



## **Aperto 08** **NANAKARAGE Ayano**

2018.4.28 (Sat) -  
2018.9.24 (Mon/hol)

**“Aperto”—a solo exhibition series introducing young artists.  
Withered banana stems and dried pineapple slices . . .  
Wood sculptures that capture everyday objects as they dry up and transfigure.**

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|------------------|--|
| Exhibition Title | Aperto 08 NANAKARAGE Ayano   |
| Period           | Saturday, April 28 - Monday (holiday), September 24, 2018  |
| Hours            | 10:00-18:00 (until 20:00 on Fridays and Saturdays)   |
| Venue            | 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa<br>Long-term Project Room                              |
| Closed           | Mondays (but open Apr 30, Jul 16, Aug 13 and Sep 17 and 24)<br>and Jul 17 (Tue) and Sep 18 (Tue)         |
| Admission        | Free   |
| Inquiries        | 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa Tel: +81-(0)76-220-2800                                |
| Organized by     | 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa<br>(Kanazawa Art Promotion and Development Foundation) |

Media Contact **21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa**

Exhibition Curator: YAMASHITA Juri  
Public Relations Office: ISHIKAWA Satoko, OCHIAI Hiroaki  
1-2-1 Hirosaka, Kanazawa, Ishikawa Prefecture, Japan 920-8509  
Tel: +81-(0)76-220-2814 Fax: +81-(0)76-220-2802  
<http://www.kanazawa21.jp> E-mail: [press@kanazawa21.jp](mailto:press@kanazawa21.jp)



**About  
the Exhibition**

Taking as her theme the vastness of nature seen in mountains and forests, and the ephemerality of rainbows and mist, NANAKARAGE Ayano (1987-) meditates on such natural phenomena and, blending in her own interpretations and analogies, evokes its qualities in wood sculptures. Her "rainbows edge" series, featured in this exhibition, conjoins her own fabric-draped figure with the shapes of dried banana stems and other dried and withered plants. Her fusion of withered and gnarled plants with smooth drapery (a human figure) conveys a disquieting impression of old age melded with youth or some bizarre creature hidden under the fabric. At the same time, the works evoke the serenity of Buddhist or Shinto deity sculptures as well as the dread of having seen something forbidden. Vibrant living organisms age with time and grow dry and gnarled, and slowly change form. In such transformation, Nanakarage discovers a transcendent beauty. Her eye, as such, has the power to refresh our values as people of contemporary society conditioned to look away from deterioration and decay.



*rainbows edge I, 2015*  
camphor tree, H125×W75×D30cm  
photo: KATO Ken

**Exhibition  
Features****Works evoking organisms, carved from a single wood block**

Wood sculptures—of drapery flung over legs evocative of deer, giraffe, or other even-toed ungulates. Nanakarage's works display motifs suggesting a living organism, emergent from a tree. The feeling they awaken in us is not unlike a sense of dread—the eerie discomfort of confronting something unknown. Besides two such works, the exhibition also features small pieces and drawings.

### Nanakarage's motifs

#### —natural objects that exude a subtle vitality

Arrayed in Nanakarage's studio are countless dried vegetables and fruit, bird bones, shells, and other natural objects. As they dry and shrink, wrinkling and twisting out of shape, these objects—banana stems, mushrooms, pineapple slices, and fish fins—take bizarre, unfamiliar forms, and yet they exude a subtle vitality. Using their forms as motifs, she gives them analogies—to rainbows, at times, or to the sun—and combines them with human figures to evoke new life forms.



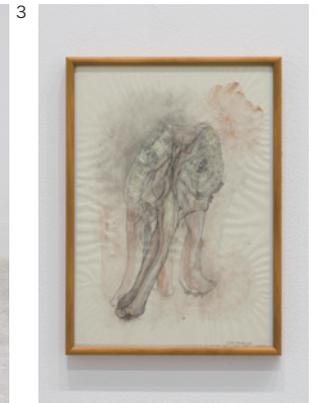
*Non sine sole iris. II*, 2016  
pagoda tree, H4.5×W4.5×D1.2cm

### A rapidly up-and-coming artist

Nanakarage Ayano has received awards and recognition at exhibitions considered the gateway to success for young artists. They include the 10th “Shiseido art egg award” in 2016 and Runner-up at the Tokyo Midtown Award in 2017. Our exhibition this time will examine Nanakarage's art through what can be called her representative pieces, as well as new works created especially for the exhibition.



*rainbows edge I*, 2015  
camphor tree, H125×W75×D30cm



*rainbows edge I drawing*, 2016  
ink, pencil, acrylic on paper, H38×W27cm

### About the Artists

### NANAKARAGE Ayano

Born in Kagoshima, Japan in 1987, Nanakarage obtained her MFA in sculpture at Hiroshima City University in 2011. She currently lives and works in Hiroshima. Her major exhibitions include “BankART Life V Under 35 / 2017” (BankART NYK Studio, Yokohama), “Shiseido art egg vol.10 Ayano Nanakarage” (Shiseido Gallery, Tokyo / 2016), “Tsushima Art Fantasia 2016” (Disused Hisada Elementary School, Tsushima, Nagasaki / 2016), and “Children see, children do.” (Hiroshima Art Center, Hiroshima). Her major awards include the Tokyo Midtown Award 2017, Runner-up Prize (2017), Shiseido Art Egg 10, First Prize (2016), and Tokyo Wonder Wall (2014).



**About the  
“Aperto” Series**

The exhibition series “Aperto” introduces up-and-coming young artists in a solo exhibition format. As an art museum actively engaged with the contemporary world, 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa looks closely at new trends now in the process of forming. Artists and curators collaborate in creating occasions for exhibiting works and act as an intermediary between today’s creation and that of the future. This exhibition series looks at individual artists who, although having little experience with solo or important group exhibitions at art museums, possess sufficient creative motivation to command a solo exhibition and who are expected to make a significant impact in the future. Artists are selected without regard for their nationality or expressive media by the curator at 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa. Note: “Aperto” is Italian for “open.”

**Related Event****Artist Talk “Aperto 08—NANAKARAGE Ayano”**

The artist will appear with her works to discuss them and her production methods.

**Date/time:** Saturday, April 28, 2018 18:00-19:00

**Venue:** Long-term Project Room, 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa

**Admission:** Free

**Images for  
Publicity**

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