



acoya with lights by SALIOT 2018

PRESS RELEASE

13 (Sat) – 31 (Wed)

October 2018, Tokyo

# acoya

A pearl, it loses its life to give birth to beauty



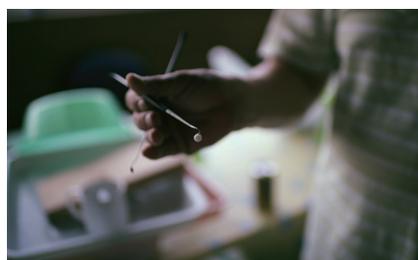
## In 2018, new tales of Acoya Pearls will be presented to the world

With a history of 1900 years, the beautiful and mysterious Acoya Pearls of Japan have had deep connections with people's hearts since time immemorial. Pearls are "beauty born from the sacrifice of life"... As such, they represent something fundamentally different from the Western sense of eternal beauty as symbolized by unchanging diamonds and gems. Their beauty is that of fleeting yet perpetually flowing life. "The embodiment of eternally and perpetually flowing life forces, like the flow of itself." This is the foundation of our philosophy of beauty, and the essence of Acoya Pearls. This life is born spontaneously from the sea. It is a beautiful fragment, ever on the verge of disappearing.

Collaborating with the best creative talents, 'Acoya' project pursues unique approaches in various fields with art and design to draw out the secret stories buried inside these forgotten treasures, thereby creating new sources of value and new markets for them. At the same time, these creations also explore relationships between the sea, the forest, and nature, thereby seeking to revive the beauty of the waters in and around Nagasaki's Ōmura Bay, which is also known as the "Koto Sea," after the traditional Japanese stringed instrument. They aspire to the protection of the natural environment, and a symbiosis between nature, humans, and the economy.

"Acoya"... committed to pearls based on a philosophy of symbiosis between nature + history/tradition + culture + the economy, now and 100 years into the future.

acoya: [acoyapearl.com](http://acoyapearl.com)



# SALIOT × acoya in DESIGNART TOKYO 2018

DESIGNART  
TOKYO

DESIGNART  
FESTIVAL



## Lights, Music, Installation and Art jewelry... New Tales of Acoya Pearls has started in 2018

By combining acoya pearl works by nineteen artists from Europe and Japan with SALIOT lighting, ancient memories pertaining to pearls have been revived and woven together into various stories within the space of SALIOT Gallery. Though world famous today, acoya pearls have their timeless origins in Japan's gently nourishing seas and richly expressive seasons. It is from the country's rich oceans and natural world that the pearls' colors are born. Light gives the pearls their brilliance and allows us to see their varied expressions. That light will be directed by SALIOT. As the culmination of MinebeaMitsumi's refined technology, SALIOT will deftly fill the space with rich expressions.

The story of this event begins with an installation created for the pearls by Holland-based artist Chikako Watanabe. Music has been composed by Umitaro Abe in order to revive the pearls' and light's ancient memories. Art jewelry, performances, and lectures will be just some of the ways stories about the pearls and light will be woven together at SALIOT Gallery.



SALIOT Gallery

MinebeaMitsumi has developed "SALIOT" (Smart Adjustable Light for the Internet Of Things) as new LED lighting, which can adjust brightness, horizontal and vertical direction of light, and light distribution angle through motorized control of distance between light emitting diode and lens has been cultivated through the production of LED backlight for smartphone by the application of thin optical design technologies and plastic injection molding, by smartphone through the development and implementation of software applying wireless technologies on a proprietary basis.

SALIOT: [www.saliot.com](http://www.saliot.com)

# CHIKAKO WATANABE

× acoya

with lights by SALIOT

13 (Sat) – 31 (Wed) October 2018

Special event/Opening

Lecture: A Journey Through the Memories of Pearls

13th (Sat) October, 18:30 –



Travelling from Holland to Nagasaki, artist Chikako Watanabe has taken “A Journey Through the Memories of Pearls.” What did she find there?

Watanabe uses a unique artistic method to allow us see the “memories that used to be there.” Since memories are linked to actual existences, even if something that used to be there is no longer so, those hidden stories can be translated into something that can be felt with the five senses, thereby giving birth to new stories and new life.

Existence is composed of layers of memories... Watanabe layers memories and the present, revealing for us the possibility of new stories and new existences. During this lecture, Watanabe will talk about her artistic activities in Holland and her book “NETTING AIR from the low land,” which was published this year.



## CHIKAKO WATANABE

Born in Kariya city, Aichi prefecture. In 1992, she graduated from the Department of Crafts in the Faculty of Fine Arts at the Kyoto City University of the Arts with a degree in ceramics. In 1994, she graduated from the Graduate School of Arts of the same university with a Master's in ceramics. In 1998, she graduated from Sandberg institut, Amsterdam, in 2002, she graduated from Rijksakademie. Since shifting her base to Holland in 1995, she has used art as a medium to explore foreign countries, cultures, and communities, producing various types of work around the idea of “learning from local peoples.”

[www.chikahome.nl](http://www.chikahome.nl)



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19 (Fri) – 31 (Wed) October 2018

Special event  
“Music for Pearl”  
Live Performance by Umitaro Abe  
with saxophone Shuntarou Oishi

27th (Sat) October, 18:30 –



Photo by Ryo Mitamura

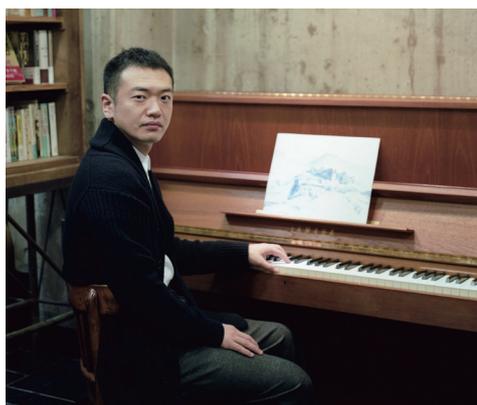


Photo by Takashi Homma

### UMITARO ABE

Umitaro Abe is a Japanese composer and multi-instrumentalist. He has been working tirelessly in a range of fields such as theatre, film, TV drama and collaboration with various creators, besides performance in solo and ensemble style. He has released 5 CD albums and every album has been highly acclaimed for his unique viewpoint for field-recording, liberated ensemble style based on classic or various compositions of sounds.  
[www.umitaroabe.com](http://www.umitaroabe.com)

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19 (Fri) – 31 (Wed) October 2018

## Special event “Drinking Light,” Performance by Shuhei Ohata

19,20,26,27 (Fri, Sat), October 2018, 19:30–20:30



Tama, a ball. In ancient times, the souls of things were thought to take the form of invisible spirits that are the fountainhead of all life. The spirits take up residence in physical objects and the flesh, and can leave those vessels at any time and freely move around. As they were imagined as spherical in shape, both the spirits and the objects they occupied were called “tama.” These “tama” glow a pale white. Pearls were known as “shiratama” (white tama), and were considered to be mystical life spirits from the sea. They also glowed pale white. People thought them as a type of “tama,” as embodiments of the kami (gods).

In ancient Japan, the kami did not have a specific form. They appeared from out of the darkness and took up residence in some object . . . kami incarnate. Formless kami resided in shiratama, and danced with the female shamans.

Drinking Light. Shuhei Ohata’s work regards the invisible entities that exist as particles adrift upon wavelengths of light as a type of kami, and takes them into the body. It is an act of absorbing life into oneself. This light also resides within pearls. Ohata’s work asks us, modern humans, to think about the invisible kami that we have forgotten.



### SHUHEI OHATA

In 2001, he completed a graduate degree at Tokyo Zokei University. His main exhibitions include: *Criterion 59* (Art Tower Mito, Ibaraki, 2004), *Arks Project* (Former Sannomaru Ibaraki Prefectural Office, Ibaraki, 2008), *Brand New Valentine* (Mitsubishi Estate Artium, Fukuoka, 2010), *Barocco: Baroque Pearl Jewelry Exhibition* (The Museum of Arts and Crafts, Itami, Hyogo, 2012), *Lumière* (Nakanoshima Banks de sign de >, Osaka, 2015), *Drinking Light* (The Classica Omotesando, Tokyo, 2016), and others.



### AYATO TAKEDA. RURIAN INC.

Not only did the glass studio located in central Nagasaki city help restore the glass products or the stained glasses in the World Heritage Sites in Japan such as the Basilica of the Twenty-Six Holy Martyrs of Japan or Chusonji-Temple Golden Room, but it successfully revived a glass decanter exclusively for cold sake called “Nagasaki Chirori,” which was being used in the town almost 400 years ago but long-forgotten since then. The beauty of Rurian’s glass products has been attracting people domestically and internationally.

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some works of art jewelry



© BCXSY



© pe/ah



© Atsuko Ito



© Jiro Kamata



© Nina Sajet



© Philip Sajet

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## Participating Creators

Umitaro ABE, BCXSY, Hilde De Decker, Yu-Chun Chen, Atsuko Ito, Jeanette Jansen, Jiro Kamata, Konishi Jun, Mikiko Minewaki, Shuhei Ohata, Emilie Pallard & Niels Heymans, Annelies Planteydt, PE/AH, Ulrich Reithofer, Nina Sajet, Philip Sajet, Ayato Takeda, Taro, Chikako Watanabe, Saya Yamagishi

## Period

2018.10.13 (Sat) – 10.31 (Wed)

Open everyday

2018.10.13 (Sat) – 10.31 (Wed)

CHIKAKO WATANABE × acoya with lights by SALIOT

2018.10.19 (Fri.) – 10.31 (Wed)

acoya with lights by SALIOT

## Opening Lecture/Live

2018.10.13 (Sat) 18:30 –

Lecture “A Journey Through the Memories of Pearls”

by Chikako Watanabe

2018.10.27 (Sat) 18:30 –

Live Performance “Music for Pearl”

by Umitaro Abe

## Open Hours

10:30 – 20:30 Mon. – Fri.

14:00 – 20:30 Sat. and Sun.

\*10.13 (Sat) 18:30 – Chikako Watanabe Lecture

\*10.27 (Sat) 18:30 – Umitaro Abe Concert

## Venue

SALIOT Gallery

1F Nitten Mita Bldg, 3-12-14, Mita, Minato-ku, Tokyo, Japan

## Admission

Free

## Contact

C& Chitose Ohchi : C[at]chiandheart.com

Corporate Communications Office:

saliot@minebeamitsumi.com

Phone: +81-(0)3-6758-6703



SALIOT × acoya  
DESIGNART TOKYO 2018



SALIOT/Minebeamitsumi Inc.  
Sales Inquiry Lighting Solution Product Sales  
Management Dept.

# acoya

Cooperation



Kingdom of the Netherlands

invitation photo/graphic design  
Kumi Hiroi



acoya Production  
C&: candheart.com