

## **1. Choosing Art as a Force that Shapes the Value of Space**

Many of the works that are treated as “art” in Japan would not always be considered art by international standards. In many cases, they are consumed primarily as interior elements used to decorate and enhance a space.

Perhaps more than ninety percent of people in Japan do not perceive art as something to be contemplated or collected, but rather as something that helps make a space feel comfortable and pleasant. This, in itself, is not something that should be denied.

At the same time, however, there are people who approach art as a collection—those we call art collectors. In reality, it is this relatively small group that sustains art as a cultural practice.

Unfortunately, what is commonly perceived as “good” or “beautiful” does not necessarily coincide with what collectors recognize as valuable.

Behind such differences lie elements that cannot be measured on the surface alone—authorship, context, the spirit of the time, and criticality.

What Japan needs today may not be to consume art merely as decoration, but to cultivate a perspective that understands art as a cultural asset—one that contains ideas and time within it.

Rather than simply asking whether we like a work or not, we should consider what meaning it holds within society and history—and recognize that, as a result, it can become something that holds lasting value.

I believe this understanding should be carefully nurtured through architectural spaces and places with a high degree of public engagement.