



ART FACTORY Jonanjima is pleased to present *In between*, a solo exhibition by Tomohiro Kato, opening on June 27, 2026.

Tomohiro Kato is an artist who explores latent boundaries embedded within contemporary society, such as those between material and society, inside and outside, anonymity and individuality. After completing his doctoral studies in Crafts at Tama Art University, Kato began his artistic practice with the experiment of “creating something that is not iron using iron.” Through this material, he has continually questioned our perception of matter and the nature of existence itself. In 2013, he received the Taro Okamoto Award at the 16th Taro Okamoto Award for Contemporary Art for his work *Iron Tea Room Tetsutei (Tetsu Chashitsu Tetsutei)*.

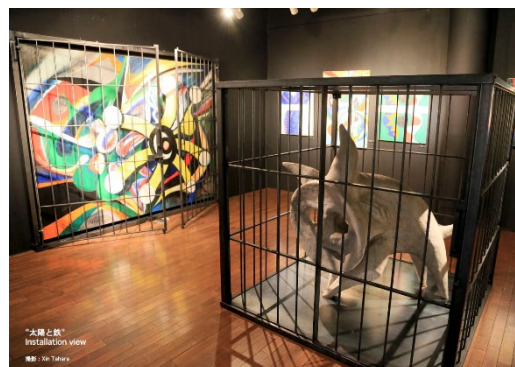
Through the creation of the tea room, Kato’s interest gradually shifted toward enclosed spaces and environments of isolation generated by iron, leading to works inspired by prisons and cages. In the same year, his solo exhibition *Sun and Iron* (2013) at the Taro Okamoto Memorial Museum featured an installation incorporating paintings and sculptures from the museum’s collection into prison-like structures. Observing how the shadows of iron bars crawled across the sculptures and caused their forms to appear only fragmentarily became the conceptual starting point for his signature *anonymous* series. In these works, human figures emerge through the repetitive accumulation of iron rods. The moiré effect produced by the sculptures shifts according to the viewer’s position, suggesting the instability of existence and the fluid relationship between the individual and society.

In *In between*, Kato presents sculptures and paintings, including new works, alongside a live production project from his *anonymous* series that will continue throughout the exhibition period. His new bust sculptures reference the traditional Western sculptural format that has historically symbolized and fixed individuals as identifiable subjects. Constructed through the accumulation of ring-shaped iron elements, however, these works appear as faces without continuous surfaces. Though fragmented in structure, they are nevertheless perceived as human figures, prompting renewed consideration of the nature of existence in sculpture.

We warmly invite you to experience this exhibition.



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Biography

Tomohiro Kato

Born in Tokyo in 1981. Completed the Doctoral Program in Crafts, Graduate School of Art and Design, Tama Art University, in 2006.

Working primarily with iron, Kato explores boundaries between material and society, anonymity and individuality, and inside and outside.

Major solo exhibitions include:

- "binary" (TEZUKAYAMA GALLERY, 2024)
- TEKKYO (HUNCH, 2022)
- Anonymous (TEZUKAYAMA GALLERY, 2019)
- Sun and Iron (Taro Okamoto Memorial Museum, 2013)

Major group exhibitions include:

- Veins of Japanese Art: Discovering Future National Treasures! (Nakanoshima Museum of Art, Osaka, 2025)
- 20 Years of the TARO Award: Twenty Extraordinary Artists (Taro Okamoto Memorial Museum, 2017)

He has participated in numerous exhibitions both in Japan and internationally.

Major awards include:

- KAIKA TOKYO Jury Special Prize (Noritaka Tatehana Award), 2020
- Taro Okamoto Award, The 16th Taro Okamoto Award for Contemporary Art, 2013

Works



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1. ART OSAKA 2022 EXPANDED @ Creative Center Osaka, 2022, Installation View
- 2.《anonymouse-grid human #8》2024, Corten Steel, H510 × W220 × D200 mm
3. One Art Taipei 2024-Voice @Taipei Expo Park (Bottle Cap Factory), 2024, Installation View
4. Tomohiro Kato Solo Exhibition "binary" @TEZUKAYAMA GALLERY, 2024, Installation View
- 5.《anonymouse-human #56》2025, Corten Steel, H450 x W460 x D260 mm

Exhibition Information

Title | In between

Artist | Tomohiro Kato

Dates | June 27 (Sat) – September 13 (Sun), 2026

Venue | ART FACTORY Jonanjima 1F Art Storage

Opening Hours | 11:00–17:00 (Last Admission 16:30)

Closed | Open Daily

Admission | Free

Produced by Gallery 1045 Co., Ltd.

Special Support | Toyoko Inn Co., Ltd.

Cooperation | TEZUKAYAMA GALLERY

Related Event

Artist Talk & Reception

Following a welcome drink and exhibition viewing, Professor Tadasu Fujii of Tokyo Zokei University and artist Tomohiro Kato will engage in a conversation about the exhibition and the ideas behind the works. A reception will follow the talk. We warmly invite you to join us.

Date | August 8 (Sat), 2026

14:00 ~ Artist Talk (Guest : Tadasu Fujii (Professor, Tokyo Zokei University))

15:00 ~ 16:00 Reception (Light refreshments and drinks provided)

Venue | ART FACTORY Jonanjima 1F Art Storage

Guest Profile | Tadasu Fujii

Born in Yamaguchi Prefecture in 1970. Graduated from the Faculty of Letters, Kyushu University.

From 1995 to 2007, he served as a curator for Ube City. His publications include *The Human Figure After Minimalism* and *Between Sculptors and Materials*, among others.

He is currently Professor at Tokyo Zokei University and a steering committee member of the Research Association for the Survey and Conservation of Outdoor Sculpture.

Related Links

Tomohiro Kato Website: <https://www.tomohirokato.com/>

Tomohiro Kato Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/tomohirokato/>

TEZUKAYAMA GALLERY: <https://tezukayama-g.com/artists/tomohiro-kato/>

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<https://gallery1045.com/archives/location/art-factory-jonanjima>