

THE 15th ART IN THE OFFICE 2022 Winning Artwork Completed

Tokyo, July 22, 2022 – Monex Group, Inc. (Headquarters: Minato-ku, Tokyo; Representative Executive President & CEO: Oki Matsumoto) is pleased to announce that it has selected Kanako Hiramatsu as the winning artist for ART IN THE OFFICE 2022, one of the social contribution and employee awareness programs undertaken by the company, and that the winning artwork has been completed. Selected from among eighty-seven entries, the work of Kanako Hiramatsu, “Fountain Seen from the Inside,” presents an imaginary water fountain, expressing overflowing new thoughts and insights that stimulate debates to bring about new ideas. Situated in the center of a circle-shaped Press Room, the painting combines highly abstract semi-stereoscopic figures that capture the space well, earning high marks as the winning artwork.

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. Monex Group is proud to celebrate the 15th year anniversary of the program.

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 2022 work / Kanako Hiramatsu /
Fountain Seen from the Inside / 2022 / acrylic paints, colored pencils, and crayons / H1600×W8400×D40(mm)

◆Winning Artwork and Artist

1. Title of the Work: Fountain Seen from the Inside
2. Profile of Kanako Hiramatsu, winning artist of ART IN THE OFFICE 2022



Born in Osaka in 1997. Finished Oil Painting Study, Department of Painting, Fine Arts, Graduate School of Tokyo University of the Arts. With paintings and installation art as her form of artistic expression, Kanako Hiramatsu is focused on re-imagining experiences of appreciating art and how those experiences change in action. Major exhibitions include Ghost of Peach (2021, Toritoki Haus Gallery, Tokyo), Innocent-P- (2019, Kyoto International Conference Center, Kyoto), Artist’s Tideland KYOTO (2019, Isetan Shinjuku, Tokyo). Awarded Encouragement Prize for the Graduation Exhibition of Kyoto University of the Arts in 2020.

3. Comments from Kanako Hiramatsu

How am I going to finalize this work? This question was constantly in my mind while I was visiting Monex to work on my art. Despite years of painting experience, I never know exactly when one of my works will be complete. Sometimes I realize it is done all of sudden. Other times, when I see the work again in the atelier, I continue adding something even after I thought I was done. Knowing the moment of completion is a delicate feeling.

How did I finalize this work? It was the workshop for employees that made it happen. At the workshop, I started with a very basic technique - drawing lines to show what it is to paint a picture. Then I asked participants to add layers of their expressions on top of what I had painted. This must have been a first experience for participants - drawing something on top of someone else's painting. What would it be like if I incorporate the strokes of participants, which is full of a liberated feeling as it is their first experience, into my artwork? Out of curiosity, I gradually incorporated elements of what workshop participants had painted into my work of the Fountain. Responding to the changes made to the artwork, my progress accelerated. At the same time the number of employees who started stopping by the Press Room, which may have been seen as a bit off limits at first, increased and with that I had more opportunities to talk with Monex employees. One experience led to another, with many happenings unfolding naturally. Many different events were interconnected, I believe.

It is not impossible to see fountains from the inside out, but it may be a scene not actually witnessed by anyone. The painting is fiction in a sense, leaving me with a large blank space for imagination. During my residency at Monex it was this blank space that made it possible for me to communicate with employees through my artwork and to create this very work, Fountain, which is unique to Monex and never seen by anyone.

◆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 ¥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
- Artwork needs to incorporate Monex's corporate philosophy of "embracing people who are engaged at the forefront of the future"

3. Judges (alphabetical order)

Kento Hoshi	(CEO, JobRainbow Co.,Ltd.)
Oki Matsumoto	(Representative Executive Officer and CEO, Monex Group, Inc.)
Yuko Shiomi	(Director, Arts Initiative Tokyo)
Takuro Someya	(Representative Director, Takuro Someya Contemporary Art)
Miyuki Tanaka	(Curator/Producer)

Monex Group ART IN THE OFFICE website: https://www.monexgroup.jp/jp/esg/art_in_the_office.html

ART IN THE OFFICE 15th anniversary: https://www.monexgroup.jp/jp/esg/art_in_the_office/15th.html

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