

Aomori Contemporary Art Centre, Aomori Public University

**ACAC International Open Call:  
Artist in Residence Full Support Program 2022: Making Things  
Application Guidelines (Updated: April 19)**

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## **1 Program Overview**

This open call program offers contemporary artists, curators, researchers and others who are involved in cultural and artistic endeavors the opportunity to practice exhibitions, performances, workshops, talks and other activities, with ACAC's full support providing assistance every step of the way from the planning stage and research to installation and presentation and archiving in catalogs. Although holding an exhibition is not compulsory, participants are required to introduce their achievements through some form of presentation in order to get their activities widely recognized. The length of stay is optional, from a minimum of two weeks to a maximum of about three months. (Non-Japanese artists can apply either for a one-month artist-in-residence program in Japan, or a remote program with a maximum period of around three months. Domestic residents can determine the length of stay and timing of the residence period.)

Approximately two years have passed since the world came under the influence of COVID-19, and ACAC has been exploring the best way of operating the program to allow overseas-based artists to participate remotely through online communication. In 2022, there may also be periods when circumstances disrupt the ability of overseas participants to visit Japan or for domestic travel to occur. However, we'll keep up our hope that we can connect somewhere in the world, without giving up on seeking physical residence opportunities at ACAC for international participants.

For 2022, we have titled the program "Making Things". This is a guidepost to reflect and update the "present tense" of the Artist-In-Residence program at ACAC, and does not necessarily define the activities of participants. As Tim INGOLD says, the etymology of "thing" refers to the gatherings of people, and a gathering place for people to solve issues. While we witness advancing global barriers due to conflict between nations, as well as the pandemic, we'd like to encourage creative communication through making things and gathering people – a universal act of human beings, without borders – to change the way we are, and the current state of the world. We hope ACAC's AIR program will be the interactive platform that can make this happen.

## **2 Guest Judge for 2022 program**

### **Hiraku Suzuki**

Artist. Born in 1978 in Miyagi Prefecture. With a focus on the theme of boundaries between pictures and language, as well as "drawing" and "writing", Suzuki has been expanding his field of drawing through a variety of media including two-dimensional works, sculptures, videos, photographs, and performances. He has been to many cities overseas, including Sydney, Sao Paulo, London, New York, and Berlin as an artist-in-residence, and currently works as an associate professor at Tokyo University of the Arts, Graduate School of Fine Arts, Global Art Practice. Suzuki's main solo exhibitions include, "Excavating Reflections" (Galerie Chantiers Boîte Noire, France, 2019) and "Signs of Faraway" (ACAC, 2015). His major group exhibitions include "MOT Annual 2019 Echo after Echo: Summoned Voices, New Shadows" (Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, 2019) and many others.

### **3 Number of Participants**

1) Non-Japanese nationals living outside of Japan who will stay and work at ACAC (1 month: 30-day, 29-night): 1 person \*Those who can participate remotely if they are unable to travel to Japan.)

2) Non-Japanese nationals living outside of Japan who will participate remotely (a maximum of seven 2-week terms): 1 person \*Duplicate applications for both 1) and 2) are not allowed.

3) Residents of Japan who will stay and work at ACAC (selecting from one to seven 2-week terms): 2-3 people

### **4 Program Schedule**

#### **Residence Period:**

1) The period of stay at the ACAC for a person who is Non-Japanese nationals living outside of Japan must be chosen one month between September 8 (Thu) and December 14 (Wed), 2022.

3) The period of stay at the ACAC from Japan must be chosen from the following terms between September 8 (Thu) and December 14 (Wed), 2022. You must select at two and up to seven terms.

1. September 8 (Thu)—September 21 (Wed)
2. September 22 (Thu)—October 5 (Wed)
3. October 6 (Thu)—October 19 (Wed)
4. October 20 (Thu)—November 2 (Wed)
5. November 3 (Thu)—November 16 (Wed)
6. November 17 (Thu)—November 30 (Wed)
7. December 1 (Thu)—December 14 (Wed)

#### **Application Period:**

April 11 (Mon)—May 22 (Sun), 2021, 17:00 JST (GMT +9:00)

#### **Selection Schedule:**

May 22 (Sun), 17:00 JST (GMT +9:00) ----- Application Deadline

Early June ----- Screening (By the ACAC curatorial team and guest judge)

From mid to late June --- Invitations Sent

### **5 How to Apply**

Screening by application form (see appendix) and a portfolio of up to 5 works.

\*Please submit the application form by email by the following deadline.

***Application Deadline: May 22 (Sun), 2022 17:00 JST (GMT +9:00)***

Subject: AIR 2022 Application (Name)

Address: [acac-air@acac-aomori.jp](mailto:acac-air@acac-aomori.jp)

### **Notes:**

- For the application form, please submit the second and subsequent pages as one PDF file.
- The total file size of the application form and portfolio should be no more than 5MB. Please compress them as a zipped file and send it to the above e-mail address.
- Please read page 1 of the application form carefully regarding the guidelines for the portfolio.
- An e-mail will be sent within a week to notify applicants if the documents have been received successfully. Please e-mail us if you don't receive this confirmation notice.

## **6 Screening and Notification**

Based on submitted materials, artists will be selected by the ACAC curatorial team and guest judge Mr. Hiraku Suzuki.

The applicants will be informed of the final decision by email from mid to late June.

## **7 Application Requirements**

### **Artist in Residence & Remote Participation**

- a) Individuals or groups engaged in artistic pursuits, including curators, researchers, artists, or otherwise. (Hereafter referred to as “the artist” regardless of background or genre.)
- b) The artist should understand the purpose of his or her visit to the ACAC and be able to stay or participate during the period for which they are invited.
- c) Artists who choose not to exhibit will instead participate in exchange programs, including artist talks, lectures, performances, workshops, and school visits.
- d) The artist should be able to explain their artwork and give lectures or workshops in English or Japanese as part of the exchange program.
- e) The artist should be in good health.
- f) The artist should be able to speak and understand basic English daily conversation.

### **Artist in Residence**

- g) The artist should be independent and capable of working and living on their own.
- h) The artist is responsible for all setup and breakdown of exhibitions and events.
- i) The artist should be able to lead a community life with other artists on the program.

### **Remote Participation**

- j) The artist will work with the ACAC in the setup and breakdown of exhibits and events.

## **8 When Holding an Exhibition**

Venue: Aomori Contemporary Art Centre (ACAC) and vicinity

\*Following consultation with ACAC curators, exhibitions may be organized as separated exhibition in the same venue.

\*The nature of the work required for the exhibition, and the location of the exhibition, will be decided after due consultation between the ACAC and the artists.

\*In the event of remote participation, transportation of works will be decided after due consultation between the ACAC and the artist. (The ACAC will pay for expenses up to a certain amount.)

## 9 Obligations of the Organizer and the Artist

**The Organizer and the Artist** have the following obligations to each other throughout the duration of the program and enter into a contract on the basis of this. **In principle, it is a precondition that all successful applicants come alone to Aomori.** Artists can apply as a group or unit. In this case, the organizer considers 1 artist's group or unit as 1 artist and provides expenses only for 1 artist's expense.

If successful applicants wish to be accompanied by family members or an assistant, it is necessary to consult with the ACAC beforehand. Should the ACAC approve the Artist's request, the accompanying individuals may stay at the ACAC's facilities. In this case, the artist is financially responsible for paying both the travel fare and the accommodation fee (2,040 JPY per night) for the accompanying individual.

Each amount of money noted in this guideline includes tax.

Subject	Nature of Obligation
<b>Travel to Aomori</b>	
Travel expenses	<p><b>THE ORGANIZER</b> will pay the following travel expenses according to the Aomori Public University's regulations:</p> <p><b>&lt;domestic resident&gt;</b> A railway fare to Aomori (one time round trip) from the train station nearest to the Artist's residence.</p> <p>*<b>The ORGANIZER</b> provides travel expenses after the ARTIST arrival. *<b>From overseas the amount payable is up to 150,000JPY, for domestic travel it is up to 70,000JPY.</b> *The residence means the place for tax payment. *Expenses for the transportation of goods or materials must be paid by the Artist.</p>
Visa	<p><b>THE ARTIST</b> should make arrangements for a visa with which they may enter Japan, if it is necessary. (All costs to be borne by the artist.) Please contact us about obtaining a visa after receiving your invitation.</p>
<b>Gallery Usage &amp; Events</b>	
Activities	<p>During the residency, <b>THE ARTIST</b> agrees to certain activities, including organizing an exhibition or exchange program, in addition to conducting activities such as research and production in the pursuit of artistic expression.</p>
Artist in Residence Production Expenses	<p><b>THE ORGANIZER</b> will provide 40,000 JPY per term (80,000 JPY per a month) for production expenses deemed necessary by the ORGANIZER (including costs for materials, research, transportation, display, removal of the exhibition, etc.).</p>
Remote Participation	<p><b>The ORGANIZER</b> will provide 75,000 JPY for production</p>

Production Expenses	expenses deemed necessary by the ORGANIZER (including costs for materials, research, transportation, display, removal of the exhibition, etc.).
Exhibition-related Event Expenses	If an <b>ARTIST</b> holding an exhibition also organizes a separate exchange program, <b>THE ORGANIZER</b> will provide 50,000 yen for exhibition-related event expenses.
Studio	<b>THE ORGANIZER</b> will provide the artists with a studio in the Creative Hall and display space in the Exhibition Hall at the ACAC. ( <u>during the program period only</u> ) <b>THE ARTIST</b> must share the studio with other artists.
Care of Studio	<b>THE ORGANIZER</b> will regularly sweep the studio, but <b>THE ARTIST</b> should keep their own studio clean. When <b>THE ARTIST</b> leaves the ACAC, <b>THE ARTIST</b> should return the studio to its original condition.
Artist Production at the ACAC	
Exhibition	<p><b>Exhibition</b></p> <p>--The location of each exhibition and the final contents of the work proposal must be decided after due consultation between the <b>ACAC</b> (curators) and <b>THE ARTIST</b>.</p> <p>--Exhibitions consisting solely of past works are not permitted.</p> <p>--<b>For artist in residence productions:</b> In principle, <b>THE ARTIST</b> should exhibit his or her work by him or herself and care and maintain his or her own work by him or herself during the exhibition.</p> <p>--<b>For remote participation:</b> Set up, care, and maintenance of works will be done by ACAC staff after due consultation between the ACAC and the artist.</p> <p>--<b>THE ORGANIZER</b> should prepare any materials necessary for presentation (panels, explanatory captions, etc.) of the artwork for the audience. Decisions on any such materials shall be made after due consultation between <b>THE ARTIST</b> and <b>THE ACAC</b>.</p> <p>--In order to use the gallery without partitions, for group exhibitions, it is necessary to discuss and coordinate the installation of temporary walls and the use of headphones when a work incorporates light or sound.</p>
Handling of the Works after the Exhibition	<p>--<b>For artist in residence productions:</b> The works must be temporary. <b>THE ARTIST</b> should be able to dismantle his or her works by him or herself after the exhibition. Should the artist wish to take that work produced during the residency back home, <b>THE ARTIST</b> must pack his or her work alone and pay any expenses involved in packing and shipping.</p> <p>--<b>For remote participation:</b> Transportation of works will be decided after due consultation between <b>THE ACAC</b> and <b>THE ARTIST</b>. (The ACAC will pay for expenses up to a certain amount.)</p>

Exchange Program	<p>If <b>THE ARTIST</b> does not hold an exhibition, they must be sure to hold one of the following exchange programs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>--Lecture</li> <li>--Performance</li> <li>--Workshop</li> <li>--School visit</li> </ul> <p><b>THE ORGANIZER</b> will pay the cost for any materials used in such exchange programs after due consultation between <b>THE ARTIST</b> and <b>THE ACAC</b>.</p>
<b>About Living at the ACAC</b>	
Living Expenses	<p><b>THE ORGANIZER</b> will provide living costs according to the Aomori public university's regulations for <b>THE ARTIST</b>. (upper limit is 70 days' worth) The full amount of living expenses is 303,160 JPY. For one term: 59,400 JPY</p> <p>However, the living allowance will not be paid in the following cases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-- When <b>THE ARTIST</b> goes outside Aomori for personal travel.</li> <li>-- In cases of late arrival to and/or early departure from the ACAC.</li> </ul>
Accommodation	<p><b>THE ORGANIZER</b> will provide the artist with residential facilities at the ACAC during the program period (a private single room / 19.44 m<sup>2</sup>).</p> <p><b>THE ARTIST</b> must share bathroom and kitchen facilities. The facilities are self-catering.</p> <p><b>THE ARTIST</b> must keep his or her private room and the bathroom and kitchen facilities clean. When <b>THE ARTIST</b> leaves the ACAC, <b>THE ARTIST</b> must return the residential facilities to their original condition.</p>
Internet	<b>THE ARTIST</b> can use wireless internet in our facilities.
Insurance	<p><b>THE ARTIST</b> is covered by injury insurance and sickness insurance for the duration of the residency. Any past illnesses, chronic diseases, or dental treatments are not covered. <b>THE ARTIST</b> is free to enter private health insurance policies.</p> <p><u>Works presented at exhibitions and exchange programs are not covered by insurance.</u></p>
<b>Other</b>	
Cooperation with Record of Activities, and About Copyright	<p><b>THE ORGANIZER</b> will take pictures of works produced and will film the production process in order to have a record of all activities undertaken during the period of residency. <b>THE ARTIST</b> should cooperate with the recording of these archives.</p> <p><b>THE ARTIST</b> retains copyright of his or her work. However,</p>

	<b>THE ORGANIZER</b> reserves the right to record (photo, film, etc.) these works, and the copyright of these archival recordings is owned by the ACAC. The ACAC also retains the right to use any such records for publicity purposes. Any parties who have received the proper permission from <b>THE ORGANIZER</b> may use these records at no cost.
About the Program Catalogue	<b>THE ORGANIZER</b> will produce a Program Catalog and present 20 copies of the catalog to <b>THE ARTIST</b> .
Cooperation with Public Relations	<b>THE ARTIST</b> should cooperate with public relations as much as possible. However, it is possible to refuse when there is fear of an invasion of the artist's privacy and/or interference with the artist's work. In such cases, please consult with <b>THE ORGANIZER</b> .
Assistance for Activities	Aside from ACAC staff members, the ACAC has an independent volunteer organization that supports the resident artists in the fields of creative assistance, translation, and general living needs. The nature of the support available will be decided after discussions with participating artists, volunteers, and the organizer during the orientation period.
About tax	Please be aware that for those participating from countries without tax treaties with Japan and countries with tax treaties but for which taxes are not exempt, <b>an income tax of approximately 20% (20.42% in 2021)</b> will be withheld from the stipend provided. This includes both production and living stipends. (Please contact your local embassy, consulate, or other appropriate organization for more details.) In addition, if you reside in a country that has tax treaties with Japan, documents certifying your residence will be required.
About COVID-19	Depending on the situation of the COVID-19, the program content may change. In that case, please note that the handling will be decided in consultation with <b>THE ARTISTS</b> and <b>THE ORGANIZER</b> .

## **10 About Aomori Contemporary Art Center**

The Aomori Contemporary Art Center (ACAC) is a residential art institution offering its flagship artist-in-residence (AIR) program. Since its foundation in 2001, the program has been an active platform for a diverse range of artists for their creative pursuits and presentations. Located at the foothills of the Hakkoda Mountains, residents can enjoy a rich natural environment while still being close to the center of Aomori City. The ACAC's architectural design is the work of internationally-acclaimed architect, ANDO Tadao, and features the concept of "invisible architecture". The center consists of a production studio (Creative Hall) and an accommodation facility (Residential Hall), encouraging interactions with others while providing a comfortable space for visitors to focus on their creations. A huge gallery space (Exhibition Hall) allows artists to work experimentally in their production process and directly practice into presentations as an exhibition at the site—another distinct feature of the center.

ACAC's AIR program is an initiative expected to unlock various creativities stimulated by and solely borne under the ACAC's unique environment. The center aims to be an inspirational space for all involved, emphasizing interactions between domestic/international artists and local communities. Its management was transferred from Aomori City to Aomori Public University in 2009. Exchanges between university students majoring in management and economics and regional development have also been active since that time.

## **11 Address & Inquiry**

For particulars or requests about the materials please inquire at Aomori Contemporary Art Centre by e-mail. \*Please note that we are unable to respond by telephone.

atten: AIR 2022

Aomori Contemporary Art Centre

152-6 Yamazaki, Goshizawa, Aomori, 030-0134 JAPAN

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URL: <http://www.acac-aomori.jp>