, July 30, 2016 (Doors open: 13:30)
Venue: Auditorium, Mori Art Museum (53F, Roppongi Hills Mori Tower)
Capacity: 80 (booking required)  Admission: Free (exhibition ticket required)

Artists’ Talk
* Japanese-English simultaneous interpretation available

Artists in the exhibition discuss the connections between their works and the universe.

Speakers: Björn Dahlem, Semiconductor
Jia Aili, Patricia Piccinini,
Maria Gruzdeva, and others

Date & Time: 18:00–20:00, Saturday, July 30, 2016
(Doors open: 17:30)
Venue: Auditorium, Mori Art Museum (53F, Roppongi Hills Mori Tower)
Capacity: 80 (booking required)
Admission: Free (exhibition ticket required)

Symposium “Deciphering ‘The Universe and Art’ Exhibition with Scientists”
* Japanese-English simultaneous interpretation available

Today’s headlong rush into space is accompanied by enormous changes in the relationship between human beings and the universe that will also demand new perspectives on the questions of what is the universe, and what is art? How will people’s understanding of the world be transformed, and how will art? Join experts in space engineering and astronomy, plus artists, as they unravel the exhibition from their individual perspectives.

Speakers: Matogawa Yasunori (Professor Emeritus, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency [JAXA]),
Watanabe Junichi (Vice-Director general, Professor, National Institutes of Natural Sciences, National Astronomical Observatory of Japan), Nomura Hitoshi (Artist), Inoko Toshiyuki (Founder of teamLab)

Moderator: Nanjo Fumio (Director, Mori Art Museum)

Date & Time: 14:00–16:00, Saturday, August 20, 2016 (Doors open: 13:30)
Venue: Academyhills (49F, Roppongi Hills Mori Tower)
Capacity: 150 (booking required)  Admission: General ¥3,500 / MAMC members free
* Program participant will receive an exhibition ticket (of ‘The Universe and Art’) on site.
Organizers: Mori Art Museum, Academyhills
I Talk Session “Cosmology in Art” * Conducted in Japanese

Mandalas depicting the Buddhist worldview are also said to represent the truth of the cosmos. For this Talk Session, Izumi Takeo, expert in the history of Buddhist painting, and Shinohara Motoaki, whose extensive knowledge ranges from the monk Kukai to contemporary art, will be joined by Mukaiyama Kisho, whose minimalist works are reminiscent of mandalas for modern times, and Maeda Yukinori, who draws on personal experience to express ideas from mystic philosophy, to discuss the cosmologies and art dwelling in the human heart throughout the ages.

Speakers: Izumi Takeo (Professor, Graduate School / Faculty of Arts And Letters, Tohoku University), Shinohara Motoaki (Director, Takamatsu Art Museum / Professor Emeritus, Kyoto University), Mukaiyama Kishou (Artist), Maeda Yukinori (Artist)

Moderator: Tsukuba Reiko (Associate Curator, Mori Art Museum)

Date & Time: 19:00-21:00, Tuesday, October 4, 2016 (Doors open: 18:30)

Venue: Auditorium, Mori Art Museum (53F, Roppongi Hills Mori Tower)

Capacity: 80 (booking required)  Admission: Free (exhibition ticket required)

SUMMER NIGHT EVENTS FOR ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS PRESENTED BY MORI ART MUSEUM X ROPPONGI TENMON CLUB

I Summer-Night Museum “Viewing ‘The Universe and Art’ and ‘Starry Sky’! ” * Conducted in Japanese

Join Museum staff as we take over the nighttime Mori Art Museum for an exclusive viewing of “The Universe and Art,” then after a talk by an expert on the stars, observe the starry sky from the Sky Deck on the roof of the Mori Tower. Turn your imagination to the wonders of the cosmos and art at this special nighttime event.

Lecturer: Takanashi Naohiro (Project Associate Professor, The University of Tokyo Executive Management Program / Director of tenpla, Project to Popularize Astronomy)

Date & Time: 18:00-21:00, Tuesday, August 9, 2016 (Doors open: 17:30)

Venue: Auditorium, Mori Art Museum / Sky Deck, Tokyo City View (53F/RF, Roppongi Hills Mori Tower)

For: Elementary / Middle school students  Capacity: 40 (booking required, attendees chosen by lottery)

Admission: Free (exhibition ticket as well as Sky Deck admission fee required)

I A Space Talk and Workshop “Making an Astronomical Telescope” * Conducted in Japanese

Take a look around “The Universe and Art” exhibition, then build a genuine astronomical telescope that will even let you see craters on the moon, and Saturn’s rings. An astronomy expert will explain in child-friendly terms everything participants need to know, from how to assemble and use the telescope, to what to look out for in the sky.

Date & Time: 17:00-20:00, Friday, August 26, 2016 (Doors open: 16:30)

Venue: Auditorium, Mori Art Museum / Sky Deck, Tokyo City View (53F/RF, Roppongi Hills Mori Tower)

For: Elementary / Middle school students  Capacity: 40 (booking required, attendees chosen by lottery)

Admission: ¥3,000 (material cost. In addition, exhibition ticket as well as Sky Deck admission fee required)

Supervised by: tenpla

* Stargazing session(s) may be canceled due to weather. If so, admission fee to the Sky Deck (adult: ¥500, child: ¥300) will be unnecessary.

* These two programs are nighttime programs. Participating children should be accompanied by a guardian.

* Please note that speakers are subject to change without prior notice.

* There will be more Public Programs including talks, school programs, family programs and access programs (some are conducted in Japanese only).

Inquiries on Public Programs: Public Programs, Mori Art Museum
Tel: +81-(0)3-6406-6101 (11:00-17:00, Mon-Fri)  Fax: +81-(0)3-6406-9351  E-mail: ppevent-mam@mori.co.jp

PRESS RELEASE

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(ALSO ON VIEW) Period: Saturday, July 30, 2016 - Monday, January 9, 2017

MAM SCREEN FEATURES SCREENINGS OF SIGNIFICANT SINGLE-CHANNEL VIDEO WORKS FROM AROUND THE WORLD.

MAM SCREEN 004: LOOK AT THE EARTH FROM THE UNIVERSE

Curated by: Tsubaki Reiko (Associate Curator, Mori Art Museum)

“MAM Screen 004” will be held as a screening program of single-channel video works in conjunction with “The Universe and Art: Princess Kaguya, Leonardo da Vinci, teamLab.” This exhibition aims to help us get an overview of the modern human society through the universe and reexamine the Earth from more of a “cosmic” viewpoint, which could be the key to understanding the geopolitics, gender issues, as well as the meaning of the word “alien.” This is a must-see program where the cosmologies captured by each one of the artists, with his/her own viewpoint, are vividly spread on the screen.

WORKS SCREENED (Provisional)

1st Term (from July 30 thru October 18, 2016)
2. Semiconductor, Black Rain, 2009, 3 min.
4. Shezad Dawood, Towards the Possible Film, 2014, 20 min.
5. Sputniko!, The Moonwalk Machine - Selena’s Step, 2013, 5 min. 4 sec.

2nd Term (from October 19, 2016 thru January 9, 2017)
1. Ho Tzu Nyen, NEWTON, 2009, 4 min. 16 sec.
2. Tom Sachs, Space Program, 2007, 12 min. 9 sec.
3. Makino Takashi, Space Noise (short version), 2016, 8 min.
4. Alexandre Maubert, Trinity, 2015, 17 min. 40 sec.