

MONEX GROUP

THE 17th ART IN THE OFFICE 2024 Winning Artwork Completed

Tokyo, August 1st, 2024 – Monex Group, Inc. (Headquarters: Minato-ku, Tokyo; Representative Executive Officer & CEO: Yuko Seimei) is pleased to announce the selection and completion of “AMONG THE RAINDROPS” by Mizuki Uematsu from among 85 entries for the ART IN THE OFFICE 2024 award, which is part of the company’s social contribution and employee awareness program. Ms. Uematsu proposed a production plan in which numbers are imprinted on a roll of paper soaked in purple ink in accordance with the timing of the breaths she takes each day. Her approach, which focuses on breathing and the number of breaths that we all take, evokes the fundamental activities of human beings and time, even though it is a seemingly inorganic list of numbers. The plan, which utilizes the characteristics of ink blotting as a material for the work, beautifully preserves the changes of the day as traces of “having been there,” and is expected to become a special space for meditation and interaction in the press room, where people come and go.

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 our corporate philosophy, always a step ahead of the “Y” in “MONEY,” we are 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 2024 work / Mizuki Uematsu / “AMONG THE RAINDROPS” / 2024 / Copy paper, ink, nail /
w 9121× h 1189 (mm), Dimensions variable

◆Winning Artwork and Artist

1. Title of the Work: “AMONG THE RAINDROPS”

2. Profile of Mizuki Uematsu, winning artist of ART IN THE OFFICE 2024



Mizuki Uematsu Profile

Born in Hyogo Prefecture in 1995 and currently resides in Tokyo. Completed the doctoral course in sculpture at Tokyo University of the Arts in 2023. Creates sculptures mainly using standard materials, such as steel and paper. In recent years, has been focusing on the synchronization of repetitive actions with her own breathing in the process of creating works and attempts to leave “traces and transformations” in her works as if to confirm her own existence. Major exhibitions include the solo exhibition “Floating on the Moon” (2024, aaploit, Kagurazaka) and the group exhibition “P.O.N.D. Dialogue / Encountering a New Dialogue” (2023, Shibuya Parco). Won the Grand Prix at Terrace Art Shonan Award 2023 and the Nomura Art Award and is scheduled to hold a solo exhibition at artstudio NAZUKARI WAREHOUSE (Chiba) in October 2024.

3. Comments from Mizuki Uematsu

What does it mean to “see” the scenery in front of us?

Ever since I was a child, I watched countless movies under the influence of my father, and whenever I did so, I felt as though I were seeing myself through the eyes of the main character. While immersed in a film, my breath would seemingly come and go from the other side of the screen. To express this feeling, I decided to record the number of breaths I was aware of and preserve the time I was living in. For this work, I imprinted the number of breaths I took on an A0-size sheet of copy paper permeated with purple ink. I used one sheet of this paper for every one hour, and then displayed 24 sheets (one day's worth) side by side. I inhaled, exhaled and then recorded my breath on a piece of copy paper with a numbering stamp. I did not record my breath when I was not in front of the artwork, such as when I slept, ate, or traveled. Initially, I expected that the time I spent interacting with the employees during the residency would result in fewer breaths to be recorded, but in fact, the employees seemed to find it a little difficult to talk to me, as I appeared to be more rooted in my work than I had imagined (laugh). Having gained such an outside perspective through this residency, I reaffirmed my production style. Repetitive actions are a means of immersing myself in my world. During the employee exchange workshop, I had participants experience the transformation of paper through the process of mixing colors by dripping ink on water-sprayed plastic roll paper. Through this experience, I wanted participants to become aware that a single act can bring about changes in the surroundings of ordinary objects and things in daily life, and that we may be standing on the threshold of immersing ourselves in a new world that we are not aware of. We should not be afraid of transformation but enjoy embracing it. I hope everyone who participated in the workshop and everyone who was involved in the work was able to share this experience.

◆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 ¥500,000 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.”

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3. Judges (alphabetical order)

Marie Imai (Director, BLUM Los Angeles/Tokyo/New York)

Yuko Shiomi (Director, Arts Initiative Tokyo)

Nobuhiro Nishitakatsuji (Chief Priest, Dazaifu Tenmangu)

Tomohiro Masuda (Curator, The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo)

Oki Matsumoto (Executive Chairman, Monex Group, Inc.)

Monex Group ART IN THE OFFICE website:

https://www.monexgroup.jp/en/sustainability/art_in_the_office.html

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