

# MONEX GROUP

## **Winner of the 12th ART IN THE OFFICE 2019 announced**

TOKYO, May 24, 2019 - Monex Group, Inc. (“the Company”) is pleased to announce that Momoko Yoshida has been selected as the winning artist of ART IN THE OFFICE 2019, the company’s social contribution and employee awareness initiative. Ms. Yoshida was chosen from among 87 entries this year.

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, through this program, Monex invites the winning artist for a certain period of time to interact with employees and to create artwork for the office. Started in 2008, this program is operated with the cooperation of Arts Initiative Tokyo (AIT), a non-profit organization.

In addition to serving as a springboard for the winning artist’s career, ART IN THE OFFICE aims to prompt employees to think creatively and see things flexibly from various perspectives so that Monex can lead the times in line with the company’s brand slogan announced last November, “For Creative Minds.”



Panel of judges (from left, Mr. Tokuyama, Ms. Shiomi, Ms. Urano, Mr. Yoroizuka and Mr. Matsumoto) with the winning entry proposal

### **1. This year’s contest outline**

Eligible candidates: Artists in the contemporary art field

Artwork: A proposal for a two-dimensional work of art (oil, watercolor, photography, etc.) to be displayed on the wall of the Press Room (conference room) in Monex’s office

Screening criteria: A unique and innovative work that reflects an understanding of the characteristics of the Press Room in Monex’s office

Entry period: Tuesday, February 12th ~ Wednesday, April 10th, 2019

### **2. Support for the winning artist**

- ¥500,000 in prize money, ¥100,000 to cover production costs
- The artwork will be displayed in the company’s Press Room, appear on the company’s website and integrated report, used for original novelty goods, introduced on AIT’s website, featured in the company’s web magazine, etc.
- Privilege to attend free of charge (with an upper limit) lectures at AIT’s contemporary art school, MAD 2019.

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### **3. Judges (alphabetical order)**

Oki Matsumoto (Chairman and CEO, Monex Group, Inc.)

Yuko Shiomi (Director, Arts Initiative Tokyo)

Hirokazu Tokuyama (Associate Curator, Mori Art Museum)

Mutsumi Urano (Director, ANOMALY)

Toshihiko Yoroizuka (Owner chef, Toshi Yoroizuka)

#### **Judge comments**

##### **Oki Matsumoto (Chairman and CEO, Monex Group, Inc.)**

We are happy to celebrate the 12<sup>th</sup> year of ART IN THE OFFICE with so many entries again this year. As in the past, there were a wide range of artwork ideas and the screening process was fascinating! This time in particular, it was exciting emotionally, with the judges changing their minds several times while trying to narrow down the choices, giving a real sense of action. For the first time in a long time, the winning entry is very colorful. It gives off an atmosphere of transitioning into a virtual space and I am eagerly awaiting to see how it will transform Monex's entrance area and conference room!

##### **Yuko Shiomi (Director, Arts Initiative Tokyo)**

In line with the recent trend in an expanding range of ages and regions, this year we received entries from a wide variety of artists, from university students to retirees from all regions in Japan and even overseas. I was drawn to their works because they gave me a sense how the world is moving from multiple perspectives. Among these, Ms. Yoshida's work reflected the feelings of her generation and current times, and her very concrete idea to hold workshops made me think, "I want her to try this." Through interaction with employees, her untold story will be revealed in the Press Room and I am eager to see what kind of "here and now" work she will produce.

##### **Hirokazu Tokuyama (Associate Curator, Mori Art Museum)**

Looking at all the artwork plans and discussing them with the other judges to select one was an incredibly exciting process. Seeing so many works where artists expressed how they felt about current times reminded me that not everyone in society is happy with the way things are now. Hearing the voices of the artists, who strive to create every day, and seeing first-hand their stance toward creativity was a very meaningful experience. I am looking forward to Ms. Yoshida's workshop and have high expectations as to how she will reflect the voices of the employees in her work.

##### **Mutsumi Urano (Director, ANOMALY)**

This was the first time for me to experience a screening process where I was shown all of the submitted entries at once. While I was confused initially, after exchanging opinions with the other judges and considering and reconsidering my choices, I came to enjoy the process very much. The artwork we chose will not only visually match the Press Room space, but it will also provide employees and visitors a new perspective and promote a fresh way of thinking. Overall, while many entries seemed overly dependent on materials or techniques, the winning entry uses familiar paper and acrylic paint to create a dynamic, adventurous and imaginative piece of art. Through workshops with employees and the emergence of character figures, I look forward to how Ms. Yoshida will transform an everyday space like an office.

##### **Toshihiko Yoroizuka (Owner chef, Toshi Yoroizuka)**

I really had a wonderful time today. I love art but as a pastry chef and businessman for the past 30 years, I have had to work with the fact my customers are difficult to accept a space that is overly artistic. Given this, my perspective may have been different from the other judges. But as we exchanged opinions, I was reminded how art, which is an expression of the inner soul, is so important and wonderful. I am extremely excited and almost can't wait to see what kind of piece the artist will create for this space.

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## 4. Profile of ART IN THE OFFICE 2019 winning artist Momoko Yoshida



Born in Hyogo Prefecture in 1989. Completed the Master's Course at Kyoto City University of Arts' Graduate School of Arts in 2016. Creates paintings that capture the sense of elation and the images that pop into her mind while listening to music to share that sense of elation with viewers. Was awarded Art Award Tokyo Marunouchi 2016's Mitsubishi Estate Award and the 2016 Kyoto City University of Arts' Graduate School of Arts Kyoto Mayor Award. Solo exhibitions include "scene UKH ver.3.1" at ART ZONE/Kyoto (2017) and "scene UKH ver.3" at Mitsubishi Ichigokan Museum, Tokyo Archive Room/Tokyo (2017). Also participated in group exhibitions, such as Kyoto Art for Tomorrow 2019 – "Kyoto Newcomer Exhibit"/The Museum of Kyoto (2019), "Kyoto Art Transmit Program 2018"/Kyoto City University of Arts Gallery @KCUA/Kyoto (2018), among others.

Momoko Yoshida's website: <https://mt0991.wixsite.com/rainbowpicha/home>

### Winning entry title: first "I.U" zone.2

#### Concept of the artwork and comment from winner Ms. Yoshida

Up until now, my goal has been to capture the visual images that pop into my mind while listening to my favorite music in the enduring form of a painting. In doing so, I hope to share with the viewer a sense of elation that evokes new emotions. These visual images are like fragments of a movie – they are a mixture of memories and scenes from reality and the characters are born from inspiration from within me and the people close to me.

Through workshops, I will have Monex employees create characters that are like their alter egos. Ultimately, I will have these characters appear in the work. Creating and seeing for the first time something that up until now only existed is one's imagination and absorbing images of different people from different walks of life will be how my work becomes transformative. Furthermore, these characters will bridge creators and viewers as well as imagination and reality. I hope all of this will be linked with the stories that are created on a daily basis in the Press Room in a way that inspires all who see it.



Sample work: first "I.U"/2018/acrylic paint on Tetoron fabric

*\*Note: first "I.U" is not the winning entry for ART IN THE OFFICE 2019, but rather an existing piece shown as reference. Production of the winning artwork is scheduled to begin in June 2019.*

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