

MONEX GROUP

THE 16th ART IN THE OFFICE 2023 Winning Artwork Completed

Tokyo, August 17, 2023 – Monex Group, Inc. (Headquarters: Minato-ku, Tokyo; Representative Executive Officer and CEO: Yuko Seimei) is pleased to announce that it has selected Liisa as the winning artist for ART IN THE OFFICE 2023, one of the social contribution and employee awareness programs undertaken by the company, and that the winning artwork has been completed.

Selected from among 134 entries, the work of Liisa's "Liminal space" was highly evaluated for its attempt to present a variety of interpretations and new stories in a press room where communication is essential through expression that does not rely on language, coming from her own background of having spent time in diverse cultures and languages. The judges were also interested in the plan's dynamic nature in which the artwork was deployed throughout the entire press room, and in the immersive experience of entering the artwork, which aimed to create a place located at the boundary of the work, like an extension of the horizon line.

ART IN THE OFFICE is a program to support up-and-coming contemporary artists by creating opportunities to display their work. With a desire to advance contemporary art's pursuit of new forms of expression and focus on various societal issues, this program was started in 2008 and is operated with the cooperation of Arts Initiative Tokyo (AIT), a non-profit organization. In addition to providing opportunities for winning artists to further succeed in their field, the program seeks to inspire employees through their interactions with artists to acknowledge different values and ideas as they discover new perspectives.

As in the corporate philosophy, always a step ahead of the "Y" in "MONEY," the company is constantly exploring ways to embrace all people who are engaged at the forefront of our future.



Photo: Monex Group, Inc. Press Room (GALAXY)
ART IN THE OFFICE 2023 work /Liisa/ Liminal space / 2023 / Permanent ink on sheet, acrylic paints, screentone /
Dimensions variable

◆Winning Artwork and Artist

1. Title of the Work: Liminal space
2. Profile of Liisa, winning artist of ART IN THE OFFICE 2023

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Born in Hungary in 1999 (Chinese nationality), moved to Italy in 2001 and came to Japan in 2018; graduated from Kyoto Seika University, Faculty of Manga, Story Manga Course in 2023; enrolled in Tokyo University of the Arts, Master's Program in Design (Lab 8 Draw) from 2023. She explores immersive expressions using manga techniques based on the theme of the memory caused by everyday objects and places and the discomfort and displacement caused by deviations from the original context. At university, she conducts research on spaces and their experiences through the use of illustration. Major exhibitions to date include the solo exhibition “Prayer” (2022, Shoeido Konshukan, Kyoto) and “Turner Acrylic Gouache meets Manga Artist” (2022, Turner Gallery, Tokyo). Nominated as a finalist in the “TOKYO MIDTOWN AWARD 2023” art competition, will be

exhibited at Tokyo Midtown from October 5, 2023. Additionally, a solo exhibition is scheduled to be held at “HIGURE17-15cas” (Tokyo) in October 2024.

3. Comments from Liisa

I emphasize presenting stories where a slightly different element is added next to scenes considered part of everyday life, highlighting the shifts in meaning and the birth of storytelling that arise through these connections and disconnections. “A narrative” is not a one-way transmission of information; rather, it requires the viewer to engage in the act of reinterpreting the presented events. I perceive this as a “dialogue space.” A conference room, in essence, is also a “dialogue space,” sharing the same nature. What does intentionally conveying this through non-verbal expression signify? There is no “completion” to the narrative I create; the process of composition and re-composition continues incessantly. The conveyed narrative is generated collaboratively by both the audience and the storyteller, and I believe that generating new meanings or mutations through these shifts is inherently vital to storytelling. During my residency, there was a constant opportunity to hear employees' impressions about the evolving artwork. Unexpected feedback and encountering things that hadn't been put into words before were valuable experiences. After the workshop, on the last day of the residency, I added a boy waiting for the rabbit to the painting that originally had no figures. This was driven by the desire to expand the space and narrative scope. Additionally, hearing the employees' stories during the workshop ignited a motivation to make the world of “stories” more three-dimensional and realistic. A common thread in the stories I heard at the workshop was the sense of living with both fear and anticipation. “Waiting” involves receiving orders, anticipating the future within the space of possibilities, and expecting something. It's about following something beyond oneself and awaiting the arrival of the future. It's filled with “expectations,” “desires,” and “prayers,” and it's a realm that can't be bounded by the limits of beauty. Just as when someone else talks about someone else's experience, I aimed to create a liminal space (a place on the boundary), an extension of the horizon beyond the conference room. Here, objectivity and subjectivity blend, giving rise to a simultaneous sense of immersion and detachments. The space exists as a threshold, where these elements coalesce and evoke a unique atmosphere.

Reference: Hamada Hideyuki, *The act of reading a "story" with others: A classroom discourse analysis focusing on focalization*, 2017, KAZAMASHOBO

◆ About the selection of the winner

1. ART IN THE OFFICE support

One person (or one group) selected among entries submitted by publicly recruited participants will be provided space to exhibit the winning work in the company's Press Room for approximately one year. The selected artist will receive ¥500,000 in prize money as well as ¥150,000 to cover production costs. In addition, the winning artwork will appear on the company's annual report and other materials and used for original novelty goods.

In 2019, ART IN THE OFFICE was selected for “This is MECENAT 2019,” a certification system of the Association for Corporate Support of the Arts. In 2012, the program received the 2012 Good Design Award (G-Mark System) from the Japan Institute of Design Promotion.

2. Selection criteria

- Artists in the contemporary art field (students permitted)
- A unique and innovative work that reflects an understanding of the characteristics of the Press Room
- Artwork needs to incorporate Monex's corporate philosophy of “embracing people who are engaged at the forefront of the future.”

3. Judges (alphabetical order)

Keiko Okamura (Curator, Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo)
Yutaka Kikutake (Director, Yutaka Kikutake Gallery)

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Yuko Shiomi (Director, Arts Initiative Tokyo)
Pakkun (Entertainer)
Oki Matsumoto (Executive Chairman, Monex Group, Inc.)

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