

October 7, 2026

直島新美術館

NAOSHIMA NEW MUSEUM OF ART

New Exhibition for Winter 2026

Kei Imazu & Bagus Pandega: “Currents without Anchors”

Opens December 12, 2026



Kei Imazu, *Kuroshio* (2026) (detail), 310x1,600 cm, oil on canvas

The Naoshima New Museum of Art (Director: Miki Akiko) has partial exhibition changeovers in spring and winter 2026 in keeping with the seasonal theme of “Flow, Recurrence, Rebirth.” Following the summer changeover, the museum will next present an exhibition of works by Kei Imazu & Bagus Pandega from Saturday, December 12, 2026.

“Currents without Anchors” is the first full museum exhibition by Kei Imazu (born in Yamaguchi Prefecture, 1980) and Bagus Pandega (born in Jakarta, 1985), an artist duo currently based in Bandung, Indonesia. They conceived the exhibition by reflecting on the connections between the Setouchi region and Indonesia, two places defined by their archipelagic environments surrounded by sea.

Through concepts like currents, purification and preservation, destruction and regeneration, it attempts to visualize the movement of resources across the sea, the expansion of desire, and the disasters and memories that then result from that. Past, present, and future, along with myth and historical fact, all intersect and overlap in a space evocative of underwater life and forests. From a vast amount of driftwood that shifts in the light like waves to a large painting, and a sound sculpture, the highly varied body of works connects with the natural materials, forming a giant, breathing living organism, and inviting the viewer to reflect deeply on the environment in which they live and on the state of the world.

*"Currents without Anchors" is scheduled to be on view until 2028.

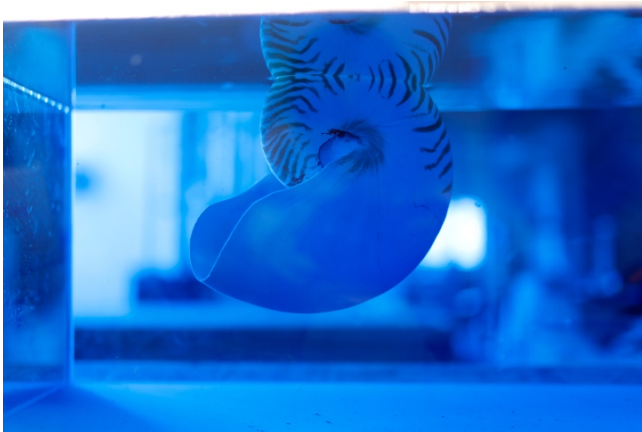
Media Contact

Fukutake Foundation | Business Planning Dept., Public Relations and Promotion Section

Email: press@fukutake-artmuseum.jp

Benesse
Art Site
Naoshima

October 7, 2026



Left: Bagus Pandega, *Leach* (2026) (detail). Right: simulated image of Kei Imazu & Bagus Pandega exhibition



Kei Imazu, *Kuroshio* (2026), 310 × 1,600 cm, oil on canvas

Artist Statement

“Currents without Anchors” is an installation in which painting, machinery, plants, water, copper, light, and sound respond to one another, circulating as a single, breathing ecosystem. Here, “current” carries multiple meanings: ocean currents, the flow of water, electrical currents, the flow of information, and the present moment we inhabit.

The sunken ships depicted on the seabed in Imazu’s monumental painting are human-made objects once used for warfare and the transport of resources. Today, they have become ecosystems inhabited by corals and fish, as well as sites for diving. At the same time, the petroleum fuel, copper-based anti-corrosion paint, and metals they contain are remnants of war that continue to affect the marine environment. Nature does not erase human history; it incorporates its traces, transforming them into new ecosystems. In Pandega’s copper-plating apparatus, copper—a material with a long industrial history in Naoshima—is continuously moved by an electrical current, triggering a reaction that causes the lights of trees floating overhead to flicker. The biological signals of mangroves, which inhabit the brackish waters between land and sea, activate sound and moving images, making the plants themselves agents involved in the work’s transformation. Humans can design this system, but they cannot fully control it.

Rather than treating humans and nature as opposing forces, “Currents without Anchors” reveals that human history, war, technology, minerals, plants, and the sea all exist within the same vast cycle. Across the sea that connects Naoshima and Indonesia, the past does not end; it continues to flow through the present, carried by matter and life.

Kei Imazu & Bagus Pandega

Media Contact

Fukutake Foundation | Business Planning Dept., Public Relations and Promotion Section
Email: press@fukutake-artmuseum.jp

October 7, 2026

Artist Profiles

Kei Imazu was born in Yamaguchi Prefecture in 1980 and is currently based in Bandung, Indonesia. She delves into vast image archives from the internet era to archaeologically reconstruct fragmented digital spaces. Based on this research, she uses 3D renderings and digital sketches to build preliminary sketches, and then employs CGI, Unreal Engine, and 3D printing to create paintings rooted in intuition and physical sensation. Since relocating to Indonesia in 2018, Imazu has engaged in layered explorations of the archipelago's myths and oral traditions, its complex colonial past, and Japan's wartime involvement in the country. In recent years, her practice has expanded to encompass moving image, sculpture, and immersive installations through solo exhibitions at Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery and Museum MACAN in Jakarta.



Bagus Pandega was born in Jakarta in 1985 and is currently based in Bandung. His work explores historical and present-day resource extraction, from the spice trade of the sixteenth century to the palm oil and nickel used in batteries. He employs DIY/hacker approaches to create devices that combine familiar technologies, plants, rare earth minerals, and musical instruments. His installations respond to the presence of humans and other hyper-localized environmental changes, and initiate chemical reactions and activate machines that produce sound and movement. Pandega holds an MFA from the Bandung Institute of Technology. Recent years have seen him broadening the scope of his activities with solo exhibitions at the Kunsthalle Basel and the Swiss Institute.

Exhibition Opening Day (December 12, 2026)

Following the preview viewing in the morning of Saturday, December 12, 2026, the exhibition will open to the general public from noon. The following events will also take place. Unless otherwise specified, all events will be conducted in Japanese.

■ Schedule for Saturday, December 12 (TBC)

12 p.m. Museum opens

1 p.m. Opening remarks and introduction to exhibits (venue: Gallery 1, 1F)

2–4 p.m. Artist talks and others

Venue: Naoshima New Museum of Art & CAFE (multipurpose cafe space)

Moderator: Miki Akiko (Director, Naoshima New Museum of Art)

Free of charge

Timetable (TBC)

2 p.m. Kei Imazu & Bagus Pandega (with English-Japanese consecutive interpretation, TBC)

3 p.m. Talk and reading by Okazaki Kenjiro and Park Kyongmi

4 p.m. End

4 p.m. Mixer (venue: Naoshima New Museum of Art & CAFE)

Okazaki Kenjiro book signing (TBC)

Media Contact

Fukutake Foundation | Business Planning Dept., Public Relations and Promotion Section

Email: press@fukutake-artmuseum.jp

October 7, 2026

■Museum Closure for Exhibition Changeover

Naoshima New Museum of Art will be closed in its entirety, including the café, from Tuesday, November 24 to Friday, December 11, 2026. The museum will reopen at noon on Saturday, December 12, and &CAFE will reopen on Sunday, December 13, 2026.

Works by the following artists will remain on display until the winter closure:

N. S. Harsha (&CAFE, 1F)
Martha Atienza (Gallery 1, 1F)
Do Ho Suh (Gallery 2, B1F)
Aida Makoto, Takashi Murakami, Okazaki Kenjiro (Gallery 3, B2F)
Cai Guo-Qiang (Gallery 4, B2F)
Sanitas Pradittasnee (outdoors)
Shitamichi Motoyuki's Setouchi "Yoichi Midorikawa" Museum (entrance)
indieguerillas(Library Project, B1F)

Public Programs

All events are conducted in Japanese unless otherwise specified.

■Workshops

Flower Casting Workshop

Create a flower relief inspired by Pannaphan Yodmanee's work *Aftermath*, and explore yourself and the world from a fresh perspective through the art.

Date/Time: Saturday, October 24, 2026, 1–2:30 p.m.

Venue: Naoshima New Museum of Art &CAFE

Eligibility: elementary school students and older (children in 3rd grade or below must be accompanied by guardian)

Free of charge (with admission ticket for the museum)

Capacity: 10 (registration required)

Details available here: <https://benesse-artsite.jp/news/20261001-3606.html>

Meditation: *The Sound of Naoshima*

Experience a simple meditation session at *SILENCE*, the stupa of Sanitas Pradittasnee's artwork *The Sound of Naoshima*, and spend a moment calming your mind and connecting with nature as you listen to the sounds of bells and the wind.

Dates/Times: Tuesday, November 3, 2026, Sunday, November 22, and Sunday, December 20; all sessions 9:15–9:45 a.m. (content is the same each session)

Venue: *The Sound of Naoshima* (outdoor artwork at Naoshima New Museum of Art)

Eligibility: ages 15 and up; must be able to understand instructions in Japanese

Free of charge (separate admission ticket required to enter the museum)

Capacity: 5 per session (registration required)

Please note that the event may be cancelled due to rain at the organizer's discretion.

Details available here: <https://benesse-artsite.jp/news/20261001-3608.html>

Media Contact

Fukutake Foundation | Business Planning Dept., Public Relations and Promotion Section

Email: press@fukutake-artmuseum.jp

October 7, 2026

Different Together! Collage Workshop

Inspired by Heri Dono and indieguerillas' collaboration work *Consciousness of Humanity: a Journey to the Center*, participants experience both the joys and the challenges of creating something together.

Date/Time: Saturday, November 7, 2026, 1–2:30 p.m.

Venue: Naoshima New Museum of Art & CAFE

Eligibility: elementary school students and older (children in 3rd grade or below must be accompanied by guardian)

Free of charge (with admission ticket for Naoshima New Museum of Art)

Capacity: 10 (registration required; first-come, first-served basis)

Details available here: <https://benesse-artsite.jp/news/20261001-3607.html>

■ Tours and Guided Events

Gallery Guidance

A short gallery introduction by museum staff provides insights into the exhibits.

Date/Times: every Wednesday, 10:15–10:30 a.m. / 2–2:25 p.m.

Venue: Naoshima New Museum of Art

Free of charge (with admission ticket for the museum)

Capacity: 10 per session (no registration required)

Please arrive at the museum reception counter before the scheduled tour start time.

Gallery Tour by Kids

Local children from Naoshima introduce the exhibits in their own words.

Dates/Times: from November (TBC)

Venue: Naoshima New Museum of Art

Free of charge (with admission ticket for the museum)

Capacity: 10 (no registration required)

Please visit the museum reception counter to join the tour.

Benesse Art Site Naoshima Presents The Naoshima Meeting 2026–2028

The Naoshima Meeting is a forum for examining and discussing the relationships between art, architecture, local regions, community, the environment, the zeitgeist, and society from the perspective of the picturesque island. Originally held in 1992, the Naoshima Meeting will return as a series of five sessions from November 2026 through 2028 to mark forty years since the inception of Benesse Art Site Naoshima.

Since the mid-1980s, Benesse Art Site Naoshima has created a unique and internationally rare place, establishing a constellation of museums and art facilities amidst the natural scenery and traditional lifestyle of an island in Japan's Seto Inland Sea. Over the course of nearly four decades, Naoshima has undergone a remarkable transformation into a site for experiencing contemporary art and architecture, attracting large numbers of visitors from within Japan and beyond.

Media Contact

Fukutake Foundation | Business Planning Dept., Public Relations and Promotion Section

Email: press@fukutake-artmuseum.jp

October 7, 2026

However, the core purpose of these activities is by no means merely to turn the island into a destination for tourists and consumers, but rather to create a place that, through the **sybiosis** of nature, architecture, art, and community, critically engages with existing values and reflects on what it means to live well, and to develop alongside the local community via interaction between locals and visitors.

The relaunch of the Naoshima Meeting aims to return to the initiative's roots and establish a robust platform for lively discussion and reflection that is particular to Naoshima, a laboratory for ideas and sensory experiences. It also aims to foster intellectual and creative exchange, disseminating from Naoshima out into the wider world. The Naoshima Meeting will be held across five sessions in various formats, including talks and symposiums, featuring Japanese and overseas experts from different fields in accordance with the theme each time. (Further details will be announced after they are finalized.)

The inaugural event sees Fukutake Soichiro, long a leading figure in the development of Benesse Art Site Naoshima, joins Tadao Ando, who is responsible for ten architectural projects on the island, for a conversation on their history of collaboration and shared endeavors. Benesse Art Site Naoshima has continued to question existing values and pursue the true meaning of wealth. This first session of the new Naoshima Meeting offers a rare opportunity to hear directly from two key people closely involved in Benesse Art Site Naoshima about its origins and their personal aspirations. We look forward to welcoming you to the event.

The Naoshima Meeting 2026–2028

#1: From an Island to the World, Fukutake Soichiro and Tadao Ando Look Back on Collaboration, Joint Action, and Challenging Endeavors

Date/Time: Saturday, November 14, 2026 / 1:30–3:15 p.m.

Venue: Benesse House Park Hall

Speakers: Fukutake Soichiro (Honorary Adviser, Benesse Corporation/ Honorary Chairman, Fukutake Foundation), Tadao Ando (architect)

Moderators: Miki Akiko (Director, Naoshima New Museum of Art / International Artistic Director, Benesse Art Site Naoshima), Kasahara Ryoji (Director-General, Fukutake Foundation)

Free of charge

This event will be conducted in Japanese.

Capacity: 100 (registration required; first-come, first-served basis)

Organizer: Benesse Art Site Naoshima (Benesse Corporation and Fukutake Foundation)

Details available here: <https://benesse-artsite.jp/news/20261001-3610.html>



Left: Fukutake Soichiro. Right: Tadao Ando Photo: Kinji Kanno

Media Contact

Fukutake Foundation | Business Planning Dept., Public Relations and Promotion Section

Email: press@fukutake-artmuseum.jp

Notes to Editors

About Naoshima New Museum of Art

Opened in May 2025, the Naoshima New Museum of Art (Director: Miki Akiko) is located on a hilltop near the Honmura district of Naoshima. Designed by Tadao Ando as his tenth architectural project for Benesse Art Site Naoshima, the museum presents and collects significant works by artists and groups from across Asia, including newly commissioned site-specific installations. The museum occupies a three-story building with four gallery spaces, a café, and outdoor exhibition areas. Unlike other museums within Benesse Art Site Naoshima, which are primarily dedicated to permanent displays, it combines permanent installations with exhibitions that partially change over time, offering visitors new encounters with art on each visit. In addition to exhibitions, the museum hosts talks, workshops, and other public programs that foster dialogue and exchange among visitors from Japan and around the world.

Key Information

Naoshima New Museum of Art (3299-73 Naoshima, Kagawa, Japan)

Opening Hours: 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. (last entry: 4 p.m.)

Closed: Mondays (open if Monday is a national holiday and closed the following day)

May be closed irregularly on other days. Check the Benesse Art Site Naoshima website calendar to confirm.

Parking: 20 cars, 15 bicycles (free of charge)

Website: <https://benesse-artsite.jp/art/nnmoa.html>

Email: info-newmuseum@fukutake-artmuseum.jp

Tickets

Tickets for new exhibitions on sale from 10 a.m., Friday, October 9, 2026

Tickets: ¥1,500 online (advance booking for specific dates) / ¥1,700 on-site / free for 15 and under

Purchase from the Benesse Art Site Naoshima website:

<https://benesse-artsite.jp/en/general-information.html>

About Benesse Art Site Naoshima

Benesse Art Site Naoshima is the collective name for all art-related activities conducted by Benesse Corporation and Fukutake Foundation on the islands of Naoshima and Teshima in Kagawa Prefecture and Inujima in Okayama Prefecture. Our fundamental aim is to create significant spaces by bringing contemporary art and architecture into resonance with the pristine nature of the Seto Inland Sea, a landscape with a rich cultural and historical fabric. Through contacts with art and nature, sceneries, and inhabitants of the Seto Inland Sea region, we seek to inspire visitors to reflect on the meaning of Benesse Group's philosophy: Well-Being. In all our ongoing activities, we are committed to fostering a relationship of mutual growth between art and the region, aiming to make a positive contribution to the local communities.

History of Benesse Art Site Naoshima

Please visit <https://benesse-artsite.jp/en/about/history.html>.

Media Contact

Fukutake Foundation | Business Planning Dept., Public Relations and Promotion Section

Email: press@fukutake-artmuseum.jp