

Contemporary artist and social activist.

Atsushi WATANABE is an artist whose practice highlights issues and people that may be treated as taboo or shameful by society, working through He withdrew from society after graduating from graduate school at Tokyo University of the Arts.

He withdrew from society after graduating from graduate school at Tokyo University of the Arts in 2009, staying shut up at home for a period that eventually Using that personal experience as a starting point. Using that personal experience as a starting point, he now leads the “I’m here project” as a platform for creating art in collaboration with people who find it difficult to live in society or who are lonely or isolated.

□ He is pursuing the possibility of art intervening in social issues and having a direct effect toward solving them. As a social activist, he often runs peer support groups, practices care, appears in the media, and lectures. 2020-2022, he is a part-time lecturer at Musashino Art University.

Major awards and grants include the “Yokohama Culture Award for Culture and Arts Encouragement Prize” in 2020, the “Socially Engaged Art Support Grant” in 2021 (Kawamura Foundation for Arts and Culture), the “Creative Inclusion Activity Grant” in 2018-2020 and the 2016-2017 “Grant for Young Artists in Creative City Yokohama” (Arts Commission Yokohama).

1978 Born in Yokohama, Kanagawa, Japan.

2007 B.A. in Painting, Fine Arts, Tokyo University of the Arts.

2009 M.F. Painting Major, the Graduate School of Fine Arts, Graduate School of Tokyo University of the Arts.

<Selected Solo Exhibitions and Project Exhibitions>

2023 “NACT View 03 I hate free hugs” The National Art Center, Tokyo, Japan

2021 “The Day We Saw the Same Moon” R16 studio, Kanagawa, Japan

2020 “Monument of Recovery” BankART SILK, Kanagawa, Japan

2019 “ATSUSHI WATANABE,” The Daiwa Anglo-Japanese Foundation, UK

2017 “My Wound / Your Wound” Roppongi Hills A/D Gallery, Tokyo, Japan

<Selected Group Exhibitions>

2023 “How I feel is not your problem, period.” Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan

2022 “Aichi Triennale 2022”, Aichi Arts Center, Aichi, Japan

2022 “Setouchi Art Triennale 2022”, Takamatsu, Kagawa, Japan

2020 “2020Asia Project-Looking for Another Family,” National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art (MMCA), Seoul, Korea

2020 “ARTEFACT 2020 : ALONE TOGETHER” STUK, Belgium

<website/sns>

> Atsushi Watanabe website: <https://www.atsushi-watanabe.jp/>

> I’m here project website: <https://www.iamhere-project.org/>

> Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/atsushi_watanabe_

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