

NEWS RELEASE

To all media representatives:

February 26, 2021

GINZA SIX Retail Management Co., Ltd.

## **New art in GINZA SIX's central atrium**

**Leading Japanese sculptor Kohei Nawa, who combines prescience with creativity, presents**

# ***Metamorphosis Garden***

**An installation on life, matter,  
and a world in which ambiguous entities coexist on the boundary between the two**

GINZA SIX, the Ginza area's largest commercial facility, will exhibit sculptor Kohei Nawa's installation *Metamorphosis Garden* in its central atrium space from Monday, April 12, 2021 to April 2022 (dates to be confirmed).

The first large-scale renewal of GINZA SIX is taking place this spring, four years after the complex originally opened. Leading Japanese sculptor Kohei Nawa, renowned for combining prescience with creativity, has created a new work to serve as the new face of GINZA SIX. *Metamorphosis Garden* is an installation with the theme of life, matter, and a world in which ambiguous entities coexist on the boundary between the two.

*Ether* and *Trans-Deer* emerge as symbols of life from irregularly shaped islands and droplets in a group of sculptures covered with alumina and microbeads floating in the atrium space. An augmented reality performance created in collaboration with choreographer Damien Jalet creates a constantly changing world in which real objects and images of augmented reality overlap.



©Kohei Nawa | Sandwich Inc.

\* This is a conceptual image, subject to change without notice.

GINZA SIX's central atrium space has become the symbol of the shopping center, serving as the venue for exhibiting stimulating art programs full of creative energy and surprising elements, with many international artists having presented their works here, beginning with Yayoi Kusama, whose installation was a major talking point when GINZA SIX first opened.

The power of art plays an extremely important role in an age in which people's lifestyles, work, and values are undergoing major changes. GINZA SIX and its collaborating artists are creating new values and sharing their visions of a new world.

## Outline of installation

*Metamorphosis Garden* is an installation with the theme of life, matter, and a world in which ambiguous entities coexist on the boundary between the two. Expressing the emergence of a new narrative out of chaos, it is a development from the *Biota (Fauna/Flora)* installation (2013) on Inujima island in the Seto Inland Sea.

*Ether* and *Trans-Deer* emerge as symbols of life from irregularly shaped islands and droplets in a group of sculptures covered with alumina and microbeads floating in the atrium space. An augmented reality performance created in collaboration with choreographer Damien Jalet creates a constantly changing world in which real objects and images of augmented reality overlap.

Title: *Metamorphosis Garden*

Artist: Kohei Nawa

Venue: GINZA SIX 2F central atrium

Schedule: Monday, April 12, 2021 to April 2022

(Dates to be confirmed. AR will be incorporated at or after the end of April 2021.)



## Kohei Nawa profile

Sculptor/director of Sandwich Inc./professor at Kyoto University of the Arts

Born in 1975, and based in Kyoto, Japan, Kohei Nawa received a PhD in Fine Art/Sculpture from Kyoto City University of Arts in 2003, and established SANDWICH in 2009. Focusing on the surface “skin” of sculpture as an interface connecting to the senses, Nawa began his *PixCell* series in 2002 based on the concept of the cell, symbolizing the information age. Adopting a flexible interpretation of the meaning of sculpture, he produces perceptual experiences that reveal the physical properties of materials to the viewer through works addressing themes related to life and the cosmos and to artistic sensibility and technology, including *Direction*, in which he produces paintings using gravity, *Force*, in which silicone oil pours down through a space, *Biomatrix*, in which bubbles and grids emerge on a liquid surface, and *Foam*, in which bubbles form enormous volumes. Recently, Nawa has also worked on architectural projects, including the art pavilion *Kohte*. *VESSEL*, a performance work produced in conjunction with Belgo-French choreographer and dancer Damien Jalet, has been presented around the world since its premiere in 2015. In 2018, his sculpture *Throne* was exhibited under the Pyramid at the Musée du Louvre in Paris, France.

### Major works



©Damien JALET | Kohei NAWA  
Photo: Yoshikazu INOUE

#### *VESSEL* (2016)

*VESSEL* is performance art with scenography by Kohei Nawa and choreography by Damien Jalet, working with Mirai Moriyama and other top dancers. It is still being performed, traveling to theaters around the world.



©Reborn-Art Festival 2017  
Photo: Kieko WATANABE (Pontic Design Office)

#### *White Deer (Oshika)* (2017)

*White Deer (Oshika)* is a sculpture exhibited on Oshika Peninsula in Ishinomaki City at *Reborn-Art Festival*, founded by music producer Takeshi Kobayashi. It is a permanent installation symbolizing recovery from the Tohoku Earthquake and tsunami.



Collection of Benesse Holdings, Inc.  
Photo: Nobutada OMOTE | Sandwich

#### *Biota (Fauna/Flora)* (2013)

*Biota (Fauna/Flora)* is a permanent installation in a structure designed by SANAA on Inujima island in the Seto Inland Sea. Sculptures depicting islands and plants, which were the prototype for the installation at GINZA SIX, appear in a small garden.



Courtesy of Aichi Triennale 2013 and Sandwich.  
Photo: Nobutada OMOTE | Sandwich

#### *Foam* (2013)

In *Foam*, bubbles form continually together with the subtle amplitude of the liquid. Small bubbles (cells) gradually cover the surface of the liquid and accumulate to form an autonomous organic structure comprised of a mass of bubbles—foam.

## Damien Jalet profile

Choreographer

In addition to dance, Damien Jalet has worked in a wide range of areas, including collaborations with sculptor Anthony Gormley, musicians, choreographers, movie directors, and designers as a co-creator, and has provided choreography for opera and music videos. In 2013, he collaborated with Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui and Marina Abramovic to restage *Boléro*, premiering at the Paris Opera, winning acclaim, and was appointed Chevalier de l'ordre des arts et des lettres by the French government. Recent works include *THR(O)UGH*, (2015, in collaboration with Jim Hodges) and *BABEL 7.16* (2016, at the Festival d'Avignon). He was named guest artistic director of the UK National Youth Dance Company for 2017, and is an associate artist at the Théâtre national de Chaillot in Paris.



©Koen Broos

## About augmented reality

The space at GINZA SIX around the atrium extending from the third to the fifth floors forms an *au* 5G area. The area aims to create augmented reality art of unprecedented richness and emotional power by using MEC servers\*1 to perform complex graphical processing that cannot be run on a smartphone and streaming the three-dimensional data to iPhones using 5G. The system is designed to provide the best viewing experience with iPhone models that support 5G\*2.

Design/Development: KDDI Corporation's *au* Design project “ARTS & CULTURE PROGRAM”

\* 1

Multi-access Edge Computing servers. Installing MEC servers inside cell-phone provider networks reduces latency.

\* 2

- iPhone models that support 5G are the iPhone 12, iPhone 12 mini, iPhone 12 Pro, and iPhone 12 Pro Max (as of Feb. 2021).
- The program for *au* 5G can be viewed with iPhone models supporting 5G with contracts for *au*'s unlimited data 5G plan.
- A 4G program, with different content from that for *au* 5G, can be viewed with iPhones without an *au* contract.
- To view the program, download the iOS app “AR x ART by augART” and register as a user. AR x ART KOHEI NAWA website: [https://adp.au.com/augart/arart\\_kn](https://adp.au.com/augart/arart_kn)
- augART is a KDDI project promoting digital transformation (DX), which provides new cultural and artistic experiences using cutting-edge technologies such as 5G and extended reality (XR), as an initiative of the *au* Design project “ARTS & CULTURE PROGRAM.”
- Android smartphones are not supported.

## GINZA SIX Information

Tel.: 03-6891-3390 (GINZA SIX General Information, hours: 10:30 - 20:30)

Address: 10-1, Ginza 6-chome, Chuo-ku, Tokyo, 104-0061

Website: <https://ginza6.tokyo/>

Operating hours Shops & Cafes (B2F - 5F) 10:30 - 20:30 Restaurants (6F, 13F) 11:00 - 23:00

Opening hours vary for some stores and restaurants.

See the official website for details.

Closed No fixed closed days

Access Via underground passageway from Ginza Station (Tokyo Metro Ginza Line, Marunouchi Line, and Hibiya Line)

Parking available (free parking subject to minimum purchase amount)

For media inquiries regarding this press release:

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