The Japan Media Arts Festival is a comprehensive festival of media arts (media geijutsu) that honors outstanding works in the four divisions of art, entertainment, animation, and manga, as well as providing a platform for appreciation of the works that have won awards.

The Japan Media Arts Festival at Hyper Japan 2013

Friday 26—Sunday 28 July 2013 | Earls Court II, Earls Court

Admission: General Entry Ticket

SUGASAWA Taiji
Producer at Suidobashi Heavy Industry; involved in project from its inception. Key figure in public relations and advancing the project. Involved in collaboration project with other businesses and organizations.

KURATA Kogoro
Contemporary artist / creator of KURATAS

YOSHIZAKI Wataru
Engineer in robotics / operator of KURATAS

The KURATAS project was born in June 2010 from a simple desire on the part of artist KURATA Kogoro: “I want to ride on a giant robot, but it seems no one has made one for that purpose. I may as well build it myself.” Robot control engineer YOSHIZAKI Wataru subsequently joined the project, and after about two years in production, KURATAS was unveiled on July 29, 2012 before an audience of thousands attending Wonder Festival 2012 Summer at Makuhari Messe. 4m. tall and weighing 4t., KURATAS is truly a giant robot. The user sits in a cockpit and operates controls that move its 4 limbs and torso — and yes, it can walk. Its creators are currently improving KURATAS with the aim of mass-producing it.

Not only the scale of the robot astonishes, but the beauty of the details, particularly when viewed from the rear. Add to this the use of V-Sido control software, which permits full-body maneuvering via CG manipulation; an ultra-futuristic cockpit interface design; and overall, a marvelously executed blend of technologies and aesthetics.

Screening: Japan Media Arts Festival Animated Shorts 2013

Friday 26 July 2:30—3:30 p.m. | Main Stage, Earls Court II

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The program contents are Award-winning Works from the Japan Media Arts Festival 2013 Animation Division, Animated Short Category.

**Yonalure: Moment to Moment**
**NAKATA Ayaka, SAKITANI Yuki**
**Jury Selection** 7 min. 53 sec.

This animated work is a poem about the night. The ticking of a clock reverberates through the town. And just when it seems as if there is no moon rising tonight, a large, white globe appears. Looking behind you, you see it has round ears and a pointy nose. Then, all at once, the houses of the town begin to move. At this midnight moment, the moon in the sky is linked with the moon in your memory.

**Futon**
**MIZUSHIRI Yoriko**
**New Face Award** 6 min. 02 sec.

You crawl inside your futon and everything — from the memories in your mind to thoughts of the future, recalled sensations, sexuality — all melt together into a single pleasant feeling. In the futon, your body wanders around in search of sensation. The soft texture of this animated work was achieved by drawing images on paper and then incorporating them into the picture frame via tracing paper. *Futon* deals with the relationship between movement and the senses.

**Recruit Rhapsody**
**YOSHIDA Maho**
**Jury Selection** 7 min. 27 sec.

This short animation is about post-university job hunting. A very ordinary college student finds that her friends have recently begun to behave strangely; it turns out they are in the throes of 'job-hunt fever.' Without ever figuring out what it is really all about, the protagonist finds herself, too, sucked into the vortex of job recruitment Japanese-style.

**The Great Rabbit**
**WADA Atsushi**
**Excellence Award** 7 min. 12 sec.

This animated work, co-produced by the French companies Sacrebleu Productions and CaRTe bLaNChe, deals with the theme of disobedience. Among the characters are a group of children who stand in line clutching a large ball, a rabbit-like humanoid creature who helps with the ball, a small child with glasses who looks on, a marten-like animal who is out to get the ball, a bird who snatches away children's clothes, and a rabbit, enshrined in a household altar, who is constantly chewing on something. Depicting these figures and backgrounds with thin, 0.3-millimeter lines and faint, subdued colors, the work explores the nature of disobedience.

**Oh Willy...**
**Emma de SWAEF, Marc James ROELS**
**New Face Award** 16 min. 35 sec.

*Oh Willy...* is a stop-mot ion film made with puppets that were animated frame by frame on sets ranging from 10 x 10m to 2 x 2m for interiors. All props and characters were made out of wool and fabric. Forced to return to his naturist roots, Willy bungles his way into noble savagery. The filmmakers were inspired by Diane ARBUS's photos of people living in nudist colonies. The photos are as poetic as they are uncomfortably banal and confronting. The artists wanted to achieve the same tension between poetry and shockingly uncensored imagery by combining the wool with the theme of naturism and the question of what it means to live in a natural way.

**COMBUSTIBLE**
**OTOMO Katsuhiro**
**Grand Prize** 12 min. 43 sec.

Set in mid-18th-century Edo (the old name for Tokyo), COMBUSTIBLE centers on Owaka, a merchant's daughter, and her childhood friend Matsukichi. Though the two are attracted to each other, Matsukichi's family has disowned him because he wants to work as a fireman. But just as their relationship is starting to bloom, Owaka's family begins to move forward with plans to find her a husband. Unable to forget Matsukichi, in a fit of crazed passion Owaka causes a huge fire to break out, burning down the town. The two lovers happen to cross paths again in the midst of this blaze. The backdrop for this spectacle is one of the great fires that frequently occurred in the metropolis of Edo.