

Azabudai Hills Gallery Inaugural Exhibition

Olafur Eliasson: A harmonious cycle of interconnected nows

Exhibition highlights.

**Including a large 20-meter-long installation,
new artworks on display for the first time,
and a collaborative culinary project.**

Azabudai Hills Gallery, operated by Mori Building Co., Ltd. will hold an inaugural exhibition, *Olafur Eliasson: A harmonious cycle of interconnected nows* from November 24, 2023 to March 31, 2024. at the newly opened Azabudai Hills Gallery in Azabudai Hills.

Olafur Eliasson (born in 1967 in Denmark), an Icelandic-Danish artist, has attracted worldwide attention not only for his diverse genre-crossing works, but also his active engagement with social issues including the climate crisis. Eliasson's works, including his large-scale installations, invite fresh interpretations of the world and our relationship with nature through new perceptual experiences guided by natural phenomena and their constituent elements of color, light, and movement.

The exhibition explores the ideas central to Eliasson's new public artwork, *A harmonious cycle of interconnected nows* (2023). Through new installations, works on paper, and three-dimensional pieces – coupled with older works – the artist pursues the motifs of line, gesture and movement. From the large light-and-water installation *Your split second house* (2010) to *Firefly biosphere (falling magma star)* (2023), a geometric sculpture containing intricately refracted light, to new drawings powered by sunlight, wind, and other phenomena of nature, *Olafur Eliasson: A harmonious cycle of interconnected nows* presents a selection of works that appeal to the senses and are supported by research into natural phenomena, geometry, physics, movement and patterns.



Firefly biosphere (falling magma star)

2023

Photo: Jens Ziehe

AZABUDAI HILLS GALLERY

2023.9.28
PRESS RELEASE

Artist profile

Olafur Eliasson

Born in 1967, raised in Denmark and Iceland, Olafur Eliasson is now based in Berlin and Copenhagen. He founded Studio Olafur Eliasson in Berlin in 1995, which has developed into a diverse group of professionals, including craftspeople, architects, archivists, researchers, art historians, chefs and programmers. In 2014, Eliasson and architect Sebastian Behmann founded Studio Other Space to explore art and architecture. Eliasson has had solo exhibitions in major museums around the world, including in Kanazawa and Tokyo, Japan. He frequently participates in major international exhibitions and remains a leader of the contemporary art world's efforts to raise awareness of climate change. In 2019, Eliasson was appointed as a Goodwill Ambassador of the United Nations Development Programme. He was awarded the 34th Praemium Imperiale (Sculpture) in 2023.



Photo: Lars Borges

Artist Message

On a large scale, everything is on the move, even seemingly stable things – our planet, the sun, and the solar system are all racing through the Milky Way, hurling around a central black hole. At the same time, if you get close enough, the world is made up of building blocks, the as-yet undiscovered elemental scaffolding of the Real. Currently we access this only at the level of our dreams. Art is fundamentally about using the power of imagination to make the impossible possible, the invisible visible.

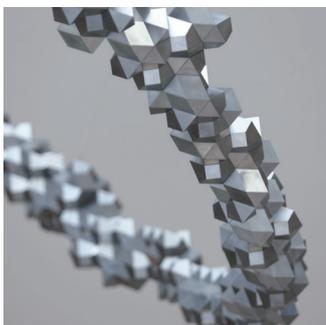
————— Olafur Eliasson

About the exhibition subtitle: “A harmonious cycle of interconnected nows”

“A harmonious cycle of interconnected nows” is the name of an artwork by Olafur Eliasson that is exhibited in the office lobby of the Azabudai Hills Mori JP Tower. This exhibition will further explore the theme addressed in this work through new installations and other works, including three-dimensional works.

This work is composed of four sculptures, each approximately 3 meters in diameter, hanging continuously in a 15-meter-high atrium. Eliasson, who grew up surrounded by the natural beauty of Denmark and Iceland, has been a leading voice in the contemporary art world in terms of addressing the urgent issues facing the world today, such as the climate crisis, and this is the first time Studio Olafur Eliasson has used recycled metal.

This work is made up of a complex series of polyhedra that evokes the trajectory of a single point that twists as it moves. It alludes not only to the connections between all of creation at an atomic level, but also the invisible time and reciprocal connections across things, the magnetic forces newly generated by human activities and lives. Formally, the spirals derive from a geometrical shape known as a Lissajous curve. Normally two-dimensional graphs of complex harmonic motion, these curves were translated into three dimensions and their frequencies were adjusted to create a range of dynamic shapes. These spirals were then constructed from repeating, space-filling modules, making them resemble the growth of crystals or of coral reefs. The module – a polyhedron with eleven faces, known as a hendecahedron – comprises rhombi, kites, and triangles.



A harmonious cycle of interconnected nows (detail)
2023

Installation view:
Azabudai Hills Mori JP Tower Office Lobby, 2023
Photo: Kioku Keizo

Highlights

1

Your split second house – a large installation using water

Your split second house (2010), which uses strobe lights to illuminate the moving trajectories of water droplets as they fall through a dark space with a ceiling height of 5 meters and a length of over 20 meters, is the recreation of a work originally exhibited in 2010 for this exhibition. This abstract act of drawing with water and light elicits an understanding of the beauty inherent in Eliasson's long-standing interest in geometry.



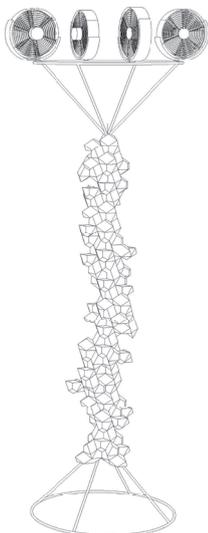
Your split second house
2010
Photo: Christian Uchtmann

2

Fifteen works of art on display for the first time in Japan, including the new *The air we breathe*, on display for the first time in Japan

Created especially for the exhibition, titled *The air we breathe* (2023), utilizes the same modules and recycled material as the artwork in the Mori JP Tower. These two artworks are the first created by Olafur Eliasson specifically from recycled materials, marking an important milestone in the Studio's ongoing sustainability efforts.

Other works on display for the first time in Japan include a selection of the artist's works that deal with drawing in an expanded sense, including a series of drawings created in the desert of Qatar using natural energy such as sunlight and wind and *The endless study* (2005, a drawing machine that operates solely on pendulum power which will generate drawings throughout the course of the exhibition.



The air we breathe (conceptual drawing)
2023

3

First collaboration with Studio Olafur Eliasson Kitchen in Japan

On the occasion of the exhibition, Azabudai Hills Gallery Cafe is collaborating with Studio Olafur Eliasson Kitchen to create a special menu using local ingredients from the Tokyo area. A chef visited Eliasson's studio in Berlin to work alongside the SOE Kitchen team and co-create an original menu for this exhibition. Visitors will be able to experience the studio's family-style cooking with a range of innovative dishes. The SOE Kitchen's environmentally-focused methodology is also a testament to their dedication to the environment.



Lunch at Studio Olafur Eliasson Kitchen, 2017
Photo: María del Pilar García Ayensa

About Studio Olafur Eliasson Kitchen

Established in Berlin, "Studio Olafur Eliasson Kitchen" prepares meals three days a week that are shared family-style by the full studio team as well as guests and collaborators who happen to be visiting at the time. The organic, carbon-conscious, vegan-vegetarian meals use seasonal produce from the nearby organic farms. In 2016, *Studio Olafur Eliasson: The Kitchen*, a cookbook was published by Phaidon.

*Studio Olafur Eliasson:
The Kitchen*
2016

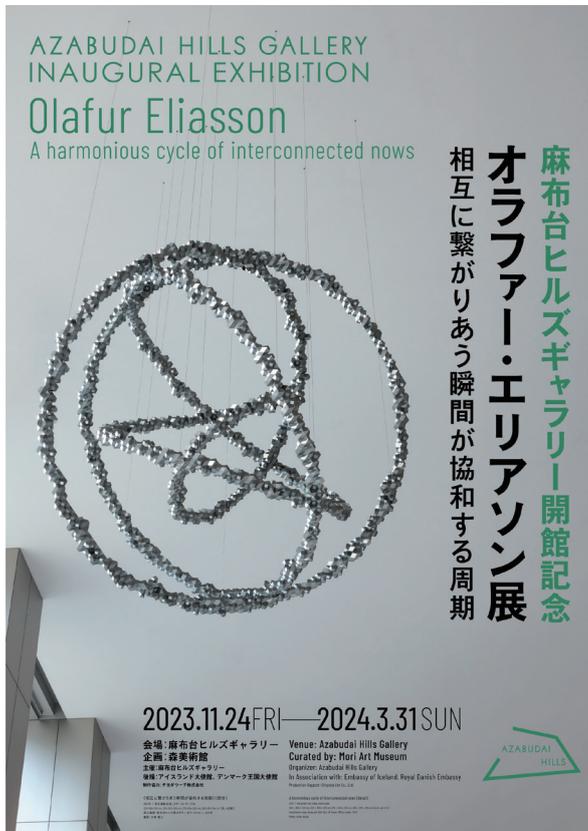


General Information

AZABUDAI HILLS GALLERY

2023.9.28
PRESS RELEASE

Exhibition Title:	Azabudai Hills Gallery Inaugural Exhibition Olafur Eliasson: <i>A harmonious cycle of interconnected nows</i>
Organizer:	Azabudai Hills Gallery
In Association with:	Embassy of Iceland, Royal Danish Embassy
Production Support:	Chiyoda Ute Co., Ltd.
Curated by:	Kataoka Mami (Director, Mori Art Museum) Tokuyama Hirokazu (Associate Curator, Mori Art Museum)
Exhibition Period:	November Friday 24, 2023 - March Sunday 31, 2024
Venue:	Azabudai Hills Gallery (Azabudai Hills Garden Plaza A MBF, 5-8-1 Toranomom, Minato-ku, Tokyo)
Opening Hours:	To be announced in mid-October
Admission:	To be announced in mid-October



Exhibition key visuals (2 types)

About Azabudai Hills Gallery

Mori Building strongly believes that in cities where there is only economic activity and no culture, it is impossible to attract people from around the world. We are committed to incorporating "culture" as a key element of urban development, creating distinctive cultural facilities and displaying artwork within each of our Hills projects.

Azabudai Hills Gallery will be the core cultural promotional facility in Azabudai Hills, a development based on the concept that "the entire city is a museum." It is equipped with museum facilities and equipment, and will showcase a variety of cultural genres, including art, fashion and entertainment.

Azabudai Hills Gallery

Location: Garden Plaza A MBF

Exhibition area: approx. 700 m2

Opening: November 24, 2023

Azabudai Hills Gallery Cafe / Space

Location: Garden Plaza A, B1F

Opening: November 24, 2023

Links

Azabudai Hills Gallery social media accounts

 Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/azabudaihills/gallery/>

 Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/azabudaihills/gallery/>

Olafur Eliasson:

A harmonious cycle of interconnected news exhibition official website

<https://www.azabudai-hills.com/azabudaihills/gallery/sp/olafureliasson-ex/>

Press Inquiries

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