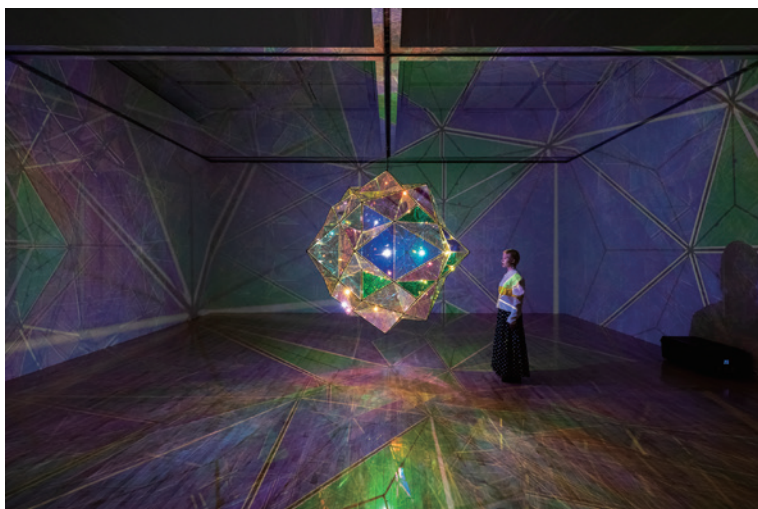


# 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa

PRESS RELEASE

2022.8.10



Olafur ELIASSON, *The exploration of the center of the sun*, 2017,  
collection of the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa ©Olafur Eliasson  
Installation view at *Olafur Eliasson: Sometimes the river is the bridge* (Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, 2020)  
Photo by Kazuo Fukunaga

## Special Exhibition: Olafur Eliasson

2022.7.23(Sat) -  
9.11(Sun)

**Olafur Eliasson's much-discussed installation  
*The exploration of the center of the sun* unveiled at  
the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa for the first time since its acquisition  
Sustainable work emerging from artist's interest in ecology and renewable energy suggests  
the potential of art in the present-day ecological context and invites us  
to engage in new and magical perceptual experiences**

Exhibition Title	Special Exhibition: Olafur Eliasson
Period	July 23 (Sat), 2022 - September 11 (Sun), 2022
Hours	10:00-18:00 (until 20:00 on Fridays and Saturdays) *Ticket sales end 30 minutes before closing
Venue	21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, Gallery 14
Closed	Mondays (except August 15), August 16
Admission	Adults: ¥750 (¥600) / Students: ¥520 (¥410) / 18 and under: ¥260 (¥200) / 65 and over: ¥600 *Tickets also include admission (same-day only) to A collaborative exhibition of works from the collection of 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa and National Crafts Museum "Forms of Hitogata." *Fees in parentheses are for groups of 20 or more.
Organized by	21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa (Kanazawa Art Promotion and Development Foundation)
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**About  
the Exhibition**

Since the early 1990s, Olafur Eliasson has pursued a diverse practice that includes photography, sculpture, drawing, installation, design, and architecture. He has gained international renown for his endeavors to realize a sustainable world through art.

This exhibition presents *The exploration of the center of the sun*, a work emerging from Eliasson's interest in ecology and renewable energy, for the first time since the museum acquired it. The work consists of a glass-covered polyhedron and a photovoltaic unit (solar panels and a power supply system with storage batteries, etc.) A light source is mounted in the center of the work, and a light at the end of an arm protruding from the light source rotates slowly, illuminating the room as if the glass polyhedron, suspended in a fixed position in the center of the room, were rotating. The light from the glass polyhedron, to which are attached glittering polarizing filters developed by Studio Olafur Eliasson, projects a galaxy of reflections throughout the room that captivate viewers and immerse them in the world of the work. These movements of light evoke the relationship between the sun, the indispensable source of life, and the planets that orbit it, as well as our orientation toward the structures and laws that make our world's existence possible. This work, powered by electrical energy generated by solar panels installed in the light courtyard, encourages us to reconsider traditional historical views of progress and new perspectives on sustainable development as we face drastic and irreversible changes in the global environment. We hope that this exhibition will encourage viewers to examine the role of art in an ecological context, while enjoying new and magical perceptual experiences created by a polyhedral compound and reflections of light.

**Features of  
the Work****Olafur Eliasson's much-discussed installation *The exploration of the center of the sun* appears at the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa for the first time since its acquisition**

In the 2021 fiscal year, the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa acquired *The exploration of the center of the sun* (2017), a work that made a major impact at *Olafur Eliasson: Sometimes the river is the bridge*, the artist's large-scale solo exhibition at the Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo in 2020. Now, the museum is unveiling *The exploration of the center of the sun* for the first time since it was acquired.

**Sustainable work emerging from Eliasson's interest in ecology and renewable energy**

This kinetic work, which emerges from Olafur Eliasson's interest in ecology and renewable energy, is powered by solar energy. Today, as we face irreversible environmental changes on a global scale, his work encourages us to rethink our obsessive anthropocentric focus on the advancement of civilization, and to adopt new perspectives on sustainable social development.

**Work created from an ecological perspective immerses visitors in new and magical perceptual experiences**

The work, consisting of a polyhedral compound and a photovoltaic unit, is installed in the museum's distinctive circular gallery, and projects glittering reflected light throughout the entire exhibition space. As they walk around the work, viewers will experience the transformation of their own perceptions.

## Artist Profile

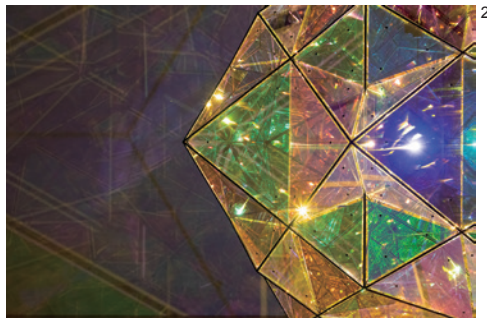
**Olafur ELIASSON**

Born in Copenhagen, Denmark in 1967. Lives and works in Berlin and Copenhagen.

After studying at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, he moved to Berlin and founded Studio Olafur Eliasson. He is known worldwide for works that employ light, water, color, and mirrors to explore the fundamental processes by which human perceptions of visible phenomena are formed.

Since his work first appeared at the Venice Biennale in 1995, he has participated in international exhibitions including the Biennale of Sydney, the São Paulo Art Biennial (both 1998), and the Yokohama Triennale (2001). *The Weather Project*, presented at the Tate Modern's Turbine Hall in London in 2003, was particularly successful and led to his being widely known in Japan.

Eliasson is noted for producing many large-scale installations, such as a 2008 public project featuring four artificial waterfalls on the New York waterfront. In 2014, he co-founded Studio Other Spaces with architect Sebastian Behmann. Major solo exhibitions in Japan include the Hara Museum of Contemporary Art (Tokyo, 2005), the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa (Ishikawa, 2009-10), and the Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo (2020).



Olafur ELIASSON, *The exploration of the center of the sun*, 2017, collection of the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa ©Olafur Eliasson

Installation view at *Olafur Eliasson: Sometimes the river is the bridge* (Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, 2020)  
Photo by Kazuo Fukunaga



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Installation view at *Olafur Eliasson: Sometimes the river is the bridge* (Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, 2020)  
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Olafur ELIASSON, *The exploration of the center of the sun*, 2017, collection of the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa ©Olafur Eliasson

Installation view at *Olafur Eliasson: Sometimes the river is the bridge* (Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, 2020), with photovoltaic unit (solar panels and power supply system with storage batteries, etc.)  
Photo by Kazuo Fukunaga

## Images for Publicity

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