



Photo: Keisuke Inoue

BIOGRAPHY

Atsushi Watanabe

(Contemporary artist)

Since attending Tokyo University of the Arts, Atsushi Watanabe has been presenting socially critical artworks based on his own experiences with emotional scars and mind traps. Watanabe mainly focuses on painting, but also uses other media, such as installation, photography, and performance. The subject matter varies from new religions, economic disparity, homelessness, animal rights, gender, hikikomori to mental illnesses. After graduating university, Watanabe experienced living with homeless people, became a hikikomori, and then he resumed his work in 2013. In 2016, he joined ARTIST'S GUILD.

- 2010 Finished Research Program, the Graduate School of Fine Arts, Graduate School of Tokyo University of the Arts.
- 2009 Finished Oil Painting Major, the Graduate School of Fine Arts, Graduate School of Tokyo University of the Arts.
- 2007 Graduated Painting, Fine Arts, Tokyo University of the Arts.
- 1978 Born in Yokohama, Kanagawa, Japan.

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[Major Exhibitions]

<Solo Exhibitions>

- Suspended Room, Activated House, NANJO HOUSE, Tokyo, 2014.
- Yosenabe Hot Pot, Art Lab AKIBA, Akihabara, Tokyo, 2014.

<Group Exhibitions>

- Koganecho Bazaar 2016 'Life - World of Asia', Koganecho, Yokohama, 2016.
- Who By Art Vol. 2, SEIBU Shibuya Art Gallery, Alternative Space, Shibuya, Tokyo, 2013.
- Asia Panic, Gwangju Biennale Hall, Gwangju, 2009.
- Chibatori, Chiba City Museum of Arts, Chiba, 2008.

[Major Art Fairs]

- 3331 Art Fair 2015, Arts Chiyoda 3331, Tokyo, 2015.
- Art fair Tokyo 2015, Tokyo International Forum, Tokyo, 2015.

[Major Talks & Events]

- The 24th Annual Meeting of Japanese Society of Artistic Anatomy: The Decline of the Human (Presentation at this conference), "Why a former hikikomori man continues to make contemporary art", Tokyo University of the Arts, Tokyo, 2017.
- "Koganecho Bazaar 2016: Atsushi Watanabe discusses his project <Please tell me your emotional scars>" Interviewer: Taro Amano (Chief Curator, Yokohama Civic Art Gallery Azamino) , Underpass Studio Site-D Conference Hall, Kanagawa, 2016.
- "Makoto Aida's monthly rip-off bar" Interviewer: Makoto Aida, Bigakko, Tokyo, 2015.
- "A Talk with Atsushi Watanabe" Interviewer: Shigo Jinno (Associate Professor, University of Chiba), Taisei pouch, Kanagawa, 2015.

ARTICLES & MEDIA

[Major Articles & Media]

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- "Heart net TV, *Breakthrough, Emotional scars shine in the future, contemporary artist Atsushi Watanabe*" (NHK) , Aired on June 27, 2016. [website](#), [video](#)
- "NEWS 930 α" (TV Kanagawa): *Special feature, listening to emotional scars with art, a contemporary artist's desire*, Aired on November 4, 2016.

<Newspapers>

- "Tokyo Newspaper": *Please tell me your emotional scars, Yokohama artist Atsushi Watanabe listens through art*, September 29, 2016.
- "Yomiuri Shimbun": *Making art with emotional scars*, September 27, 2016.
- "Kanagawa Newspaper": *Listening to people's emotional scars*, September 18, 2016.

<Web>

- "Bijutsu Techo": [An interview with Atsushi Watanabe, connecting the emotional scars together, part 1 and part 2](#), October 12, Released on November 21, 2016.
- "art scape": *Atsushi Watanabe's solo exhibit: 'Suspended room, activated house'* (Review: Ren Fukuzumi), Released on February 1, 2016.
- "Yahoo! Japan News / Alterna S": *An exhibition gathers photos of hikikomori's rooms* (Text: Isshou Kon) , Released on November 11, 2014.

<Magazines>

- "POPEYE": *Mr. Aida, tell us the must-know contemporary artists!* (Review: Makoto Aida), November 10 issue, 2016.
- "AERA": *Hikikomori people's de-hikikomori* (Text Hajime Endo), Published on June 8, 2015.
- "Bijutsu Techo": *Atsushi Watanabe's Yosenabe Hot Pot show, The streets are made from expressions* (Review: Ren Fukuzumi) September issue, 2014.
- "Weekly GENDAI": *Satire, praise, or...? Controversy sparked within the university, Why is there a giant portrait of Daisaku Ikeda (president of Soka Gakkai) at the Tokyo University graduate show?* , March 17 issue, 2017