

Research of Fine Arts Management Based on the International Network of Fine Arts Universities: Report of the Exhibition “FINE ART / UNIVERSITY SELECTION” under the Sponsorship of Agency of Cultural Affairs, Government of Japan, Fiscal Year 2013-2017

Mika HOSHI

Faculty of Art and design, University of Tsukuba

ABSTRACT

Since FY2013, when our project was selected under “Young Artist Development Project for Creation of Next-Generation Culture” by the Agency for Cultural Affairs of the Government of Japan, the University of Tsukuba has been hosting the “FINE ART/ UNIVERSITY SELECTION” exhibitions mainly at the Ibaraki Museum of Art. Our initiative intends to provide young artists mostly under 35 years of age, who are graduates of various fine art universities in Japan and other countries, with the place to display their works. In this year, the fifth exhibition in the series will be held at the same venue under this project.

With experiences and knowledge acquired in planning and operations of the past exhibitions, I undertake the research on “Fine Arts Management based on the inter-university network,” which is being built through the ongoing project.

In this presentation, I recap the project activities done in these four years, analyze the details and approach of Fine Arts Management based on the inter-university network, and summarize the results and future challenges.

1. INTRODUCTION

Young artists usually continue their artistic activities in economically difficult situations after graduation. What is called for in the current circumstance is an unprecedented level of supports in career development of young artists by having their works evaluate from wider perspectives, and by encouraging them to widen and deepen their knowledge through active exchanges with other young artists from home and abroad.

This research aims at building the framework that provide young artists with continuous supports in career development by leveraging the inter-university network, and at identifying effective programs and approaches.

2. METHOD

- Career development details and its approach are studied in each of three project areas, namely 1) exhibition, 2) events in conjunction with exhibitions, and 3) communications.
- The FINE ART exhibition executive committee, composed of five professors and myself from Faculty of Art and Design of the University of Tsukuba, discuss the most effective programs and approaches to formulate the project planning.
- Collect opinions on effective approaches for young artist development through surveys/

interviews with contact persons of participating fine art universities, and curators and other experts in the art arena. The collected opinions will be considered to improve and promote coming activities.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Exhibitions have been successfully attracting the growing number of participants, and the committee have continuously made improvements in programs (Table1,2, Figure1,2). Firstly, in the fourth exhibition in FY2016, awards were given to the most excellent artists, which marked the first step to properly evaluate the entered works. Also in FY2016, “Upcoming Artist Selection FAUSS 2016” was started as a follow-up program to provide selected artists participated in past exhibitions with opportunities to exhibit their works to the public. This represents the platform to continuously support young artists for their artistic activities. The number of participating universities reached 54 in FY2016, quadrupled from the first exhibition. Although the majority of nominations were made by art departments in faculties of education initially, fine art universities increasingly participate in the exhibitions. This contributes to diversifying the entered works.

In these four years, a total of 372 young artists participated. Later some of them won awards in publicly-sponsored exhibitions, and are further expanding their activity sphere.

			FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017
Number of participating Universities	Domestic	Fine Arts Education	6	13	16	19	38
		Fine Arts	3	6	14	22	33
		Others	1	1	1	3	6
	Overseas	4	7	9	10	18	
	Total		14	27	40	54	97
Number of participating artists	Domestic	Painting	23	42	48	58	58
		Print Art	8	10	10	19	8
		Sculpture	10	10	10	28	20
		Calligraphy	7	8	10	11	14
		Total	48	70	78	116	100
	Overseas	Painting	6	9	11	5	12
		Print Art	5	5	5	2	2
		Sculpture	2	1	2	2	4
		Calligraphy	2	1	1	1	0
		Total	15	16	19	10	18
Total		63	86	97	126	118	

Table 1: Transition of the Number of Participating Universities and Artists FY2013-2017.

	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017
Exhibition	"FINE ART/UNIVERSITY SELECTION 2013-2014" Date:2014.3.8(Sat)-14(Fri) Venue:Multi-purpose Hall of University Comprehensive Exchange Hall etc. in University of Tsukuba	"FINE ART/UNIVERSITY SELECTION 2014-2015" Date:2015.3.3(Tue)-8(Sun) Venue: Tsukuba Museum of Art, IBARAKI	"FINE ART/UNIVERSITY SELECTION 2015-2016" Date:2015.12.8(Tue)-13(Sun) Venue: Tsukuba Museum of Art, IBARAKI	"FINE ART/UNIVERSITY SELECTION 2016-2017" Date:2016.12.20(Tue)-25(Sun) Venue: Tsukuba Museum of Art, IBARAKI	"FINE ART UNIVERSIADE U-35" Date:2017.11.28(Tue)-12.10(Sun) Venue: Tsukuba Museum of Art, IBARAKI
Related Exhibition			"THE LIGHT: PORTRAITS OF THE HIBAKUSYA in Tsukuba" Date: 2015.12.1(Tue)-13(Sun) Venue: University of Tsukuba Art Space	"Upcoming Artist Selection FAUSS 2016" Date:2016.12.9(Fri)-21(Wed) Venue:O Art Museum/Osaki,Tokyo *Gallery Talk 12.10(Sun)	"Upcoming Artist Selection FAUSS" Date:2018.1.13(Sat)-21(Sun) Venue:3331 Arts Chiyoda Main Gallery A,C,D/Akihabara,Tokyo *Artist Talk 1.20(Sat)
Related event	■Keynote Lecture "Cross-cultural Encounter and Interaction" ■Artist Talk&Discussion	■Symposium "Status Quo of Fine Art – Charm and Challenges of Young Artists from the Wider Perspective" ■Keynote Lecture ■Panel Discussion	■Symposium "Art and Society" ■Keynote Lecture ■Panel Discussion ■Artist Talk	■Announcement of Prize winner ■Symposium "Artwork Evaluation and its Methods" ■Panel Discussion ■Artist Talk	■Announcement of Prize winner ■Symposium "Present and Future of Fine Arts" ■Panel Discussion ■Artist Talk ■Special Lecture "Three Suggestions for Young Artists"

Table 2: Transition of the Programs of the Exhibition FY2013-2017.

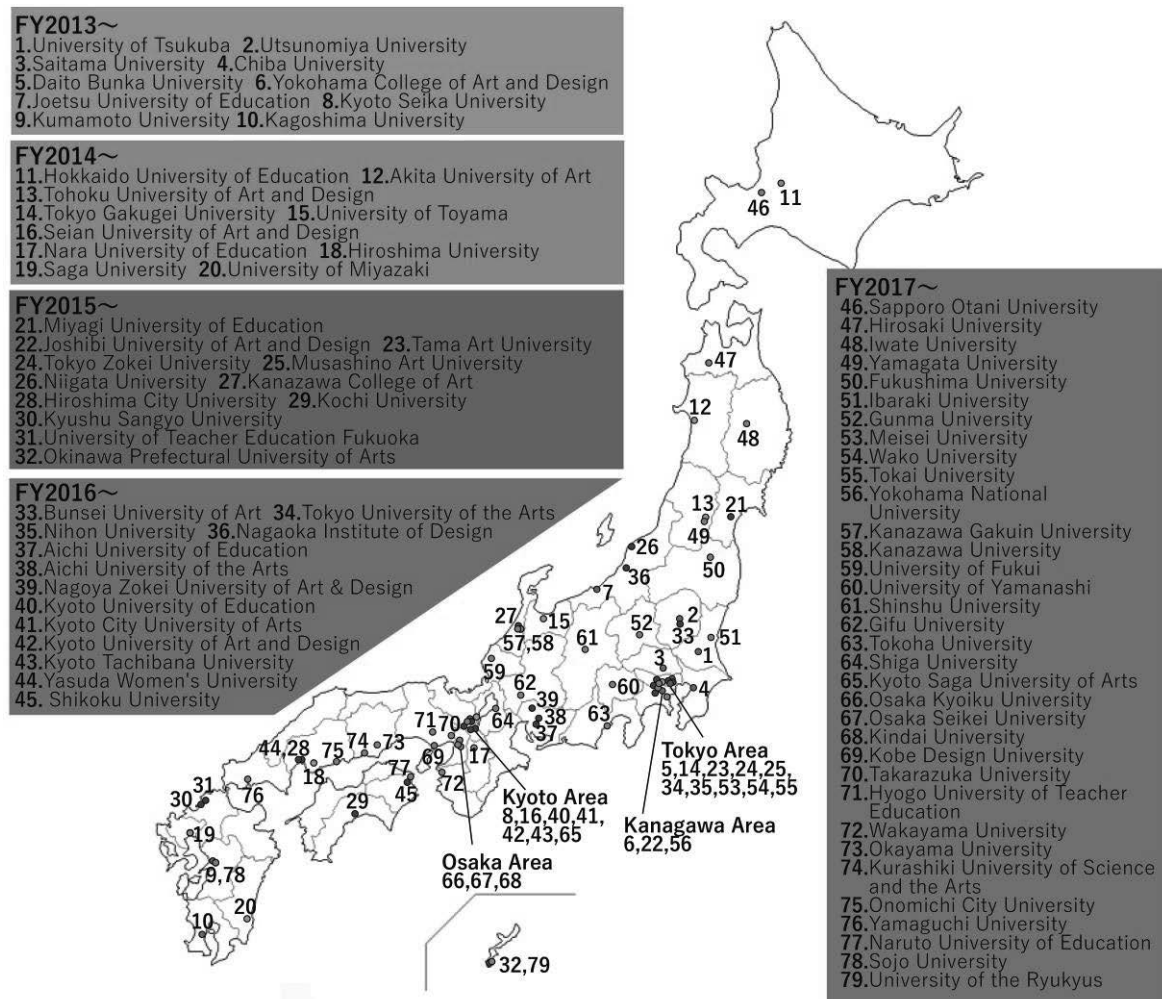


Figure 1: Participating Domestic Universities and Fiscal Year of their Participation.

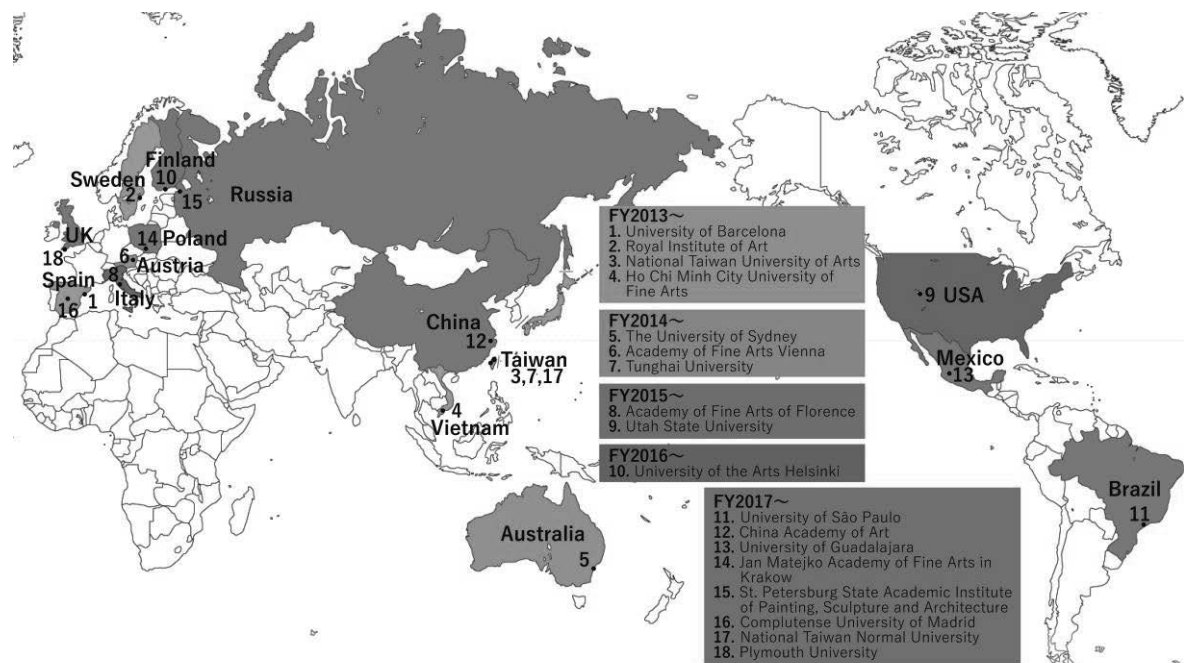


Figure 2: Participating Overseas Universities and Fiscal Year of their Participation.

4. CONCLUSIONS

The fifth exhibition to be held in FY2017 has attracted 97 participating universities, achieving the increase by 1.8 times compared to the previous year (Table 1). In light of this great number of participants, the inter-university network has nearly completed. From this year, the exhibition is renewed under the name of “FINE ART UNIVERSIADE U-35.” “Universiade” is the concept created at the project inception, inspired by the international university sport event. Furthermore, this project was selected as a Tokyo 2020 accredited program. This will help the program truly grow into the global platform for artist development.

The committee expects the program to increasingly attract the participation from overseas. Based on the growing inter-university network, we will focus on designing the evaluation metrics for fine art works, which will grow into the global standard through collaborative examinations in the network. The network built among fine art universities will serve as the place to exchange information and opinions, as well as the field to practically use the evaluation metrics.

In future, the evaluation metrics are expected to be established as the jurying and evaluation criteria for artworks in conferring degrees in fine art universities.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I'd like to extend my deepest gratitude to the Agency of Cultural Affairs for selecting our project for five consecutive years, and staff in domestic and overseas universities, experts in the art arena, and FINE ART exhibition executive committee members for their immense cooperation and supports.

REFERENCES

Kei Ota, Terumi Hotokeyama, Mika Hoshi, Toru Iwasa, Ayumi Katayanagi, Yoshihiro Torigoe, Kaori Furuhashi, Ayako Moriya (Eds.), 2017, *Report of “Young Artist Development Project for Creation of Next-Generation Culture” supported by the Agency for Cultural Affairs Government of Japan in FY2016, Creation of new fields of performance for young fine artists: Building ‘Fine Art Universiade’ infrastructure*, FINE ART exhibition executive committee.

*Address: Assistant Prof. Mika HOSHI, Faculty of Art and Design, University of Tsukuba
1-1-1 Tennodai, Tsukuba, Ibaraki, 305-8574, JAPAN
E-mails: hoshi.mika.kb@geijutsu.tsukuba.ac.jp*