

## Foreword

The Japan Foundation was founded in 1972 for the purpose of promoting the mutual understanding of different countries through cultural exchange. It is engaged in a wide variety of programs including the organization of arts and cultural events and exhibitions, the enhancement of Japanese-language education overseas, the support of research in Japanese Studies and other intellectual exchanges that encourage cultural dialogues.

As part of its programs for promotion of the visual arts, the Japan Foundation hereby announces the inauguration of *Winter Garden: The Exploration of the Micropop Imagination in Contemporary Japanese Art*. Curated by art critic Midori Matsui, the exhibition features 35 works – drawings, paintings, and video works – by 14 young Japanese artists active from the latter half of the 1990s throughout the first decade of the 21st century.

The artists presenting their distinctive views of the world through the combination of fragments and imbuing the obsolete or the commonplace with new functions or meanings, share the similar style of expression, which Ms. Matsui calls “Micropop”. How do Japan’s artists, living in an increasingly globalized world and in a time when shared values are hard to establish, see our contemporary world? We hope that visitors to Winter Garden will nurture the understanding of empathy with the insights and perspectives of the artists through the exhibited works.

The Japan Foundation expresses its heart-felt gratitude to Ms. Midori Matsui, the artists, and many persons who have provided their generous advice and support in the realization of this exhibition.

The Japan Foundation

## 引言

日本國際交流基金會成立於一九七二年，以通過文化交流，促進國際間的相互理解為使命，在文化藝術、海外日語教育、海外日本研究等領域廣泛開展活動，鼓勵人才交流，促進文化對話。

作為視覺藝術項目的一環，日本國際交流基金會特此宣布巡回展「冬日花園：探索日本當代藝術的微波普想象」正式啟動。由藝術評論家松井碧（Ms. Midori Matsui）策展，本展覽展示了從九十年代後期到新千年初期嶄露頭角的十四位日本青年藝術家，包括素描、繪畫、影像作品在內的三十五件作品。

這些藝術家通過對片段的重組呈現各自不同的世界觀，為陳腐與平庸的事物注入新的功能和意義。他們這種在藝術表達上的共性被策展人松井女士稱作「微波普」。身處於一個日益全球化的世界，在共同價值難以得到建立的時代，日本藝術家如何審視當今社會？希望來參觀「冬日花園」的朋友們可以通過展出的作品，與藝術家的領悟和觀點產生共鳴。

日本國際交流基金會對策展人松井碧女士、參展藝術家以及所有為本次展覽的實現出謀獻策，付出努力的朋友表示由衷的感謝。

日本國際交流基金會