

12th ART IN THE OFFICE 2019 winning artwork entry completed

TOKYO, July 17, 2019. Monex Group, Inc. (“the Company”) is pleased to announce the completion of “first “I.U” zone.2,” Momoko Yoshida’s winning artwork entry for ART IN THE OFFICE 2019, the company’s social contribution and employee awareness initiative.



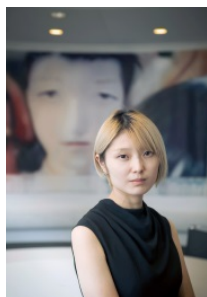
Monex Group Press Room (GALAXY)
ART IN THE OFFICE 2019 artwork/first "I.U" zone.2/Momoko Yoshida/2019 /
acrylic on polyester fabric/size variable

◆About the winning artist and her artwork

1. Title: first "I.U" zone.2 Artist: Momoko Yoshida

Ms. Yoshida conducted two days of workshops with Monex employees creating images of faces based on a particular theme and then spent approximately one week in the office to paint huge and transparent renderings of these faces. The result of her efforts is a world of horizontal screen images resembling digital displays lined up along the wall of the Press Room. Through close ups of faces, the paintings somehow convey a sense of floating where one goes back and forth between virtual and real worlds.

2. 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 exhibits 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 exhibits, such as “Kyoto Art for Tomorrow 2019 – Kyoto Newcomer Exhibition”/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>

3. Comment from Ms. Momoko Yoshida

The center image, which forms the main element of this artwork, was derived from two days of collaborative workshops with employees. On the first day of the workshop, I began by having participants draw faces based on the theme, “my other self.” Then we shared why those faces looked the way they were in terms of such factors as personality or environment. On the second day, I had all the participants work together to create one face based on the theme, “faces that would suit Monex’s Press Room.” There were many similarities and differences among the participants in terms of their impressions and their relationship with the company. Through group discussion and selecting with one another what the image should look like and adding new elements to create one face was an incredibly creative process. In addition, though many participants were meeting for the first time, we were able to see glimpses of deep and profound parts of others. It was very stimulating.

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The faces that finally emerged in these paintings have a genderless and artistic quality that seemingly ask questions about our future. The artwork created from the workshops and five days of production will now leave my side, and hopefully, will act as a trigger to create new stories for all those who visit this room.

4. ART IN THE OFFICE Program

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 its 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. The winning artist (one person or team) selected among numerous entries is given the opportunity to display the entry artwork in the company's Press Room for approximately one year. The artist receives ¥500,000 in prize money and ¥100,000 to cover production costs. Images of the artwork are featured in Monex Group's integrated report and used for original novelty goods. In addition, the artist has the opportunity to attend free of charge some lectures at AIT's contemporary art school, MAD 2019.

ART IN THE OFFICE was selected for "This is MECENAT 2019," a certification system of the Association for Corporate Support of the Arts, a Public Interest Incorporated Association. Furthermore, the program was awarded the Good Design Award 2012 (G Mark) by the Japan Institute of Design Promotion (JDP).

In addition to serving as a springboard for the winning artist's career, ART IN THE OFFICE aims to encourage employees to think creatively and view 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."

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