

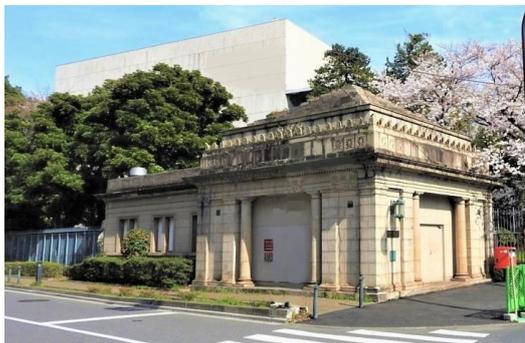


November 12, 2018

The Implementation Committee for New Concept "Ueno, a Global Capital of Culture"
Arts Council Tokyo (Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture)

**Former Hakubutsukan-Dobutsuen Station, One of the Historical Buildings
Selected by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, Opens for Public Viewing
- New Interactive Art Installation on Display for a Limited Time -**

The Implementation Committee for New Concept "Ueno, a Global Capital of Culture" and Arts Council Tokyo (Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture) will exhibit a new art installation to the public under the theme of social inclusion for a limited time as part of the UENOYES project. Under the historical cultural resource utilization program, the Keisei Electric Railway Co., Ltd. and the Tokyo University of the Arts collaborated together to revitalize the historic former Hakubutsukan-Dobutsuen Station for public viewing. To commemorate this special opening, the former Hakubutsukan-Dobutsuen Station will be transformed into a platform of cultural exchange for people through this special interactive art installation. It is expected to become a new cultural base, an art crossing, where visitors can experience the many points of interest in Ueno, an area with many museums, cultural experiences, and Ueno Park.



Exterior of the Former Hakubutsukan-Dobutsuen Station



Image: TOBIU CAMP 2018

This art installation is centered around a newly written original work by theater director, Shirotama Hitsujiya and art designed by Akiko Sakata. The story is based on her research collected in Ueno when studying about the history of the station, gathering opinions from people who work for the National Museum of Nature and Science, the Ueno Zoological Gardens and the Keisei Electric Railway Co., Ltd. The exhibition program features 3D skeletal specimens handled by Kent Mori, PhD., assistant researcher at Department of Zoology, National Museum of Nature and Science. These displays can be touched and felt by anyone, including the visually impaired. During the exhibition, visitors will be led through a space unique to the inclusive art project UENOYES that includes music and echo. Guides will also be wearing animal masks and offering various guided tours so that anyone can enjoy the exhibition regardless of ability or disability.

Project Outline**UENOYES BALLON DAYS #2****Former Hakubutsukan-Dobutsuen Station****“Wandering into the Rabbit Hole”**

An installation that can be fully appreciated by reading the story written by director, Shirotama Hitsujiya based on her study and research of Ueno.

Direction and Text: Shirotama Hitsujiya

Art Designer: Akiko Sakata

Production Cooperation: Kent Mori

<Exhibition Period>

Every Friday, Saturday and Sunday from November 23, 2018 to Sunday, February 24, 2019

※Closed during December 28 – January 4

<Time> 11:00am – 4:00pm *Last admission: 3:30pm

(Limited admission. If the number of visitors exceeds the approved number, visitors will not be allowed to stay and watch another performance.)

<Venue> Former Hakubutsukan-Dobutsuen Station building

<Admission> Free of charge

*Please check the official website of UENOYES for more information on admission.

If there are any circumstances related to urgent railway operations, it may not be possible to view the exhibition.

【Related Events】**1. Public talk: “Public Talk on the Former Hakubutsukan-Dobutsuen Station”**

A panel session of participating artists, specialists involved in the project, and local people.

<Date and Time> 11:00am – 11:50am, Saturday, November 24, 2018

<Venue> Outdoor Stage (Waterside Music Hall), Ueno Park

<Admission> Free of charge

<Speakers> Shirotama Hitsujiya, Akiko Sakata, Kent Mori, Toru Mori (Chairman of NPO Ueno no Mori Geijutsu Forum)

<Moderator> Katsuhiko Hibino (General Producer of UENOYES)

2. Guided tour through touch

A guided tour by performers in which anyone can participate, including the visually impaired.

<Supervisors> Shirotama Hitsujiya, Kent Mori

<Date and Time> All days open to public, from 11:00 am, 12:00 pm, 2:00 pm, and 3:00 pm

<Maximum participants> 10 people per tour *Advance reservation is required.

Apply here→ <http://goo.gl/D52rzR>

*For reasons related to the venue, exhibition guidance for a person in a wheelchair will be held every Friday at 1:00 pm (except public holidays). Please contact us in advance by email.

Email: toiawase@ueno-bunka.jp

[Participating Artists · Production Cooperation]**Shirotama Hitsujiya**

Shirotama Hitsujiya is the artistic director at Yubiwa Hotel. She is also a playwright, director, and performer. After a performance that connected New York and Tokyo through broadband given in the middle of the confusion of the September 11 attacks, she has continued to perform overseas. She has also presented site-specific works cooperating with local people in cities and nature at art festivals in Japan, such as the Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennale and Sapporo International Art Festival. She founded the Asian Women Performing Arts Collective (Ajokai in Japanese) to play a role that would influence Asia, women, and performance art. She was named one of “The 100 Most Influential Japanese Women in the World” by Newsweek Japan.

Akiko Sakata

Akiko Sakata is a molding artist. She has been the art director at Yubiwa Hotel since 1992 while studying at Musashino School of Art, Department of Sculpture. In 2010, she started a made-to-order brand called “DIET CHICKEN” centered on animal motifs. In the “Asakusa Collection 2013”, she produced a hand-drawn carp pattern costume, formed a marching carp band composed and conducted by Kojima Keitaney Love, and marched in Asakusa. She produced collaboration goods at “TONOFON FESTIVAL 2010-2017” sponsored by Shugo Tokumaru.

Kent Mori

Kent Mori is a Ph.D., assistant researcher at Department of Zoology, National Museum of Nature and Science

In 2015, Kent Mori received his doctorate from the School of Science at the University of Tokyo with his paper on the hind limb bones of the sea otter. Currently he is carrying out research on three-dimensional modeling of museum natural history specimens using photogrammetry. Some of the works of this exhibition are part of the research subsidized by JSPS Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research JP17K12967.



From left, Kent Mori, Akiko Sakata, and Shirotama Hitsujiya

[About the Former Hakubutsukan-Dobutsuen Station]

Opened in December 1933 as a railway station for the Keisei Electric Railway. At the same time, because the planned construction site for the station building was part of the Imperial estate, construction was sanctioned by Emperor Showa at the Imperial Council. Perhaps taking these circumstances into consideration, both the interior and exterior design of the station building were done in a grand western style. Since its opening, it had been used as the nearest station to the Tokyo Imperial Household Museum (now the Tokyo National Museum) and Ueno Zoological Gardens, but due to a decline in the number of passengers, operation stopped in 1997 and closed in 2004. However, it was designated as a Selected Historical Building by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government as of April 19, 2018 because of its historical value and importance to the surrounding area. After its historical value was recognized, Keisei Electric Railway Co., Ltd. carried out extensive renovation work, repairs, and cleaning in addition to newly constructing a door designed by Katsuhiko Hibino, the Dean of the Faculty of Fine Arts at the Tokyo University of the Arts and the general producer of UENOYES, through a collaborative agreement made with the Tokyo University of the Arts last June.



UENOYES is a socially inclusive cultural art creation transmission point formation project set to be carried out from this fiscal year by Implementation Committee for the New Concept “Ueno, a Global Capital of Culture” and Arts Council Tokyo (Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture).



This project is supported by the Agency for Cultural Affairs Government of Japan in the fiscal year 2018.

Organizers:

Implementation Committee for New Concept “Ueno, a Global Capital of Culture”
Arts Council Tokyo (Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture)

UENOYES official website: <http://uenoyes.ueno-bunka.jp/>

*Programs are subject to change.