# BIOSIS LIVING ISLAND

April 15 to July 5, 2023 Free Admission





### Curator:

Yuko Hasegawa

#### **Exhibition Design:**

Kazuyo Sejima & Associates

#### with works by:

Office of Ryue Nishizawa
Tetsuo Kondo Architects
Ichio Matsuzawa Office
Beatriz Milhazes
Fiona Tan
Takashi Homma
Jun Nguyen-Hatsushiba
Haruka Kojin
Yusuke Komuta
Kohei Nawa

#### **Assistant Curator:**

Iku Watanabe

#### with support from:

Fukutake Foundation Obayashi Corporation Shizen Energy Group HOPPY Beverage Co., Ltd.

#### Graphic Design:

Instrument

(Right Middle) Inujima "Art House Project" S-Art House | Photo by Takashi Homma

(Right bottom) Inujima "Art House Project" F-Art House | Photo by Takashi Homma

In biology, the word "symbiosis" refers to two organisms living together, each strengthened by a close association.

Socially, the term is used for a mutually beneficial relationship between people or groups. This exhibition explores the groundbreaking Inujima "Art House Project" that was designed to revitalize a depopulated Japanese island by integrating contemporary art. With a unique symbiosis between art, architecture, community, and ecology, the project will nurture and sustain the island for many years to come.



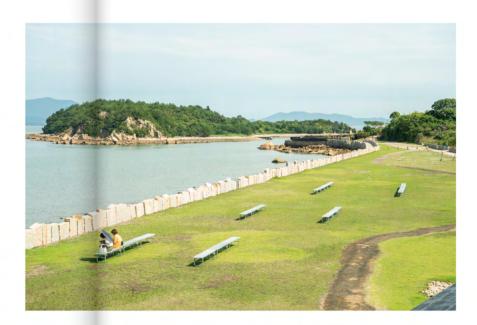


# THE ISLAND

Inujima (known as "Dog Island") is located in Japan's Seto Inland Sea and is part of the city of Okayama. Once a center of copper refining and stone quarrying, the tiny island—it can be walked around within an hour—is home to just twenty-five households, with more than half of the inhabitants over seventy years of age.

In 2008, the island became one of the locations of the Benesse Art Site Naoshima, where activities conducted by Benesse Holdings, Inc. and the Fukutake Foundation in the Inland Sea transformed the island through art. Yuko Hasegawa, director of the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, was hired as the artistic director of the Inujima "Art House Project" and conceived an environment where art, community, and ecology are harmoniously intertwined.





# THE ARCHITECTURE

The Inujima "Art House Project" is developed in collaboration with Kazuyo Sejima, a Pritzker Prizewinning architect and founding partner of the firm SANAA. The team constructed pavilions and art galleries on Inujima—where Hasegawa invited artists to create work in a sustainable manner that enriched the

lives of the residents.
The island now hosts a series of galleries made from recycled materials, transparent acrylic, and aluminum where each structure reflects and preserves the landscape, ecology, and industrial heritage.
The project recently



expanded to include a botanical garden, a bar, and amenities for visitors to stay on the island.

(Top) Inujima | Photo by Yoshikazu Inoue

(Left) Inujima "Art House Project" F-Art House Kohei Nawa: Biota (Fauna/Flora), 2013 | Photo by Takashi Homma

(Right) Inujima "Art House Project" C-Art House | Photo by Takashi Homma





"[Symbiosis is] not just about people, but all living things: plants, animals, even objects that we find useful. There's a Japanese animistic way of thinking that says that all these things have a soul. Everything we interact with, all the things around us exist side by side and support each other. In that sense it's very Japanese: being considerate towards others and valuing harmony... [It's] more about all things existing side by side."

Yuko Hasegawa, Artistic Director of Inujima "Art House Project"

# THE EXHIBITION

Curated by Hasegawa and designed by Sejima, the Symbiosis exhibition takes visitors on a journey around Inujima through an experiential diorama of the island (including architectural models of the art pavilions), documentary videos, and testimonies from residents about the project's transformative impact on their lives. Within the exhibition, Hasegawa has highlighted the work of three artists featured on the island—Beatriz Milhazes from Brazil and Haruka Kojin and Yusuke Komuta from

Japan—alongside Inujima landscape imagery by renowned photographer Takashi Homma. These wideranging works convey a vision of Inujima as a living entity and a potential blueprint for coexistence in the future.

(Left) Inujima "Art House Project" A-Art House | Beatriz Milhazes: Yellow Flower Dream, 2018 | Photo by Yoshikazu Inoue

(Right) Inujima "Art House Project" A-Art House | Beatriz Milhazes: Yellow Flower Dream, 2018 | Photo by Yoshikazu Inoue

(Bottom) Inujima Life Garden Photo by Yoshikazu Inoue







(Foreground) Inujima "Art House Project" S-Art House Haruka Kojin: contact lens, 2013

(Background) Inujima "Art House Project" A-Art House Beatriz Milhazes: Yellow Flower Dream, 2018

Photo by Yoshikazu Inoue

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