

# 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa

PRESS RELEASE

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Alternative Humanities — 新たな精神のかたち  
ヤン・ファールブル × 舟越 桂  
2010年4月29日[木・祝] → 8月31日[火] 金沢21世紀美術館

Exhibition Title	Alternative Humanities: Jan Fabre x Funakoshi Katsura		
Period	April 29 (Thursday and public holiday) August 31 (Tuesday), 2010		
	Hours: 10:00-18:00 (20:00 on Fridays and Saturdays) *Tickets are sold until 30 min. before the doors close.		
	Closed: Mondays, May 6 and July 20 (Open on May 3, July 19, August 9, August 16 and August 30)		
Venue	Exhibition Galleries 1 - 12 and 14	Number of Exhibited Works	Approximately 190
Admission	General : ¥1,500 (¥1,200) / College students : ¥1,200 (¥1,000) / Elem.,JH,HS : ¥600 (¥500) / 65 and older : ¥1,200		
Guest Curator	Marie-Laure Bernadac (conservateur general, chargée de mission pour l'art contemporain au musée du Louvre)		
Project Advisors	Takashina Shuji art historian, director of Ohara Museum of Art	Furuta Ryo art historian, associate professor of the University Art Museum, Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music	
Organized by	21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa (Kanazawa Art Promotion and Development Foundation)		
Support	The French Embassy in Japan, the Embassy of Belgium, Flanders,Center, and Hokkoku Shimbun Company		
In cooperation with	Japan Airlines, Nippon Express, Hermes, I-O DATA DEVICE. INC, Tsubota Denki		

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## About the Exhibition

Jan Fabre and Funakoshi Katsura are artists who have become highly visible on the contemporary art scene for their superb activities in the area of sculptural representation. This large-scale duo exhibition includes historical artworks (such as 16th century Flemish religious paintings, and Kannon Bodhisattva paintings by Kano Hogai or Kawanabe Kyosai), each of which symbolizes a religious concept that the two artists share as their common background. With reference to “L’ange de la métamorphose,” a talked-about thematic exhibition held at Musée du Louvre in 2008, this exhibition is co-produced with Louvre’s curator Marie-Laure Bernadac who mapped out the above-mentioned project.

Belgium-born Jan Fabre has taken up materials such as insects, dead bodies of animals, stuffed animals, blood and salt for his works since the 1980s, to raise questions about human life and death, spirituality and religiosity. Fabre’s multidisciplinary world of expression including dramas and performances shows us contemporary interpretation and criticism of Western spirituality such as Christian culture and thought.

Funakoshi Katsura, on the other hand, has consistently carved out camphor wood to represent human figures. His whole work shows the established and unique world of expression endowed with a wonderful combination of powerful chisel cuts and delicacy. Funakoshi, who made saint images such as Madonna and Child for his early works, has created a world of woodcarving reflecting transcendence and spirituality also in his later works of human figures. Having recently added a motif of sphinx, his world of production has been further diversified, filled with religiosity entailing the tradition of Buddhist sculpture.

Taking a bird’s-eye-view of Fabre’s formative expression through religious figures in Flemish paintings originated in Flanders, Fabre’s roots, we question how his world of expression is related to the Christian culture and spirituality in the background on one hand. On the other hand with a bird’s-eye-view of Funakoshi’s world of expression through Kannon paintings by Kano Hogai or Kawanabe Kyosai symbolizing the history and development of the reception of Western modernism, we question Japanese unique religious faith breathed in Funakoshi’s world of expression.

By verifying the two artists’ worlds of expression in contrast, we try to approach the root of spirituality of each of the East and the West from various angles. Touching on the diversity of modernism in the West, we try to review aspects of the reception of modernism in Japan that is located at the periphery in the Western-oriented worldview. Another question that we try to bring to light is how religious art that seems to have been divided and severed from society in the previous century has been handed down in the undercurrents of contemporary art in the context of advanced globalization in the world. We are also watching with interest how it will develop.

## Exhibition Features

### 1. Grand-scale duo exhibition of Jan Fabre and Funakoshi Katsura, leading artists of contemporary art

The worlds of expression of two artists representing the contemporary art scene—Belgium-born Jan Fabre known for “The Man Who Measures the Clouds” (collection of 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa) and Funakoshi Katsura, one of Japan’s foremost sculptors—are introduced with approximately 160 pieces from their early to new artworks. This is the largest-ever duo exhibition in Japan in terms of the exhibition contents of each artist.

### 2. Unique project co-produced with a guest curator from Musée du Louvre

This “Alternative Humanities: Jan Fabre x Funakoshi Katsura” Exhibition is a joint production between 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa and Marie-Laure Bernadac, who has achieved impressive results as a curator in charge of contemporary art at Musée du Louvre. At Jan Fabre’s talked-about exhibition “L’ange de la métamorphose” mapped out by Bernadac in 2008, large-scale collaborations between the Louvre’s collection and Fabre’s works were exhibited at the Northern School galleries of the Louvre. With reference to the above exhibition, a plan with a new concept suitable for the area of Japan and the field of contemporary art in relation to 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa was worked out to open this exhibition.

### 3. The spiritual form of human beings living in the 21st century transcending the times and disparities between the West and the East

In this exhibition, historic masterpieces symbolizing what the cultural context is in which the expression of each of Fabre and Funakoshi is formed are also exhibited in collaboration between two artists’ works and classic works as their sources. Flemish paintings originated in Flanders, Fabre’s roots, and modern Japan’s Kannon paintings symbolizing Japanese unique religious faith breathed in Funakoshi’s world of expression gather together and human spiritual forms correspond to each other transcending the times such as the present and the past as well as regional disparities between the East and the West. Many masterpieces of religious paintings and portraits in the 16th century from Musée du Louvre and Royal Museum of Fine Arts, Antwerp which are exhibited in Japan for the first time, and modern Japan’s Kannon paintings from Musée Guimet as well as collections in Japan are on display. Kawanabe Kyosai’s “Shaka Nyorai zu” has returned home from Musée Guimet.

### 4. Japan’s leading experts on Japanese art history are invited as project advisors

Takashina Shuji, Japan’s top-ranking expert on art history, and Furuta Ryo, an enthusiastic scholar of Japanese modern history of art are invited as project advisors. From the angles of history of Western art and history of Japanese modern art, they approach a task of verifying how Fabre and Funakoshi, the two contemporary artists and their worlds of expression, are linked to the extensive and profound history of human beings. Based on their verification, we are given a big question of what humanity is in the 21st century.

## Acknowledgements:

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all the following for their generous assistance and contributions to the realization of this exhibition.

ヤン・ファーブル  
舟越 桂

Jan Fabre  
Katsura Funakoshi

高階秀爾  
古田 亮

Henri Loyrette  
Marie-Laure Bernadac

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長谷川幸子  
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平野賢一  
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## Artists



Jan FABRE  
photo: Stephen MATTUES  
© 2009 Angelos

**Jan FABRE**

Born in Antwerp, Belgium in 1958 and currently lives in the same city. Jan Fabre is known as an artist who has been active in a multidisciplinary genre such as art, drama, opera and performance. His consistent theme for production has been the search of life and death through drawings structured by close observation of insects such as spiders, sculptural pieces using dead animals and stuffed animals, and performances using blood and salt.



FUNAKOSHI Katsura  
photo: UCHIDA Yoshitaka  
courtesy: Nishimura Gallery  
© Funakoshi Katsura

**FUNAKOSHI Katsura**

Born in Morioka city in 1951 and currently lives in Tokyo. Funakoshi consistently carves camphor wood to make his works. The forms he creates show a harmonious combination of smoothness, delicacy and powerful chisel cuts left all over the work. His works full of poetic and noble atmosphere present the world outlook rising above concepts such as "representation" and "idea." He participated in various exhibitions including the 43rd Venice Biennale in 1988 and "Katsura Funakoshi Exhibition" (toured six museums including Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo). He is one of the highly important artists at home and abroad.

**Important works to be exhibited**

(see attached tentative list of works for details)

D'apres Rogier van der Weyden, Philippe le Bon (1396-1467), duc du Bourgogne, copie du xvi siecle d'apres un portrait «officiel»perdu, Musée du Louvre  
Jan Massijs, "The Holy Family", 1563, Royal Museum of Fine Arts, Antwerp  
Anthony van Dyck, Portrait of Amalia von Solms-Braunfels, 1629, Tokyo Fuji Museum  
Kano Hogai: "Hisho Tennyo" 1888, Private Collection  
Kawanabe Kyosai, "Shakanyorai-zu", 1876, Musée du Guimet  
Jan Fabre "The Wall of Ascending Angels" and about 50 others  
Katsura Funakoshi "Fuyu ni Fureru (Feeling Winter)" and about 50 others

**Related Events****Round-table**

**Panel:** Jan Fabre, Funakoshi Katsura, Marie-Laure Bernadac, and Takashina Shuji

**Date/time:** April 29 (Thursday and public holiday), 14:00-

**Venue:** Theater 21 / 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa

**Admission:** No charge

**Capacity:** 130 people

Note: Numbered tickets will be distributed from 10:00 am that day before the Lecture Hall.

**Commemorative Lecture  
"Modern and current image of Kannon"**

**Speaker:** Furuta Ryo

**Date/time:** June 27 (Sunday), 14:00-

**Venue:** Lecture Hall / 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa

**Admission:** No charge (but admittance ticket to this exhibition is required)

**Capacity:** 80 people

Note: Numbered tickets will be distributed from 10:00 am that day before the Lecture Hall.

**Gallery Talk  
"Kano Hogai and Jibo Kannon"**

**Speaker:** Furuta Ryo

**Date/time:** August 3 (Tuesday), 14:00-

**Venue:** Gallery, Lecture Hall / 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa

**Admission:** No charge (but admittance ticket to this exhibition is required)

**Capacity:** 80 people

Note: Numbered tickets will be distributed from 10:00 am that day before the Lecture Hall.



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1



Jan FABRE  
*Ik laat mezelf leeglopen (dwerf)* (I let myself deflate (dwarf))  
2007  
AD Gallery, Athens  
Painting: Rogier van der WEYDEN (d'après),  
*Philip the Good, Duke of Burgundy (1396-1467)*  
Musée du Louvre, département des Peintures, MI 818.  
© Angelos / Jan Fabre  
photo: Attilio MARANZANO

2



Jan FABRE  
*The Man Writing on Water* 2006  
galerie guy pieters, Belgium  
© Angelos / Jan Fabre  
photo: Patje VERBRUGGEN

3



Jan FABRE  
*The Little Street Fighter* 1978/2006  
private collection  
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Jan FABRE  
*Self-portrait of the hanged* 1999  
Fondation Raimunda Munoz Ortega, Mula (Spain)  
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5



Jan FABRE  
*SKULL* 2001  
private collection  
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photo: Pat VERBRUGGEN

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Jan FABRE  
*The Man Who Measures the Clouds* 1997  
21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa  
© Angelos / Jan Fabre  
photo: NAKAMICHI Atsushi / Nacása & Partners

7



Rogier van der WEYDEN (d'après)  
*Philip the Good, Duke of Burgundy (1396-1467)*  
Musée du Louvre, département des Peintures,  
MI 818.  
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8



Anonieme Meester  
*Ecce Homo* 16th century  
Royal Museum of Fine Arts Antwerp  
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9



Jan MASSIJS  
*The Holy Family* 1563  
Royal Museum of Fine Arts Antwerp  
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Jan DENENS  
*Vanitas* 17th century  
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FUNAKOSHI Katsura *By the Water, deep in the forest* 2009  
collection: Nishimura Gallery  
© Katsura Funakoshi  
Photo: WATANABE Osamu

12



FUNAKOSHI Katsura *No hurried Pendulum* 2010  
collection: Nishimura Gallery  
© Katsura Funakoshi  
Photo: WATANABE Ikuhiro courtesy: Nishimura Gallery

13



FUNAKOSHI Katsura  
*Drawing for "Touch of Winter"* 1997  
Collection of the Artist  
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FUNAKOSHI Katsura  
*The Sphinx Sees War* 2005  
Private Collection  
© Katsura Funakoshi  
photo: UCHIDA Yoshitaka courtesy: Nishimura Gallery

15



FUNAKOSHI Katsura  
*The Sphinx, Watching the War (production process)* 2005  
Collection of the Artist  
© Katsura Funakoshi  
Photo: IMAI Tomoki

16



FUNAKOSHI Katsura  
*A Lunar Eclipse on the Water* 2003  
Collection of the Artist  
© Katsura Funakoshi  
Photo: IMAI Tomoki courtesy: Nishimura Gallery

17



KAWANABE Kyosai  
*The Buddha* 1876  
Musée Guimet

18



KAWANABE Kyosai  
*Jibo Kannon (Avalokitesvara as a Merciful Mother)*  
c.1883  
Japan Ukiyo-e Museum

19



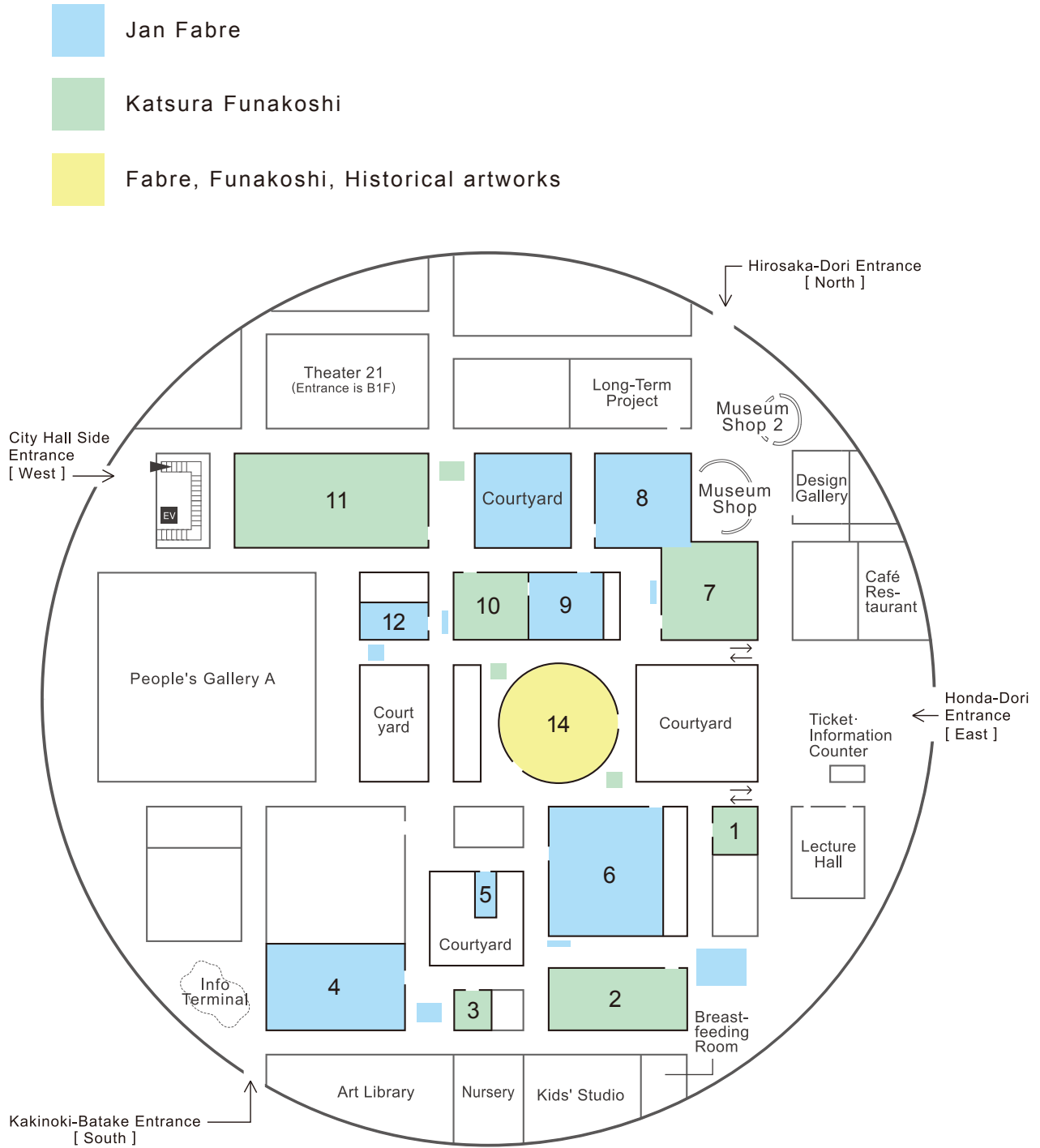
KANO Hogai  
*Apsaras in flight* Meiji period  
Shimonoseki City Art Museum

20



KAWASHIMA Jinbei II  
*Tapestry panel "Avalokitesvara as a Merciful Mother"* 1895  
Tokyo National Museum  
Image: TNM Image Archives

## Map



**Alternative Humanities: Jan Fabre × Katsura Funakoshi  
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