

## ARTICLES

### Agency for Cultural Affairs' Budget Remains Stable for 2006

The Agency for Cultural Affairs' annual budget for this year has been announced. The Agency will head into financial year 2006 (which begins from 1 April) with 100.6 billion yen (AUD\$1.15 billion), 0.9% less than they did last year. Seen in the light of a national budget cut of 3%, it is not as bad as was feared. And considering the gigantic increases to the Agency's budget in recent years, the slight decrease seems to suggest that the government intends to maintain this level of funding. It is important to remember that in 2005 the Agency had just 80.8 billion yen (AUD\$927 million).

While cuts have been made more or less uniform across the board there have been a number of increases. Within the Cultural Arts Creation (Bunka Geijutsu Sozo) Plan, in which there are four pillars (support for: "top level" performing arts; film production and promotion; fostering artistic talent; and, acquainting children with culture) the fourth pillar, which aims to give children first hand experience of culture, has received an increase of 0.23 billion yen to a total of 5.46 billion yen (AUD\$62 million). Most of this money will go to

## OPPORTUNITIES

8th International Poster  
Triennial in Toyama  
2006 (Entries must be  
received by 20 March, 2006)

Organized by The Museum of  
Modern Art, Toyama. Entries  
must be no smaller than  
36.4cm x 51.5cm and no  
larger than 180cm x 120cm.  
Two categories: for published  
and unpublished posters. First  
prize worth 1 million yen.

[The Organizing Committee of  
IPT2006](#), The Museum of Modern  
Art, Toyama, 1-16-12  
Nishinakano-machi, Toyama-shi, Tel:  
076-421-7111 Fax: 076-491-3230

Akira Kurosawa Memorial  
Short Film Competition  
2006 (Entries due 30 June,  
2006)

Competition for films up to 10  
minutes in length made on  
the theme "life". Films may  
live-action, animation, CG,  
narrative, or documentary.  
Over 3 million yen in prize  
money available.

[Akira Kurosawa Memorial Short Film  
Competition](#) Office, c/o Kurosawa

## WHAT'S ON

To the Human  
Future - Flight from  
the Dark Side  
25 February - 7 May,  
2006

A refreshingly topical  
exhibition from Art  
Tower Mito.

Responding directly  
to recent American  
military adventures,  
the exhibition brings  
together images,  
objects and poetry  
that seek to heighten  
awareness and  
understanding of the  
Other. Features

photos from Michael  
Light's 100 Suns  
book of A-bomb test  
pictures and a new  
fabric installation,  
*Paratrooper III* piece  
by Do-Ho Suh.

[Contemporary Art Center  
/ Gallery, Art Tower Mito](#)

Tatsuo Miyajima's  
"Fragile"

3 March - 8 April, 2006

performing arts, with 660 performances slated for schools and public halls across the country (last year there were 520 held, and in 2002 just 395).

Another large increase is for the new National Art Center, due to open in Roppongi during the 2006 financial year. The Center, which will be about two thirds rental space, has received 9.84 billion yen (AUD\$112.8 million), an increase of 1.11 billion. Unfortunately this increase has come at the expense of the four existing national art museums, whose operating budget has been cut by 0.79 billion to 14.13 billion yen (AUD\$162 million).

CONTACT DETAILS:

[Agency for Cultural Affairs](#)

## Increase Seen in Female Photographers at School and University Levels

The *Yomiuri Shimbun* recently reported that photography, which in Japan was once considered the realm of mechanically-minded men, has over the last few years become increasingly popular with young women. The shift is particularly apparent among high school and university students, with photo competitions and university photo department admissions now regularly dominated by girls. 79% of entries to the largest annual national high school photographic prize (Shashin Koshien, which is held in Hokkaido) were last year received from female students. In 1998 64% of entries were from girls. Meanwhile at the national high school cultural festival (Zenkoku Koko Sogo Bunka-sai) 20 of the 33

Film Studio, 3-2-1 Kirigaoka Midori-ku, Yokohama Kanagawa 226-0016, Tel: 045-922-0850, Fax: 045-922-0860

Japan Jewellery Festival 2006 (Booth payment required by 20 May, 2006) The Japan Jewellery Festival will be held 31 August through 2 September, 2006, at Tokyo Big Sight. 400 exhibitors and 18,000 visitors are expected. Designers, jewellery makers, wholesalers, exporters and importers, as well as their organizations, are invited to participate. Costs for booth hire available on website.

CMP Japan Co Ltd - [The JJF Secretariat Office](#), Kanda 91 Building, 1-8-3 Kaji-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Tel: 03-5296-1020, Fax: 03-5296-1018, E-mail: [JJF@cmpjapan.com](mailto:JJF@cmpjapan.com)

Central Glass International Architectural Design Competition (Entries due 10 July, 2006) Annual architecture competition. This year's theme is "Conversion of Existing Architecture for Living in the City." Entrants should choose an existing building and make a proposal for turning it into a residential facility. Judges

For his latest solo show, Miyajima has assembled web-like clusters of his trademark LED digits. As always, the digits flick backwards, from 9 to 1, at different speeds. When viewed from afar the apparently random formations of wire and digits, resemble colonies of coral. [SCAI the Bathhouse](#)

Tokyo-Berlin / Berlin-Tokyo 28 January - 7 May, 2006

An exhibition examining the cultural links between these two cities from the 1890s until the present.

Two early examples of contact are the "Der Sturm" exhibition of expressionist prints which took place in Tokyo in 1914 and the "Film und Foto" exhibition which brought Moholy-Nagy and the New

prize winners in the photo section were female. The shift is attributed in part to the Purikura (Print Club) craze that swept Japan in the 1990s. Purikura were digital photo booths set up at shop fronts and in game arcades where you could instantly create sheets of small photos of yourself and your friends. They were particularly popular with female primary school students, who, it seems, over the years gained from them a familiarity with photography as a medium for self expression.

Meanwhile, the arrival of, at first, cheap and easy to use disposable cameras, and then equally user-friendly digital cameras meant that an inclination towards machines was no longer a must for budding photographers. One of the first photographers to make use of instant cameras was Hiromix, who at the age of 24 won the conservative Kimura Ihee Award in 2000 with diary-like snap shots, many of herself. Hiromix became a role-model for young female photographers and her role in the current shift is significant.

As more of the Purikura generation move through high schools and then art schools and universities the number of female photographers and artists is bound to increase.

include Toyo Ito. Prize money is over 2 million yen in total. [Dept. of Central Glass International Architectural Design Competition 2005](#), Shinken-chiku-sha Co., Ltd., 2-31-2 Yushima, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 113-8501

14th CS Design Competition (Entries due 31 March, 2006)

Four part design competition for interior and facade decorations and displays, signage systems, vehicle decoration and experimental decoration. Prize money worth over 1 million yen. (Information available in Japanese only.)

[14th CS Design Competition](#), Nakagawa Chemical, 2-1-6 Higashi Nihonbashi, Chuo-ku, Tokyo

Photography artists to Tokyo as early as 1931. [Mori Art Museum](#)

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