



My Day At The Sumo Stable

Athena Ho, JNTO Toronto

It was an incredible experience for me to join the sumo wrestlers at the Arashio Stable, one of 53 sumo stables in Japan. Along with a few Canadian journalists, we arrived in the early morning to catch a glimpse of their morning training. I have to say it's turned out to be more than just a glimpse; I did not expect we would be able to watch their practice from such a close distance for more than one hour. Not only was I stunned by how intensely they trained, but I was also amazed by the flexibility of their bodies from the many stretching exercises that they were doing. I truly respect the sumo wrestlers for their great power of discipline, dedication and focus.

After the training session, we were given an opportunity to talk to the sumo wrestlers, ask questions and have our pictures taken with them. Then, we were invited by the *oyakata*, the stable master, to join him in the stable's dining area for lunch. It's the job of the junior wrestlers or trainees to prepare the special hotpot, *chanko-nabe*, that contained chicken, mushroom, tofu and vegetables. As for the *oyakata*, he said his job is to choose the appropriate candidates for his stable. When we asked him about the criteria, he indicated personality is more important than the physical aspect. When I expressed how much I enjoyed the taste of the *chanko-nabe* soup, the *oyakata* was kind enough to share his recipe with me. This kind gesture made my amazing day with the sumo wrestlers perfect.



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All previous Newsletters can be accessed at <http://www.jnto.go.jp/canada/newsletter.html>



Now such a visit could be arranged by the H.I.S. Experience Japan Co., Ltd. <http://hisexperience.jp/>
 For variety of sumo tournament tours, please visit <http://www.jtbgmt.com/sunrisetour/index.aspx>

The 3rd Yokohama Triennale

YOKOHAMA 2008: International Triennale of Contemporary Art
 “Time Crevasse”
 September 13 – November 30, 2008

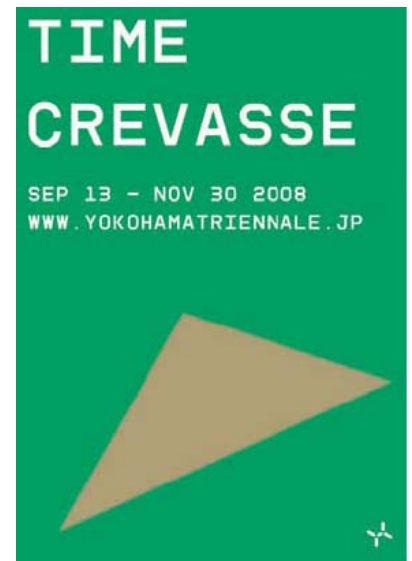
Venues

Central and Waterfront Sites in Yokohama (Temporary Exhibition Hall for the Yokohama Triennale 2008 at the Shinko Pier, Red Brick Warehouse No.1, NYK Line Waterfront Warehouse “BankART Studio NYK”) www.yokohamatriennale.jp

Artistic Director - Tsutomu Mizusawa

Curators - Daniel Birnbaum, Hu Fang, Akiko Miyake, Hans Ulrich Obrist, Beatrix Ruf

Organizers - The Japan Foundation, The City of Yokohama, NHK, The Asahi Shimbun, The Organizing Committee for the Yokohama Triennale



The Triennale will be held in the harbor district of Yokohama, Japan’s second largest city. Yokohama will be celebrating its 150th year as an international port in 2009. With the advice of architect **Ryue Nishizawa**, we are currently preparing 5000 square meters of new event space in addition to two existing warehouses, as the main venues.

The banner theme of the Triennale is “Time Crevasse.” It is not an exaggeration to say, in this transitional turn-of-the- century era, that human sensibilities have changed as greatly in the years between the latter part of the twentieth century and now as they did in the Renaissance. Following the revolution in printing that took place after Gutenberg’s invention of the printing press, text (printed words) became the dominant media, with pictures/ illustrations placed in a secondary or subservient position. The heyday of this text-first/ visual image-second relationship came in the late nineteenth century. In the twentieth century, which came to be known as the century of the visual arts, the dynamic of the visual gradually reasserted itself, until by century’s end, a reversal had taken place, and, against the backdrop of rapid strides in the development of digital environments, we are today enveloped in a veritable flood of visual information.

Modern systems have invariably been meant to understand and grasp space. As a result, we now can obtain visual information about every corner of the globe without going anywhere. Moreover, advances in means of transportation have made it easy to move from place to place. Time, however, all the while keeps irrevocably moving on. It is the quality of that time that has become the indispensable condition that nurtures the diversity of our cultures. The information society, while churning out vast numbers of hyperactive human beings, at the same time has produced masses of people who, in Oblomov-like fashion, do nothing. The flow of time, its stagnation, and its cavernous crevasse—this is what we seek to confront at this Triennale.

Naturally the works will include many that treat the element of time. It will feature works that incorporate sound, performance, and other approaches, appealing not only to the visual senses but that liberate all five senses. Nevertheless, we have also treated painting and sculpture in their narrow sense, in which time is too important a motif to be ignored.

Plans are going forward, through the careful selection of about 80 artists, to make the Yokohama Triennale 2008 itself a kind of *Time Crevasse* experience, and presenting works we are sure will make people eager to gain that experience. I assure you that it is an event to look forward to with much anticipation.

(Tsutomu Mizusawa)

* For more information, please visit www.yokohamatriennale.jp or e-mail press@yokohamatriennale.jp.

Hamamatsu International Mosaiculture 2009 (MIH2009)

September 19, 2009 - November 23, 2009

Venue: **Hamamatsu Flower Park**




195 Kanzanji-cho Nishi-ku Hamamatsu-shi, Shizuoka-ken, Japan

The International Mosaiculture Committee (IMC) is based in Montreal, Canada and the committee members are from different countries. For more information about the IMC, please click <http://www.mosaiculture.ca/> Meanwhile, please also access <http://mih2009.com/english/sponsor/index.html> for the **Welcoming messages** from Mr. Yasutomo Suzuki, Mayor of Hamamatsu and President of the Hamamatsu International Mosaiculture Expo 2009 and Ms. Lise Cormier, President, International Mosaiculture Committee

The theme of MIH2009 is “A Symphony of People and Nature”. It is developed with the thought that the Mosaiculture and Hamamatsu, the City of Music, will be joined in a harmonization of human imagination and nature. Similar to a musical masterpiece, each element will be bound together in balance to bring joy to the participants and the world as a whole. The MIH2009 will set the stage for bring together people and ideas from around the world to create new and beautiful urban landscape art.

Recent Development in Mosaiculture:

Mosaiculture has its origins in the flower bedding practices of the middle ages and latter 19th Century, with the term ‘mosaiculture’ first referred to officially in 1878 in the journal of the horticultural society of Lyon as a ‘technique to remodel green gardens utilizing flowering herbs’. The concept spread internationally to Kew Gardens and beyond, with two and three-dimensional floral figures becoming popular. Representations of birds, animals, structures, and people, were introduced and the methodology progressed to the embedded floral engraving or inlay forms of mosaiculture today. The first Mosaiculture Exhibition (MIM2000) in Montreal, Canada, celebrated the new millennium through the creation of a new international event that combines art, creativity and progress. Since then this triennial exposition has been held in Montreal in 2003 and Shanghai, China in 2006. The fourth international Mosaiculture exhibition will take place at the Hamamatsu Flower Park in Japan.

	MIM 2000	MIM 2003	MIS 2006
Theme	The planet is a Mosaic	Myths and Legends of World	The Earth, Our Village
Location	Montreal, Canada	Montreal, Canada	Shanghai, Century Park, China
Category	International Competition Exhibition	International Competition Exhibition	International Competition Exhibition
Area	6 ha.	6 ha.	6 ha.
Period	19 June to 10 October, 2000 (113 days)	20 June to 13 October, 2003 (116 days)	15 September to 30 November, 2006 (76 days)
Participants	35 cities, 14 countries	51 cities, 32 countries	55 cities, 15 countries
Visitors	731.000 people	755,000 people	850,000 people
Photos from the events			

Hamamatsu Flower Park

The park was designed to take advantage of natural topography and features a large fountain and European style gardens that incorporate an artificial waterfall, ponds, and geometric flower beds. There is also a large glass house known as the Crystal Palace, a stream bordered by a pine forest, and a rose garden. The Japanese features are a path leading around a central pond planted with Japanese iris and a cherry tree lined walkway. This very popular park is an enjoyable space and offers a rich resource of plant life and seasonal blooms.

- Area: 30 hectares
- Plants: 100 thousand made up of 3000 varieties
- Location: 195 Kanzanji-cho, Nishi-ku, Hamamatsu-shi, Shizuoka-ken, Japan
- Administration: Hamamatsu City Flower and Fruits Park Foundation

The Association for Hamamatsu International Mosaiculture Expo 2009
<http://mih2009.com/english/index.html>

