



## 'Creating an Era' through art.

Shunichiro Morita

Shunichiro Morita, gallerist, born in 1954 in Kanagawa prefecture. After 10 years as a trading company employee opened Gallery Kazuki in 1991, later renamed to Gallery MORYTA in 2005. Involved in numerous promotional and branding projects for local communities, companies and organisations. AFAF director. Resides in Fukuoka prefecture.

Booth No.  
N29

## Gallery MORYTA + Gallery Kazuki

## Encounters are a great art

Shunichiro Morita x Hitomi Kazuki  
(AFAF Founders)



Kazuki Torigoe 「don't」 2023, Mixed Media no. 100 F

### Encounter with Butoh dancer Kazuo Ohno

**Kazuki** - Leaving Fukuoka and moving to new lands in Kyoto and Tokyo, I began to transform my body. Through the Kyoto Arts Center's support program, I was given a platform as an artist, and I delved into the production and performance of stage arts. Watching Kazuo Ohno walk, raise one hand, witnessing that dance with a century of history. It was real art. Overseas actors and dancers transformed into birds, butterflies, flowers, and all living things, shouting out all the vitality of life. "Voice" took on a body, and 'gestures' became dance.

### Art is sustenance, to not loose yourself

**Kazuki** - I learned art from the stains on the walls. From the ever-changing clouds I learned the power of infinite change. From plants that absorb light, I learned the courage to put down roots in the dark ground. I call the place where each of these natural forces live "the field of art". This is a place where each person's true existence is questioned.  
**Morita** - Art is interesting because there is no single answer. In Japan today, there is only similarity and superficial expression, competing for personal gain, and I feel there is little difference between art and entertainment. Art is supposed to be a force that descends within.

### Encounters are a great art.

**Morita** - What is important to me is to "create an era" through art. Even things that would be embarrassing in everyday life seem doable with art. That is why I seek art that moves me

to the point of overwhelming me.

**Kazuki** - Emotions are like wounds. Because you are no longer that person you were yesterday. Whether it happens or not. This time, starting with Kyushu-ha I am looking forward to seeing Season Lao, Kazuki Torigoe, Uzo Hiramatsu, Susumu Takashima, and others.

**Morita** - Going to overseas art fairs and witnessing people from different countries coming together, sharing information, and deepening their connections while recognising the same values across borders, made me feel envious. The important thing is to not be confined by existing viewpoints and to be able to assert one's own intuitive beliefs. You can confidently gather supporters, or even accomplices. If your intuition is not wrong, you might even be able to make a significant impact on the times. This is what makes art so interesting.



Uzo Hiramatsu 「Swaying to Blue」 2022. Ink, pigment on canvas 96×80cm

## Art is sustenance, to not loose yourself — Hitomi Kazuki

Hitomi Kazuki, reader/gallerist, born in 1958 in Fukuoka Prefecture. Opened "Sea Viewing World - Small Gallery" in Fukuoka city in 1990. In 1991 opened Gallery Kazuki. In 1997, began performing arts and production/performance activities. Opened Gallery Kazuki in Ginza in 2011. Resides in Tokyo.

Information: "Esplanade Exhibition / Now and Me" (Hitomi Kazuki / Poetic Experiment) is scheduled to be performed at Saitama Kaikan, Saitama International Arts Festival 2023 on October 8th and November 4th.

AFAF founders Gallery Morita, Shunichiro Morita, and Gallery Kazuki, Hitomi Kazuki exhibit jointly.

Kazuki used to run Gallery Kazuki with Morita in Fukuoka, but moved to Kyoto and then to Tokyo in order to push forward as a performer. We ask the two about their history and what art is all about.

### Art & Gallerists

How did your gallery start?

**Morita** - In 1991, Kazuki and I opened "Gallery Kazuki" in Kayaki street in Akasaka, Chuo-ku, Fukuoka City. Introducing the works created by artists was a surprise to me, completely different from the work I had fostered until that point within the trading company.

**Kazuki** - At that time, it was like an opera where people from all walks of life sang and laughed. The space with the piano was an art salon where painters, musicians, poets, stage writers, film directors, and all kinds of people interacted. It was a place where curiosity abounded, with activities such as radio broadcasts and CD productions involving customers and the media.

**Morita** - Before I opened my gallery, I visited many galleries in Paris. At the time, the galleries casually displayed Utrillo, Kisting, and others, but I didn't really connect with them. It was not until several years later that I realised that the only one I thought was good was Basquiat. The people involved with him moved and enhanced the value of Basquiat. Witnessing this, I learned that "miracles happen in art". At the time, I could afford to buy his work if I added up my retirement savings and such. But I did not possess the capacity to go beyond my previous self. To encounter a work of art that moves you is to accept your bare self. There is a part of me that excessively hopes that gallery visitors will grasp such a sense of themselves.

The gallery is a theater, the works silent actors, and I stand there as the director.

**Kazuki** - Gallerists are the artists' producers and managers. I opened Gallery Kazuki and ran it as my sensibility dictated, and years passed, I was beginning to lose my sense of direction. One day, I realised that the voice has a body, and that the same word has a completely different meaning and nuance in my body depending on the sound and resonance of the voice. It was a feeling I had never experienced before. I wanted to know everything that was happening, and the aliens (desire for expression) inside of me broke through my body and appeared. I had no choice but to leap out of the gallery.

**Morita** - Kazuki is both a gallerist and an artist. I believe this is what made her grow. Expression is not a superficial skill, but a way of life in itself. She is a gallerist who touches the creativity of art, enjoys the soul-stirring emotion of it, and conveys it to others with passion. I noticed her talent as an artist.

**Kazuki** - The space is the product of a relationship of mutual creation, and so is my body. There, what is called art is neither in the work of the artist nor on the part of the owner, but at the intersection of our mutual gaze. I have called it a gallery.

### GALLERY DATA

Gallery MORYTA 3-9-28, Akasaka, Chuo-ku, Fukuoka Tel. 092-716-1032 <https://g-morita.com>  
Gallery Kazuki 605 Okuno Building, 1-9-8 Ginza, Chuo-ku, Tokyo Tel. 03-5579-9617 <https://g-kazuki.com>