



Odawara Nodoka and Yamada Yuri, 2026 recipients of the NCAR × AWARE: Fellowship for Research on Women Artists in Japan © Madoka Yasuda

PRESS RELEASE | FELLOWSHIP

“NCAR × AWARE WOMEN ARTISTS RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP”

ODAWARA NODOKA AND YAMADA YURI SELECTED AS INAUGURAL FELLOWS FOR 2026

15.04.26

List of Selection Committee Members for FY 2026

(In Japanese order, honorifics omitted; affiliations as of the time of the selection committee)

Amada Marina

Representative of AWARE Japan, Curator

Otani Shogo

Head of Collections Group, NCAR; Deputy Director, The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo

Kokatsu Reiko

Art Historian, Art Critic

Tatehata Akira

Director, Yayoi Kusama Museum

Nakamachi Keiko

Professor Emeritus, Jissen Women's University; Special Director, Akita Museum of Modern Art

Mizuno Ryoko

Associate Professor, Japan Women's University

The National Center for Art Research, Japan (NCAR) (Director: Tanaka Masayuki) and AWARE: Archives of Women Artists, Research and Exhibitions, Centre Pompidou (Head of Department: Camille Morineau) have selected Odawara Nodoka and Yamada Yuri as the fellows for the inaugural 2026 edition of the “NCAR × AWARE Women Artists Research Fellowship” jointly launched in December 2025. The selected fellows and their research projects were officially announced on April 15, 2026, at the Institut français de Tokyo.

Odawara takes as her research subjects two women sculptors from Okayama, Kuhara Namiko (1906-1994) and Ōta Kameno (1903-1986). By shedding light on the activities of women sculptors in modern Japan that have long been marginalized, and by examining the institutional and social constraints they faced, she reconsiders art history in relation to regionally grounded narratives.

Yamada examines women photographers active primarily in the Meiji period and into the early Shōwa period. Through research on exhibitions and relevant publications, she organizes the current state of evaluation and scholarship, and, by conducting archival analysis focusing on Shima Ryū, Hanawa Yoshino, and Yamamoto Kotome as key case studies, clarifies the role of women's

photographic practices in the formation of modern Japanese photographic culture.

The Fellowship aims to strengthen scholarship about women artists in Japan and contribute to the global advancement of art historical research through more diverse and inclusive perspectives. NCAR and AWARE invited research proposals from researchers and curators residing in Japan, whose projects focus on visual artists with a connection to Japan who self-identify as women or non-binary. Research funding of up to EUR 5,000 will be provided during the one-year research period. The research outcomes will be published on both the websites of NCAR and AWARE to foster wider public and academic engagement.

Profiles of the Selected Fellows for FY2026

Odawara Nodoka

Odawara Nodoka is a sculptor, critic, and publisher. She holds a PhD in Art Studies and was born in Miyagi Prefecture in 1985. Her major solo exhibitions include those at the Aomori Contemporary Art Centre [ACAC], the Tsunagi Art Museum (Kumamoto), and the Sugimura Jun Museum of Art in Shiogama, among others. She was awarded the Miyagi Prefecture Arts Award for Emerging Artists (FY2024). Her principal monographs include *Sculpting / Overcoming Modernity* (Kodansha) and *Toward a Theory of Monuments: Sculpture as a Critical Problem* (Seidosha). She also co-edited *Art of This Country (Modern Japan): De-Imperializing Japanese Art History: Art and Legacies of Empire in Modern and Contemporary Japan* (with Hiroki Yamamoto, Getsuyosha). She is a member of the Field Research Group on Artistic Practices and a faculty member at Yokohama National University.

Yamada Yuri

After studying art history, she specializes in the history of modern and contemporary photography. She is a curator of Tokyo Photographic Art Museum and previously served as a curator of Izu Photo Museum. She organized the exhibitions *Fiona Tan: Ascent* (2016), *Terri Weifenbach: The May Sun* (2017), *Memories Penetrate the Ground and Permeate the Wind Contemporary Japanese Photography vol. 18* (2021), *Motohashi Seiichi and Robert Doisneau: Narrative Passages* (2023), *Luigi Ghirri: Infinite Landscapes* (2025). She also co-curated *I know something about love, asian contemporary photography* (2018) with Kasahara Michiko, *Reversible Destiny: Australian and Japanese contemporary photography* (2021) with Natalie King.

“The 19 research proposals submitted covered a wide range of fields, and the applicants represented diverse nationalities. Many proposals also demonstrated distinctive and original research methodologies. The selection process was conducted rigorously in accordance with the criteria outlined under ‘Selection Process’ in the application guidelines. Particular emphasis was placed on the applicants’ track record and state of preparation, as these were considered essential to achieving meaningful results within a limited timeframe. We also welcome applications in the future round that focus on periods prior to the modern and contemporary era.”

— Comment from the Chair of the Selection Committee,
Nakamachi Keiko



Portrait of Odawara Nodoka
© Yasuda Madoka



Portrait of Yamada Yuri
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About the National Center for Art Research, Japan

Under the mission of “connecting, deepening, and expanding art,” NCAR continues to contribute to the activation and enhancement of museum activities in Japan. Our efforts include collecting and disseminating art resources both domestically and internationally, promoting the utilization of collection, building human networks, expanding learning opportunities, and supporting artists.

About AWARE

AWARE is dedicated to compiling and sharing knowledge about women and non-binary artists of the 16th to 21st centuries. Its aim is to shed light on their work through the organization of international events and the development of a trilingual website (French/English/Japanese) that presently contains over 1,400 biographical texts and draws up to 80,000 visitors per month. In 2025 AWARE was integrated as a unit within Centre Pompidou Musée national d'art moderne, in order to pursue and expand its essential research and advocacy missions.

About Centre Pompidou

Since 1977, Centre Pompidou has consistently served as a hub for vibrant and socially engaged culture—a multidisciplinary center deeply rooted in the city and open to the world. In 2025, it embarked on a major transformation that allows it to remain active throughout its renovation, until its reopening in 2030. During this period, the “Constellation” program is being rolled out in Paris, across France, and internationally. Construction of Centre Pompidou Francilien—Fabrique de l'art is proceeding in parallel, with its opening scheduled for 2026 in Massy.

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