

## **13<sup>th</sup> ART IN THE OFFICE 2020 winning artwork entry completed**

**Tokyo, August 28, 2020.** Monex Group, Inc. (headquarters: Minato Ward, Tokyo; chairman and CEO: Oki Matsumoto) is pleased to announce that Yuka Miyauchi has been selected as the winning artist of ART IN THE OFFICE 2020, the company's social contribution and employee awareness initiative, and that her artwork has been completed. Ms. Yoshida was chosen from among 86 entries this year for her winning work called "Squid Ring." This piece was highly regarded for its uniqueness in using squid as materials and subject matter, as well as its sense of scale that reflects her own perspective of life.

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 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, "For Creative Minds."



(Photo) Monex Group, Inc. Press Room (GALAXY)

ART IN THE OFFICE 2020 work / Yuka Miyauchi / Squid Ring / 2020 / Canvas, gesso, bigfin reef squid ink, cuttlefish shell, southern squid crystalline lens, gum arabic, oil paint, watercolor paint, eyelet / Size (6500×1350mm)

### **◆Winning artist and her artwork**

#### **1. ART IN THE OFFICE 2020 winning artwork title: Squid Ring**

#### **2. Profile of Yuka Miyauchi, winning artist**



Born in 1985 in Kagoshima Prefecture. Graduated from Tara School of Design. Around 2004, was drawn to the beauty and deliciousness of squid a neighbor had just fished and since then, has single-mindedly been creating paintings of squid. Selected for the 22th Taro Okamoto Award for Contemporary Art and won second place in the Tokyo Midtown Award 2019 Art Competition. Has exhibited at the National Squid Processing Cooperative Association's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ceremony at Hotel Okura Tokyo (2015, Tokyo), Cephalopod International Advisory Council (CIAC) Advisory Committee Hakodate Conference at Hakodate Kokusai Hotel (2015, Hokkaido), Cephalopod Interface in Crete at the Crete Aquarium (2017, Greece), as well as at solo exhibitions, "Ika Swim" at Retroft Museo (2018, Kagoshima), "Street Museum" at Tokyo Midtown (2020,

Tokyo), among others.

Yuka Miyauchi website : <http://www.miyauchi-yuka.com/>

#### **3. Comment from Yuka Miyauchi**

The squid ink I used for this work all came from the ink sac of just one bigfin reef squid. Seeing how one body

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could produce enough squid ink to paint this much gave me a sense of the power of life. At the same time, it made me think about how this squid is no longer part of this world. I am alive because I am able to paint, thanks to this squid who gave me its life. All of us are a part of life on this world and our existence has no boundaries, going beyond the outlines of our physical being. All forms of life and matter are interrelated. I drew these squids, which were both food and living beings, from the ink and cuttlebone of their dead bodies. The abstract squids around it are life forms of the future. I used paint that had the structural color of my impression of the iridescent cells of a squid. The colored portions of the squid's eyeballs and ink sac are made with oil paint. I used a lot of blue paint to express the squid's blue blood. The world is filled with unknowns. Even for something as familiar as squid, there are so many things we do not know. All of us humans have a different sense of this world. If we pretend to be squids and look at this world, we might discover something new. I am very happy that my squid painting will be displayed in this circular aquarium-like space, much like where the world's first attempt to artificially breed squid succeeded.

## ◆About the selection of the winner

### 1. ART IN THE OFFICE support

One person (or one group) selected among 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 ¥100,000 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

### 3. Judges (alphabetical order)

Oki Matsumoto	(Chairman and CEO, Monex Group, Inc.)
Hajime Nariai	(Curator, Tokyo Station Gallery)
Yuki Ota	(Vice-President, Fédération Internationale d'Escrime; Chairman, Japan Fencing Federation; Deputy Director, Olympic Movement Expert Committee, Japanese Olympic Committee)
Yuko Shiomi	(Director, Arts Initiative Tokyo)
Kayoko Yuki	(Owner Director, KAYOKOYUKI)

**Monex Group ART IN THE OFFICE website** : [https://www.monexgroup.jp/jp/esg/art\\_in\\_the\\_office.html](https://www.monexgroup.jp/jp/esg/art_in_the_office.html)

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