

Yuko Mohri Wins Bacon Prize at Art Fair Tokyo

BY DARRYL WEE | MARCH 10, 2014



Johnnie Walker (left) and Bacon Prize winner Yuko Mohri (right).
(Courtesy Art Fair Tokyo and waitingroom)

TOKYO — Amid the rash of exhibition openings, receptions, and parties that unfolded throughout Tokyo during the busiest weekend of its visual arts calendar, the city's art cognoscenti gathered at the Peninsula Hotel in Yurakucho Saturday night, March 8, to honor Art Fair Tokyo's "best in show," so to speak.

Johnnie Walker, art patron and director of nonprofit foundation A.R.T., awarded the Bacon Prize to artist Yuko Mohri, who was showing a series of whimsical kinetic sculptures made from electronic components, lights, solar panels, and other objects at the "Art, Media and I, Tokyo" section, curated by Yukiko Shikata.

The Bacon Prize, which takes its name from Francis Bacon, the now deceased Irish wolfhound that used to belong to Walker, included a trophy designed by fellow Japanese artist Teppei Kaneuji and a cash prize of \$5000.

Mohri's gallerist, Tomoko Ashikawa of waitingroom, seemed surprised but understandably delighted at the decision. "We really didn't expect to receive the prize, so it was a big surprise. Yuko participated in an art fair for the first time at Art Taipei last November, and this was also her first time at Art Fair Tokyo. We're happy that new media pieces like Yuko's works have been well received at these fairs."

Even before the announcement of the prize, Mohri already had a rather busy year lined up in front of her. Foreign recognition has also been forthcoming — she will participate in a three-person show in Manila this May, and the Vancouver Biennial in June. Back home in Japan, she will also exhibit at the inaugural Sapporo International Art Festival and the Aomori Contemporary Art Center this July.

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