

**MARCH
2014**

**JAPAN
CREATIVE
CENTRE**

EMBASSY OF JAPAN

CULTURAL E-MAGAZINE

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 2014

UPCOMING EVENTS IN JCC

13 - 15 Mar 2014	In Blossoms : Ohara 30th Anniversary Flower Exhibition
29 Mar 2014	JCC Cinema 26 : Quartet!
05 - 16 Apr 2014	"10 Nights of Dream" : Glass Art Exhibition
26 Apr - 10 May 2014	"Change The World" Exhibition by NHN

SUPPORTED EVENTS

29 Mar 2014	SSEAYP 40th Anniversary Celebration
8 May 2014	Sachiyo Live with Yasukazu Kano @ Chamber (The Arts House)

RELATED EVENTS

8 Apr 2014	Luca Stradivari Premier Concert @ Esplanade Recital Studio
13 - 17 Apr 2014	Daisuke Sasaki's "The Fashion Ritual" (5/17) @Sands Expo
17 Apr 2014	Kitaro World Symphony Tour @ Marina Bay Sands (Grand Theatre)
30 Apr - 01 May 2014	KAGEMI : Beyond the Metaphors of Mirrors by Sankai Juku (Japan)



"In Blossoms" Flower Exhibition



"10 Nights of Dream" Glass Art Exhibition

Further information and updates about JCC events can be found on the [JCC Website](#) and [Facebook](#)

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*Project 6581 artists together with Mr & Mrs Murata,
Co-directors of Youkobo Art Space*

1 OVERVIEW

In February, JCC dedicated the month to collaborative art in an exchange project by eight artists from Japan and Singapore. Artworks by the artists were presented in an exhibition featuring over 40 works. An Artist Tour was also put together to provide guests a deeper understanding of the messages behind the art pieces.

1.1 “PROJECT 6581 PARALLEL PERCEPTION AND COUNTER CONNECTION” EXHIBITION OPENING CEREMONY

“Project 6581: parallel perception and counter connection” was an art exhibition held at Japan Creative Centre from 8th - 28th February 2014. The exhibition displayed over 40 various mediums of art pieces by eight artists from Japan and Singapore.

Project 6581 is a collaborative initiative by Youkobo Art Space Tokyo and Instinc Singapore where four representing artists from each country go on an exchange program to immerse themselves in the sights and sounds of their visiting country. The project is meant to inspire and unify the artistic culture of Japan and Singapore. In addition, the project aims to alleviate the artists to move beyond current perspectives in order to venture broader horizons artistically and perceptively. This is believed not only to strengthen ties between the two countries but also provide opportunities for exchange collaborations between not only the current 8 artists but also to promote future collaborations.



Project 6581 Exhibition

Gaining its name from the combination of country codes ‘65’ from Singapore and ‘81’ from Japan, Project 6581 in its title also seeks to reflect the bond between the two countries.



Mrs Murata expressing her gratitude at the Opening Ceremony of Project 6581

The Opening Ceremony of Project 6581 was held at Japan Creative Centre on 7th February 2014. The ceremony opened with welcome remarks by the Director of JCC, Mr. Toshihide Ando followed by brief introductions of Project 6581 by Ms Yeo Shih Yun, Director of Instinc Singapore and Mrs Hiroko Murata from Youkobo Art Space in Tokyo. Ms Chihiro Kabata said a few words in representation of the Japanese artists and Mr Justin Lee for the Singaporean artists.

The works on display reflected various mediums of art such as paintings, photography, installations, drawings and video arrangements. The project was indeed a booming success where much networking was exchanged and possibly new opportunities. This ties in to Japan Creative Centre's vision to provide networking possibilities for artists from both countries, and indeed Project 6581 was a fulfillment to this mission.

The Opening Ceremony was well received by more than a hundred guests from various art galleries and organizations in Singapore.

1.2 “PROJECT 6581 PARALLEL PERCEPTION AND COUNTER CONNECTION” EXHIBITION ARTIST TOUR



*Ms Aya Murakami sharing the reasons
behind her work*

As Project 6581 presented the expressions of artists across cultures, an artist tour was arranged for visitors to hear the artists' impressions on their works.

This was held at JCC from 2 - 4pm on 8th February in the presence of some of the 8 artists featuring their works at the Project 6581 Exhibition. During the tour, Japanese artists Yuuri Kabata, Chihiro Kabata, Aya Murakami and Kaoru Murakami spoke about their works and shared their perspectives drawn from their exchange program in Singapore. After the artists presented explanations on their works, Curator for the Exhibition, Ms Kelley Cheng provided a detailed account of Project 6581 and its purpose.

During this event, Ms Cheng enabled visitors to learn much about the artists' thought processes and inspirations collected during their exchange program.

The Exhibition featured works created from inspiration received during the exchange visit. Ms Aya Murakami, one of the Japanese artists from Youkobo Art Space, gained much inspiration from her visit to Singapore especially when she went to the Botanical Gardens which gave her the impression of a pair of human lungs. She then took the map of Botanical Gardens and cut it into small pieces that she used to form the shape of lungs to create her artwork entitled 'Lungs, Botanical Gardens'. This to her represented a network of pathways and



Lungs, Botanical Garden, 2013

landscape that connected to form a bird's eye view of Botanic Garden in the shape of human lungs.

Other Japanese artists like Ms Yuuri Kabata, Ms Kaoru Murakami and Ms Chihiro Kabata also portrayed similar reflections in their artworks from their experience in Singapore. After the Project 6581 Exhibition at JCC, all four Japanese artists subsequently had their artworks exhibited in JAPAN ART EXHIBITION at Isetan Scotts from 7 – 20 March.

For the Singaporean artists, the visit to Youkobo Art Space in Tokyo, was an overwhelming experience. Mr Justin Lee, one of the Singaporean artists, was also fascinated by his stay in Japan but from an environmental perspective. He was inspired by the gradual decline of natural greenery in the world and the increase in man-made greenery to fill the void. In his artworks Mr Lee questions the viewers 'When was the last time you sat under a tree?' especially in societies where people are swiftly moving away from simplistic living. He felt that the basic aspects of life are also becoming artificial or man-made, fearing the loss of human connection with nature. In this artwork, he sought to reflect growth from childhood to adulthood using shoes with nature as a representation.

Mr Khairullah Rahim and Mr Ade Putra Safar who previously exhibited works at Japan Creative



My Shoes 02, 2013

Centre in an exhibition entitled "Cross Encounter" held in 2013, were amongst the four Singaporean artists from Instinc Singapore. Director of Instinc, Ms Yeo Shih Yun also participated in Project 6581 to showcase her experience and skills obtained from stay in Japan.

Collectively, Project 6581 proved to be a successful exhibition that strengthened the bonds between Japan and Singapore.

2 JAPANESE CULTURAL FACT OF THE MONTH

2.1 Spring High-School Baseball Tournament

The National High School Baseball Invitational Tournament is held each year for around 10 days starting in late March at Koshien Stadium in Nishinomiya, Hyogo Prefecture.

Baseball is one of Japan's most popular spectator sports, along with soccer and sumo. Total attendance at the games of Japan's two professional baseball

leagues (Central and Pacific Leagues) in 1997 topped 23 million. The most popular amateur competition, meanwhile, is the high school tournament, played in the spring and summer among several dozen of the country's best teams.

The summer competition is fought among the 49 schools that win their respective prefectural titles. (There are 47 prefectures in Japan, but Tokyo and Hokkaido have two divisions each.) The spring tourney, meanwhile, invites 32 schools that had the best records in each regional division during the fall season of the year before.

The invitational, held during spring break, began in 1924, nine years after the summer competition started in 1915.



The end of winter means it's time for high school baseball action once again! (Kyodo)

**Any comments for JCC
e-magazine?**

We would love to hear them!

**So please do send in your suggestions and thoughts to
jcc@sn.mofa.go.jp.**