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Tokyo International Gallery

Solo Exhibition  
*Shotaro Sanada*

**BETWEEN:**  
**Landscape and You**

*Exhibition Period : March 1, 2025 Sat. - April 26, 2025 Sat.*

*Opening Reception: : March 1, 2025 Sat. 17:00 ~ 20:00*



## Tokyo International Gallery presents an exhibition by up-and-coming artist Shotaro Sanada “BETWEEN: Landscape and You”

Tokyo International Gallery (Shinagawa, Tennozu) is pleased to present “BETWEEN: Landscape and You” a solo exhibition by Shotaro Sanada.

Sanada's "new landscapes" create a space between the work and the viewer, like a window, and his works, which extend upward to envelop the viewer, create a dialogue with the viewer. Many of the public artworks Sanada has created in the past have been exhibited as landscapes that continue to exist there despite their transformation, illustrating the power of painting to connect people in a particular place. In this exhibition, in addition to his large-scale works, Sanada will present large-scale three-dimensional installations, creating a space where viewers can immerse themselves in “new landscapes.”



\*The images are for display purposes only.

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## Artist Statement

Initial motivation for painting with an awareness of the act of "creating artwork" was to "paint new landscapes that reflect the present age and have them seen by many people. Today, we live in a chaotic information society, and people are busy. In such a life, we need time to stop and look at the scenery and calm our minds. I also had a bit of arrogance in wanting people to share the experience of connecting with others through the landscapes I depict, in an age where people easily build physical and mental walls out of fear of not being able to see. In any case, I felt the need to create a "new landscape" for the modern age.

In order to depict "new landscapes," I thought it was important to express sensitively the long time that landscapes take to form and the gravity that is unconsciously felt by our bodies as we gaze at the landscape. What was useful for this was the sense that "the landscape stretches vertically. Trees grow straight upward, and their roots spread underground to complete the natural landscape. The strata and oceans deeply support the world, and the sky and the universe also emphasize our smallness with their astonishing heights. Buildings are also piled vertically from foundation to high-rise to compose the urban landscape. These elements are painted in unified brushstrokes perpendicular to the screen, and the flow of time is captured in a single plane, expressed as gradations and afterimages. By extracting colors from the actual landscape and reconstructing them on the screen, I build up layers while canceling out the differences between the part and the whole, the center and the periphery. I concluded that this was the best way for me to depict "new landscapes. The "Landscape" series of works thus completed is a series of large paintings in which elements from actual landscapes are abstracted and reconstructed as new landscapes. Based on careful planning of brushstrokes, color selection, and composition, the artist aims to create a realistic depiction of the landscape. It is then a creative project that continues to depict ever-evolving landscapes while embracing the improvised brush strokes and unexpected changes that occur during production. The paintings, rooted in history and produced in response to the ever-changing information society, will look at us as "new landscapes" skillfully containing the two elements of inheritance and change.

It is a living person who paints a picture. Therefore, regardless of the artist's awareness, the work reflects a cross-section of the era in which the artist lives. It is said that with the advent of photography, the role of paintings as records has diminished, but even so, it is necessary to rethink how the zeitgeist of a painting affects our understanding of the work.

Each time paint is added to an empty canvas, the painting is filled with heterogeneous elements. This heterogeneity is unstable and has the potential to change the relationship between the elements in an instant. If it is the painting that quietly reflects the dynamic process toward completion, then the significance of the painting as a recording medium has not been lost as it is complete within the work. In this way, the completed painting takes in the people present and appears before their eyes as a force that influences reality. My paintings are both walls and windows. As soon as it seems to separate space, it immediately connects reality and fiction and tries to create a relationship with us. It is as if the painting is looking at us. I would like to open up a "new landscape" in which all viewers can share the time spent looking at the same painting equally, and in which a rich sense of reflection on oneself and the world is created.

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## Shotaro Sanada

Painter, born in Nishinomiya City, Hyogo, Japan in 2000, graduated from Tokyo University of the Arts in 2024, and is currently enrolled in the Master's Program in Advanced Expression Informatics at the University of Tokyo (Master of Information Science). He is the 8th scholarship creator of the Kuma Foundation. His large-scale abstract paintings based on the theme of "New Landscape" have attracted attention since he was a student at Tokyo University of the Arts, and he has received numerous awards including Art Olympia 2022, the Geidai Art Plaza Award, and the Tokyo University of the Arts Art Festival Excellence Award. In 2023, he was selected as the first artist of the "Google Japan x Generation Z Artists" and held a live painting session at the "AI EXPO 2023" in Makuhari Messe. In the same year, he was commissioned by East Japan Railway Company to create a large 10-meter painting to be permanently installed in JR Nagano Station. In 2024, after entering the graduate school of the University of Tokyo, he held solo exhibitions at Shin-Kwang Mitsukoshi in Taiwan and GINZA SIX Ginza Tsutaya, and created permanent works throughout Japan, including a large mural painting for a restaurant in JR Ueno Station and painting on a permanent street piano in Ryuo, Nagano, as well as working for racing driver Gatsunoshin Ota and Japan's ski cross champion Rin Nakanishi. He has also designed the helmets of racing driver Tatsunoshin Ota and Japan's national ski cross champion Rin Nakanishi, among others. Major solo exhibitions include "Process Landscape" (2024/Ginza Tsutaya), "Solo Exhibition" (2024/Shin Kwang Mitsukoshi, Taiwan), "OVER" (2024/STREET DREAMS STUDIOUS TOKYO), "ACROSS" (2023/Bumpodo Gallery), etc.



### <BIOGRAPHY>

- 2000 Born in Nishinomiya City, Hyogo Prefecture
- 2019 Tatsuma Ikueikai Koyo Gakuin High School Graduation
- 2024 Graduated from Tokyo University of the Arts, Department of Fine Arts
- 2025 Master's Student, Graduate School of Interdisciplinary Information Studies, The University of Tokyo

<CV>

- 2022      Awarded the Geidai Art Plaza Prize  
            Art Olympia 2022, Prize Winner
- 2023      Selected for Art Students STARS vol.1 & 2  
            Google Japan x Generation Z Artists First round of artists selected  
            JR East Beyond Stations Initiative Adopted as a permanent artist  
            Large mural painting created for JR Nagano Station, semi-permanent and permanent installation  
            Tokyo Geidai Art Fest, Excellent Prize
- 2024      Awarded Yamagata University Prize, Society of Hyperdifferent Fields 2024  
            Selected as a scholarship creator for the 8th term of the Kuma Foundation  
            Large wall painting in JR Ueno Station, semi-permanent and permanent installation  
            Selected for Pen BREAKING2024 Art & Design  
            Tokyo Emerging Directors U40 Artists selected

<EXHIBITIONS >

- 2022      Solo      “from” art brewing gallery - haco, Tokyo
- 2023      Solo      “ACROSS” Bumpodo Gallery, Tokyo  
            Group    “WHAT CAFE EXHIBITION”, Terada Warehouse WHAT CAFE, Tokyo, Japan
- 2024      Group    “ART SESSION” GINZA SIX, Ginza Tsutaya, Tokyo  
            Solo      “OVER” STREET DREAMS STUDIOUS TOKYO (Tokyo, Japan)  
            Solo      “Solo Exhibition” at ShinKong Mitsukoshi, Taipei, Taiwan  
            Solo      “Process Landscape” GINZA SIX, Ginza Tsutaya, Tokyo  
            Group    “Born New Art in Osaka” Hankyu Men's Osaka, Osaka  
            Group    “ART SESSION” Takashimaya Kyoto Tsutaya, Kyoto, Japan  
            Group    “Tokyo Emerging Directors U40”, Terada Warehouse WHAT CAFE, Tokyo, Japan
- 2025      Group    “Linear Time in Planar Reproduction” Kuma Foundation Gallery, Roppongi, Japan

【 Outline of the Exhibition 】

- Title      :      “BETWEEN: Landscape and You”
- Artists    :      Shotaro Sanada
- Venue     :      Tokyo International Gallery
- Address   :      TERRADA ART COMPLEX II 3F,  
                    1-32-8 Higashi-Shinagawa, Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo, Japan
- Period    :      March 1, 2025 (Saturday) - April 26, 2025 (Saturday)
- Closed    :      **Monday, Tuesday, (Wednesday by appointment only)**

**【 Contact 】**

Tokyo International Gallery, Inc.  
Representative Director Kosuke Shimamura  
[info@tokyointernationalgallery.co.jp](mailto:info@tokyointernationalgallery.co.jp)

**【 Notification 】**

Tokyo International Gallery will temporarily relocate the gallery space to the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of TERRADA ART COMPLEX II (SAME BUILDING) on July 1, 2024.

Please take the elevator to the 3rd floor.

We apologize for the inconvenience, but we will continue to hold exhibitions in the new space for you to experience the world of the artists and their works.

We look forward to seeing you at the exhibition.

Tokyo International Gallery  
Press Release  
February 2025

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TERRADA ART COMPLEX II 2F1-32-8 Shinagawa, Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo 140-0002  
Hours 12:00 - 18:00 - Closed Sunday, Monday and Holidays  
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