

Kentaro Okawara

(b. 1989 in Tokyo, Japan)

Lives and works in Seoul, Korea

Since graduating from the College of Arts, Tokyo Polytechnic University in 2011, Okawara has been exhibited internationally and had some 'art books' published and making products. Okawara's work explores his long held belief that making art is an expression of love and a means to connect with each other. Each piece presents a surreal yet familiar cast of characters; a cocktail of humans, creatures, and personified objects interact with each other in intimate and bizarre ways to create a world that can be endearingly engaged by all. Within Okawara's world of bright colours and stylised motifs he addresses the importance of direct eye-to-eye and face-to-face communication. In this digital age where we seem to exchange our thoughts and feelings primarily over the Internet, Okawara's work encourages us to think again, cast aside our differences and re-connect to our shared humanity.

Contact:

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Solo Exhibitions:

MUSE TAKING A SHIT / at DIESEL ART GALLERY / Tokyo, Japan / 2025

FLY WITH YOUR WINGS / at WWF / Seoul, Korea / 2023

BE THE ONE TOKYO / at BOOKMARC / Tokyo, Japan / 2023

BE THE ONE / at i GALLERY / Osaka, Japan / 2023

OUR LIFE / at HATO PRESS / London, UK / 2022

OUR LIFE / at CANCAN PROJECT / Mexico city, Mexico / 2022

CLOSE TO YOU / at Tokyo Cultuart by Beams / Tokyo, Japan / 2020

US / at Roppongi Hills Art+Design Store / Tokyo, Japan / 2020

HOLD TIGHT / at Pubulic Gallery / London, UK / 2019

JUST YOUR SMILE / at Roppongi Hills A/D Gallery / Tokyo, Japan / 2019

LOVE STORY / at BINCAN / Seoul, South Korea / 2018

TRIP OF LOVE / at FISK Gallery / Portland, Oregon / 2018

WITH YOU / at Inspired by Starbucks Daizawa5chome, Japan / 2017

SAVE MY LOVE / at New Alternative / Kagoshima, Japan / 2017

Little Homie / at OMOTESANDO ROCKET / Tokyo, Japan / 2017

MOOD / at SOBO Gallery / Tokyo, Japan / 2016

DUST OF LIFE / at Space M / Tokyo, Japan / 2014

Group Exhibitions:

Fleur Hanna Kott / at Shinsegae Gallery, Centum City Busan / Busan, Korea / 2025
FELIX THE CAT 105th ANNIVERSARY ARTIST COLLECTION / at i GALLERY / Osaka, Japan / 2024
Intro / at Iwataya Honten / Fukuoka, Japan / 2022
Typojanchi / Culture Station Seoul / Seoul, Korea / 2021
CREATIVITY IS ESSENTIAL / the DESIGN MUSEUM / London, UK / 2021
DAZZLED / at GR Gallery / New York, US / 2020
Rude Assembly / at above the Tool shed / Sydney, Australia / 2019
Lost and Not Found / at W+K Amsterdam / Amsterdam, Netherlands / 2019
U30 Competition vol.0 / at New Alternative / Kagoshima, Japan / 2017
DINOSAUR EXPO / at On Reading / Aichi, Japan / 2016
Music Illustration Award 2015 / at KATA / Tokyo, Japan / 2015
NINJAS Release Exhibition / at Anagra / Tokyo, Japan / 2015
ART WANK / at The TATE Gallery / Sydney, Australia / 2013
TRIPPY SOULS / at hotori / Tokyo, Japan / 2012

Publications:

Picture Book Set / Published by POO POO BOOKS / Japan / 2023
Art Book "OUR LIFE" / Published by HATO Press / UK / 2022
Art Book "MEMORY BOX" / Published by Corners / Korea / 2022
ZINE "FRIENDS" / Published by CANCAN Press / Mexico / 2020
ZINE "FACETIME LOVE" / Published by HATO Press / UK / 2020
Poster Book "8-UP" / Published by Hand Saw Press / Japan / 2019
Art Book "Kentarō Okawara" / Published by TANG DENG / Japan / 2019
ZINE "I'm Fuckin Great" / Published by CANCAN Press / Mexico / 2019
Picture Book Project / Published by POO POO BOOKS / Japan / 2016-2023

Media:

TOKYO ART BEAT

(<https://www.tokyoartbeat.com/articles/-/kentaro-okawara-diesel-art-gallery-interview-202505>)

NEUT Magazine

(<https://neutmagazine.com/interview-kentaro-okawara>)

VISLA Magazine

(<https://visla.kr/interview/240625/>)

Jungle Magazine

(<https://jungle-magazine.co.uk/the-world-of-kentaro-okawara/>)

It's Nice That

(<https://www.itsnicethat.com/articles/kentaro-okawara-publication-illustration-150519>)

WEPRESENT

(<https://wepresent.wetransfer.com/stories/kentaro-okawara-on-childhood-love-and-art>)