

Natsuki Takauji

Bio

Natsuki Takauji was born in Japan and moved to NYC in 2008 to discover the city and herself as an artist. She works toward questions driven by her life experiences in Japan and as an immigrant in NYC; her primary artistic intention is to communicate individually or communally. Therefore, many of her works are interactive or participatory, installed in public spaces. She teaches Metal Sculpture and leads a public art program, Works in Public, at The Art Students League of New York in partnership with the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation. She co-founded a non-profit arts organization, The Artist Gardener NYC to activate green spaces in the local communities through arts and educational programs. Her public sculptures were exhibited throughout NYC; Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Riverside Park South 61st St, Van Cortlandt Park, Bronx, GreenThumb Community Gardens, and more. She completed a socially engaging project, "What Is Your Name?" at the LaGuardia Airport, Queens.

She has curated exhibitions for Sculptors Alliance and Lithuanian Alliance of America in NYC. Her work was recently showcased at Japan Society, The City College of New York, Kameyama Art Triennale in Japan, CICA Museum in Korea, Oeno Gallery in Canada, Palazzo Mora in the Venice Biennale, Italy, and more. She is a recipient of the AnkhLave Garden Project Fellowship, Artport Residency Fellowship, Queens Art Fund Grant, Nessa Cohen Grant, and more. She received B.A. from Waseda University in Tokyo, Japan, and a Certificate of Fine Art from The Art Students League of New York.

Artist Statement

I use various materials and methods, often involving mixed-media and metal fabrication, which makes large-scale durable installations possible. I am looking for "unexpected" reactions from viewers that change from the first impression to the next as viewers experience the work. That's why many of my works contain kinetic, interactive, or participatory elements. The viewers' reactions are essential to my practice and research as a part of the communication. My work often relates to sexuality, religion, and spirituality, which were my primary concerns growing up in an environment where those notions were constantly challenged. I often employ metaphors, multiple references, and connotations, sometimes deeply inspired by Japanese culture and tradition.

I have worked toward questions driven by my life experiences in Japan and as an immigrant in NYC; why do we believe what we believe? How can I challenge our preconceived perceptions and conditions? How can we connect to a community or a society at large? My work represents my interest in creating internal and external dialogues around them.

CV

SOLO/DUO EXHIBITION

- 2024 Solo exhibit at Kapow Gallery/Mahboubian Fine Art, Manhattan, NY (Upcoming, January)
Solo exhibit at Sla Art Space/Lithuanian Alliance of America, Manhattan, NY (Upcoming, TBD)
- 2023 Duo exhibit "COUNTERPOINT" at The City College Gallery of New York, NY
- 2022 Solo exhibit "Shin Project -Tree, Temple, and My Scarf-" Two Coves Garden, Queens, NY
- 2020 Duo exhibit "Two Strong" The Gallery LTD, Brooklyn, NY
Solo exhibition at Departure Studios, Queens, NY
- 2019 Solo exhibit "Material Witness" Williamsburg Art & Historical Center, Brooklyn, NY
- 2017 Duo exhibit "Flow of Time and Space" Pomona Cultural Center, Pomona, NY
- 2013 Duo exhibit "Celebration of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month"
Berkeley College Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
- 2012 Solo exhibit Berkeley College Gallery, Manhattan, NY
- 2011 Solo exhibit Renaissance, Brooklyn, NY
- 2010 Solo exhibit Atlas Space, Brooklyn, NY

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITION

- 2023 "Uncharted Horizons" curated by Grace Ji, Gala Art Center, Queens, NY
"What Is Your Name?" Japan Society, NY (A special event installation)
"Grande State Exhibition" 1 West Grand Avenue, Chicago, IL (April)
"60 Together 100 Strong -New York Society of Women Artists Approaches its Centennial-"
Queens College Art Center, Queens, NY
"Borderwalls V" The Border + Arcade Project, Brooklyn, NY
- 2022 "Kameyama Art Triennale 2022" Mie, Japan
Group exhibition, Hillgate Gallery, Kyoto, Japan
"Color" CICA Museum, Gimpo, Korea
"Instructors Salon" The Art Students League of NY, NY
NYSWA "Revolution/Evolution" Taller Boricua, Harlem, NY
Asian Artists in America "Liminality" Time Arts, Manhattan, NY
"Uncontested" Sla Art Space/Lithuanian Alliance of America, Manhattan, NY
Kappo Atelier presents Alcohol Ink Painting Exhibition, Brooklyn, NY
"Intersection" Art on the Ave NYC, Manhattan, NY
"We Are The World" St. Francis College Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
- 2021 "Printed Matter + EXILE Books" NADA Miami Art Fair, FL
"Lineages" American Fine Arts Society, NY

- "Invocation for Light Part.1" SLA Art Space/Lithuanian Alliance of America, Manhattan, NY.
- "Instructors Salon" The Art Students League of NY, NY
- "Atmosphere" Bushwick Open Studios, curated by Yupin Pramotepipop, Brooklyn, NY
- "Resiliency" Art on the Ave NYC, Manhattan, NY
- "Koha -Gift-" The Artist Gardener NYC, 132nd St. Harlem Community Garden, NY
- "Conversations with the Earth", SLA Art Space/Lithuanian Alliance of America, Manhattan, NY
- 2020 "Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts, Benefit Art Auction", Omaha, NE
- "A Room of Your Own" SLA Art Space/Lithuanian Alliance of America, Manhattan, NY
- "Encircle" by The Artist Gardener, NYC. West 132nd St. Community Garden, NY
- "Mother Tongue" The Immigrant Artist Biennial, Virtual exhibition
- "WE: Overall There Is No Wall" performance, curated by PAZ, The Ironic Art Nation, NY
- 2019 "New Japanese Horizon" Williamsburg Art and Historical Center, Brooklyn NY
- "Instructors Exhibition" The Art Students League of New York, Manhattan, NY
- "A special Exhibition for 130th Anniversary of National Association of Women Artists"
- The Center for Contemporary Art, Bedminster, NJ
- 2018 "Instructors Exhibition" The Art Students League of New York, Manhattan, NY
- Venice Architecture Biennale "Time Space Existence" Palazzo Mora, Venice, Italy
- 2017 "A Summer of Sculpture at the Cathedral" The Cathedral of St. John the Divine, Manhattan, NY
- "Instructors Exhibition" The Art Students League of New York, Manhattan, NY
- 2016 "Grant Winner Exhibition" Phillis Harriman Mason Gallery, Manhattan, NY
- "Invitational" Noho M55 Gallery, Manhattan, NY
- 2015 "Holiday Salon" Lesley Heller Gallery, Manhattan, NY
- "Shangri-la" The Factory, Queens, NY
- 2014 "The bad the good the beautiful the ugly part 1" Java Studio, Brooklyn, NY
- "Artists' Choice Exhibition" Noho M55 Gallery, Manhattan, NY
- 2013 "Long Island City Arts Open" Studio 34 Gallery, Queens, NY
- 2012 "Red Dot Exhibition" Phillis Harriman Mason Gallery, Manhattan, NY
- "Ge.o.met.ric" Publicis Healthcare Communications Group, Manhattan, NY
- 2011 "The Affordable Art Fair NYC" Manhattan, NY
- "Holiday Salon" Lesley Heller Gallery, Manhattan, NY
- "100 Artists Exhibition" Ouchi Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
- 2010 "2nd Annual Small Works Exhibition" Manhattan Borough President's Office, NY

PUBLIC INSTALLATION

- 2023 "The Heart of the Tree" in the outdoor exhibition "Branching Out -Tree as a community host"

Anklave Garden Project Fellowship, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, New York (6/17-10/24)
2022-Present "Window II" and "Confession" Oeno Gallery, Sculpture Garden, Ontario, Canada
2022 "Tree, Temple, and My Scarf" Two Coves Community garden / NYC Parks GreenThumb, NY
2021 "Wish Garden" West 132nd St. Community Garden / NYC Parks GreenThumb, NY
2020 "Confession" West 132nd St. Community Garden / NYC Parks GreenThumb, NY
2019 -20 "Window II" Rye Town Park, Rye, NY / Rye Public Art Initiatives
2014 -15 "Window" Riverside Park South 61st St, Manhattan / Model To Monument Program
"Tree Of Life" Van Cortlandt Park, Bronx / Model To Monument Program

PERMANENT COLLECTION

2021 "What Is Your Name?" Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
2019 "Still Life" Yuko Nii Foundation, NY

EXPERIENCE IN EDUCATION / ART ORGANIZATION

2021-Present Program Manager of Works in Public/Model To Monument, The Art Students League of NY
(in partnership with the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation)
2021-Present Co-founder of The Artist Gardener NYC
2020-Present Director of Metal Sculptures at Sculptors Alliance, Inc. New York, NY
2017-Present Instructor of Metal Sculpture at The Art Students League of New York, NY

CURATORIAL EXPERIENCE

2022 Women's History Month Exhibition "Uncontested", Sla Art Space/Lithuanian Alliance of America
"Echoes in Harlem" The Artist Gardener NYC Annual Outdoor Exhibition
West 132nd St. Community Garden, Manhattan, NY
2020 Sculptors Alliance presents "Flux -Vita Mutata-", Online exhibition
2017 Sculptors Alliance presents "METAL", Governors Island, NY

JURY EXPERIENCE

2022 Queens Arts Fund New Work Grant, Visual Art category, Queens Council on the Arts
(Funded by Queens Council on the Arts, NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, New York City Council)
2019 Awards for 130th Annual Members Exhibition of National Association of Women Artists (NAWA)

AWARD / SELECTED PROGRAM

2023 Anklhave Garden Project Fellowship in partnership with Brooklyn Botanic Garden NYC

- 2022 The Artist Residency Project (School of Visual Arts, NYC)
- 2021 Queens Arts Fund New Work Grant
(Queens Council on the Arts, NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, New York City Council)
City Artist Corps Grant (New York Foundation for the Arts, NYC Department of Cultural Affairs)
- 2020 ArtPort Program Fellowship at Laguardia Airport, Marine Air Terminal
(Queens Council on the Arts and Port Authority of NY & NJ)
- 2018 Fiscal Sponsorship (Fractured Atlas)
- 2014 Nessa Cohen Sculpture Grant (The Art Students League of NY)
- 2013 Model To Monument Program
(NYC Department of Parks and Recreation, The Art Students League of NY)
Vivian A. Frankel Merit Award (The Art Students League of NY)

PRESS

- 2023 "The Power of Trees:' Among the 'Machines' Fighting Climate Change" NY Times
"Power of Trees, a new exhibit at Brooklyn Botanic Garden, opens this weekend" Time Out
"NY Seikatsu Woman -Natsuki Takauji continues to create public art-" Weekly NY Seikatsu
"The Artist Gardener" SVA Visual Arts Journal, Spring/Summer 2023
- 2022 "New Work by Natsuki Takauji on Exhibit" Weekly NY Seikatsu
"We Are the World, Group Exhibition at St. Francis College" Art in Brooklyn
"Exhibition "We Are the World" at St. Francis College in Brooklyn" ARTFIXdaily
- 2021 "Art Students League Lineages: Intermediate Forms" Mutual Art
"Sculptors Alliance presents the exhibition "Flux" Artists Coping with Covid-19" NY Seikatsu
- 2020 Exhibition "A Room of Your Own" Review by Dr.Rothenberg, Lithuanian Alliance of America
"Natsuki Takauji Interview" AI-AP presents DART, August
"Flux: Vita Mutata" virtual on Sculptors Alliance" Art Spiel, December
"Natsuki Takauji actively exhibits -socially engaging project-" Weekly NY Seikatsu
- 2019 "Natsuki Takauji: Sensuous Abstractions" Art Spiel, October
"Natsuki Takauji, Window2 Opening and Artist Talk event" Weekly NY Seikatsu
"Art Exhibit" Rye Record
"Widow2 Artist Talk" Westchester Magazine
"More Art Rising in Rye Town Park" Rye Record
- 2018 "Gutto Chikyubin" on-air Nov 11th, Yomiuri TV, Japan
"NY Seikatsu Woman -Natsuki Takauji-" Weekly NY Seikatsu
"Eastside Story -Natsuki Tawkauji-" Hoon Production USA
- 2016 "Living in America now; artist Natsuki Takauji" Wotopi Online Japan, Nov 25
- 2014 "Art in the park: Natsuki Takauji swings on her piece" Wall Street Journal Newspaper

"Artist Natsuki Takauji cuts massive sculpture to transport to public art exhibit"

News12 Brooklyn On TV and Online, June 9

"New Sculptures Spring Up in Riverside Park South" Wall Street Journal Online, June 14

"Giant Swing Among Sculptures Installed in Riverside Park" DNA Info New York, June 12

"Video: From Models to Monuments in Riverside Park" ARTINFO

"Sculptors to Bring Works to City Parks" The New York Times Arts Beat, May 29

2013 "Model To Monument year 4 Natsuki Takauji" Lines from the League, Winter issue

"Berkeley College 2 persons show" Weekly NY Japion Vol.711

"Natsuko Hattori and Natsuki Takauji Exhibition" Weekly NY Seikatsu Vol.442

"Never Give Up" American Dream Monthly Community Magazine Vol.140

2012 "Japanese Artist upcoming solo show" Weekly NY Japion Vol.684

EDUCATION

2014 Certificate of Fine Arts Painting, Sculpture at The Art Students League of New York, USA

2004 B.A. in Creative Writing at Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan