



# Mika Ninagawa

Period: July 7 (Fri) to August 27 (Sun), 2017

## Overview

Mika Ninagawa is a well-known contemporary Japanese photographer active in a variety of fields, including film, fashion, and advertising. Possessing a strength that draws near to life's essence, she is very popular amongst younger generations and other audiences for the colorful, dream-like, and beautiful worlds that both draw from her keen sensitivity to impermanence and the darkness that lies in the shadows of the bright. With 2015 marking twenty years since she began to work as an artist and over five years since her set of highly successful retrospectives around Japan (from 2008 to 2010), Ninagawa has recently been challenging herself in new spheres. This exhibition will share with visitors her world.

## Information

**Period:** July 7 (Fri) to August 27 (Sun), 2017

**Hours:** 9:30 to 19:00 (Until 17:00 on Sundays. Visitors are allowed to enter the exhibition room until thirty minutes before closing.)

**Opening Event:** 13:00 on July 7 (Friday) in the Entrance Hall.

**The museum is closed on Mondays.** It will be open on the public holiday Monday, July 17 and closed the following day (Tuesday, July 18). The museum will also be open on Monday, August 14.

**Admission:** ¥1,000 (¥800) / University Students ¥500 (¥400). High school students and younger enter free.

Prices in parentheses are offered for advance sales and to groups of twenty or more.

Advance sales tickets are available until Thursday, July 6 at Takamatsu Art Museum's first floor reception desk, Takamatsu City Hall Coop, Youme Town Takamatsu's service counter, and Miyawaki Shoten's main store (honten) and main south store (minami honten).

Individuals with an identification booklet for the physically disabled, rehabilitation certificate (ryōiku techō), or mental disability certificate enter free.

Organized by the Takamatsu Art Museum with the cooperation of FUJIFILM Imaging Systems Co., Ltd.; Tokyo Lithmatic Corporation; Frameman Co., Ltd.; and Tokyo Studio Co., Ltd.

Planning Coordination: Lucky Star Co., Ltd. and Tomio Koyama Gallery.

## Related Events

At the Takamatsu Art Museum, the first Saturday of every August is "**Museum Day.**" This year on Saturday, August 5 we will hold events such as workshops. Admission fees are waived.

### Entrance Mini-Concert

A wind ensemble mini-concert will be held at the museum's Entrance Hall featuring the songs of the music videos that Ninagawa has directed, as well as pieces inspired by the flower motifs in her works. Visitors can look forward to Yuzu's "Ame Nochi Hareruya" and AKB48's "Heavy Rotation."

Date and Time: 13:30 to 14:00 on August 12 (Sat). Free.

Performer: Kagawa University Wind Ensemble

## Artist Profile

### Mika Ninagawa      Photographer and Film Director.

Born in Tokyo. Recipient of many awards, including the Hitotsuboten Grand Prix, New Cosmos of Photography Excellence Award, Konica Photo Encouragement Award, Kimura Ihei Award, and Ohara Museum of Art Award (Voca Exhibition). Ever since Ninagawa began working as an artist she has released a photography collections yearly, and has currently has over one hundred publications. Her first feature length film as a director Sakuran was released in 2007. It received high acclaim in Japan as well as overseas at the 57th Berlin International Film Festival and the 31st Hong Kong International Film Festival. In November 2008 she began her nationwide large-scale retrospective exhibition tour "Mika Ninagawa: Earthly Flowers, Heavenly Colors" at the Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery. It attracted a total of 180,000 visitors. In 2010 she published a photography collection from Rizzoli New York, which received attention around the world. Her second film as director Helter Skelter was released in 2012, and received the Shindo Kaneto Silver Award. In 2016, at Taiwan's Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA Taipei), Ninagawa held a large-scale individual exhibition, far surpassing the museum's previous record for number of visitors. She has been appointed as one of the executive board members for the 2020 Tokyo Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games.



Mika Ninagawa

## Exhibition Composition and Major Works

### 01 | Flowers |

(2015) 85 Works C-prints

Ninagawa is known for her lively, poppy, and colorful flower photographs, as was expressed by the subtitle of her touring domestic exhibit, “Earthly Flowers, Heavenly Colors.” Her works fill up open spaces.



Image No. 1



Image No. 2

### 02 | Portraits |

(2002-2015) 83 Works C-prints

In this exhibition, visitors will find idols and well-known actors with a variety of expressions and appearances. Ninagawa took the exhibition's photographs after having chosen everything from background sets to clothing and props. Carefully crafting her art while bringing out subjects' appeal without flattering them, these photographs capture her trademark rich ideas and ingenious staging abilities.

### 03 | Light of |

(2016) 11 Works C-prints

From Ninagawa's photography collection Light of, which features the light of fireworks and outdoor festivals. People in the festival crowd extend their hands, trying to capture the intense light. In the tracks of the colorful and momentary light of fireworks, Ninagawa captures a moment of ecstasy.



Image No. 3

### 04 | PLANT A TREE |

(2011) 21 Works C-prints *Takahashi Collection*

From the 2011 photography collection PLANT A TREE. While filled with sadness on a spring day in 2010, Ninagawa spent two to three hours photographing cherry blossoms falling onto the surface of the Meguro River. “It’s a photograph that could only be taken on that day, that could only be left behind at that time.” This piece contains a decisive moment found in the movement of time.

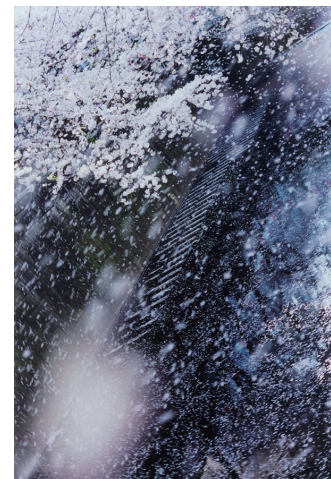


Image No. 4

## 05 | TOKYO INNOCENCE |

(2013-2015) 78 Works C-prints

Primarily works from the 2013 photography collection TOKYO INNOCENCE, as well as recent ones. Artists, designers, idols, models, performers, drag queens . . . A set of works filled with the crazy, mysterious, and rapturous brilliance of Tokyo's excessive and radical underground culture.



Image No. 5

## 06 | Self-image |

(2013) 16 Works C-prints

From the 2013 photography collection Self-image. A black and white self-portraits. She has continually taken such self-portraits since she began working as a photographer. By not including bright colors, the artist herself—"nearly flesh and blood, unarmed"—comes into relief.



Image No. 6

## 07 | noir |

(2010) 125 Works C-prints, 5 large format prints

From the 2010 photography collection noir. The brighter the light the brighter the colors, but the stronger the light the darker the shadows. Ninagawa keenly responds to hidden areas in everyday life—like death and darkness—that lay beside vividly colorful worlds. Seeing color in black and black in color, this sensibility gives her works depth and strength.

## 08 | Sakura |

(2011) 12 Works C-prints, 5 large format prints

From the 2011 photography collection Sakura. In the spring of 2011, the year of the Great East Japan Earthquake, Ninagawa, as if possessed, photographed 2,500 scenes of cherry blossoms that were fully blooming. It was like they were praising life. This exhibition will feature a cherry blossom-inspired space installation covering the room's walls and floors.

- 
- When requesting image data, please include the "request number" below the photograph.
  - When printing photographs, please include the following copyright notice:  
© *mika ninagawa. Courtesy of Tomio Koyama Gallery.*
  - The number of displayed works is subject to change.

## For Inquiries and Materials Requests

**Eriko Ogata** eriko\_10527@city.takamatsu.lg.jp

**Chie Fukuda** a160159@city.takamatsu.lg.jp

### Takamatsu Art Museum

10-4 Konya-machi, Takamatsu, Kagawa, Japan 760-0027

Tel: +81(0)87-823-1711 Fax: +81(0)87-851-7250