



Trolls in the Park 2026

# Open Call!

## Artwork Proposals for Town and Park

### Application Guidelines

## 【Purpose of Open Call】

*Trolls in the Park* is an international open-air art exhibition that has been held in Metropolitan Zempukuji Park in Sugunami-ku since 2002 under the theme of “encountering art in daily life” rather than in a museum. Since 2013, the event has expanded from Zempukuji Park into the surrounding neighborhood and JR Nishi-Ogikubo Station area, while also developing a range of expressive forms that include installation, performance and projects that uncover the history of the local area.

Trolls in the Park marks its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2026. From installations that encourage new ways of perceiving the natural park setting and charming urban spaces of Nishi-Ogikubo; to poetry, music and dance performances that embrace nature and encourage residents and passersby to join in the events under the vast sky; to workshops, exhibitions and plays in elementary schools that echo with the voices of children—we look forward to receiving proposals for artworks and projects that transcend existing genres.

## 【Theme】

### Illusory Sights, Phantom Echoes

#### 空目 空耳

Stains on the wall resemble a map of a distant country. The rustle of trees sounds like someone whispering...

**Sorame** [空目] refers to the sensation of seeing something that is not there, mistaking one thing for another, or glancing up at the sky from the corner of one’s eye. It can also mean turning a blind eye.

**Soramimi** [空耳] describes the feeling of hearing a voice or sound that does not exist, or mishearing words. It can also mean pretending not to hear.

Do these experiences reveal a wavering of the senses? A cognitive glitch? Or perhaps a message from another world?

Misreadings, illusions, phantom echoes, and imagined noises—things we try not to see or hear. And yet misunderstandings, assumptions, and the associations they trigger can also open rich creative avenues.

We invite proposals that stimulate the imagination—where the reality we had deemed certain begins to waver, and a door to another world opens.

# 【Call for Artworks】

## Outdoor

- A. Site-specific work in Metropolitan Zempukuji Park (installation, sculpture, architecture, etc.)
- B. Performance work in Metropolitan Zempukuji Park (performance, theater, dance, pantomime, music, etc.)

## Town area

- D. Site-specific/Performance work and projects in shops, galleries and on streets of the Nishi-Ogikubo and Zempukuji area
- F. Site-specific/Performance work, workshops, and other creative proposals that utilize the Momoi Daishi Elementary school

Open to the public: November 14 (Sat) and 15 (Sun)  
Children's workshops will be held primarily before the exhibition

※A combination of any of the above is also possible

# 【About the Exhibition】

**Name:** Trolls in the Park 2026 Contemporary Art Exhibition

**Organizers:** Trolls in the Park Organizing Committee

**Venues:** Metropolitan Zempukuji Park (vicinity of the upper pond) [Tokyo, Suginami Ward, Zempukuji 3-chome]

\*Metropolitan Zempukuji Park is a public park open to the public 24 hours a day (free admission).

MOMOI Daishi Elementary School, Nishi-Ogikubo area

**Date:** November 3 (Tue /Public holiday) - 23 (Mon/Public holiday), 2026

# 【Entry fee】

## Free entry

However, participating artists are required to pay an administration fee of 30,000 Japanese Yen following selection. (Refund after the end of the term unless there is a special condition such as violation of the Exhibition rules)

※No entry fee is required for those wishing to participate from overseas.

# 【Selection Process】

Exhibitors will be selected by the Organizing Committee through a primary screening based on applications, and through a secondary screening involving a review of applications in addition to interview presentations with candidates.

All exhibitors are expected to participate in the second screening (selection by interview) held **June 20 (Sat) and 21 (Sun)**.

※If you are unable to attend, please indicate this in the relevant section of the application form.

※The interview will be conducted in person, but for those living far away or otherwise unable to attend, it will be conducted online.

Please be sure to attend the "Trolls in the Park 2026 Kickoff Meeting" to be held after the exhibition is confirmed.

July 13 (Sun), 13:00~ Scheduled to combine real attendance

# 【Application deadline】

Applications must arrive no later than **May 25 (Mon), 2026**, sent either by email or post.

# 【Documents to be submitted】

Download the application form from the website.

<https://www.trollsinthepark.com/application/>

1. The official application form (1 sheet)
2. The official proposal form (1 sheet)
3. A summary of previous works and an artist profile  
(vertical layout on A4 paper / single-sided / freely designed / within 2 sheets).

\* Documents exceeding the specified number of 5 sheets will be excluded from the review of applications.

Please submit separate proposals when applying to more than one category.

## Address

By email: mail@trollsinthepark.com

By post: Trolls in the Park Organizing Committee Office  
4-2-10 Zempukuji Suginami Ku, 167-0041 Japan

## For applications sent by email

- When sending via email, please write “**Trolls 2026 Application**” in the subject box.
- The overall file size should be **within 5MB**.
- Please use the following titles for documents:
  - Application form → (applicant name) appli.pdf/docx
  - Proposal form → (applicant name) plan.pdf/docx
  - Previous works and profile → (applicant name) profile.pdf/docx
- In the case of sending separate sheets for the same document, please add a number to the filename: For example (applicant name) plan1.pdf/docx

## For applications sent by post

- Submitted documents will not be returned to applicants.
- Please refrain from using staples or plastic files when submitting applications.

# 【Requirements】

1. No restrictions are made based on age, nationality, or whether applications apply to individuals or groups.  
✖ However, in the case of applications by minors, written consent of the parent or guardian is required.
2. No restrictions apply to genre, materials, form or size of artwork. However, regardless of the category selected for your proposal, appropriate safety measures for the artwork and due consideration of the installation/presentation site are mandatory (please follow the provisions listed below).
3. Infringement of copyright or publicity rights of third parties, or representation contrary to public order or morality.

## ● Artwork Proposal: A & B

- Proposals are expected to make use of the characteristic culture, history and nature of Zempukuji Park, its facilities and the surrounding landscape. (Please apply with a rough plan of where you want your work to be installed within the park.)
- Due consideration should be given to maintaining the safety of park visitors and the preservation of the park's natural environment. (According to the law and safety measures, it may not be possible to realize proposals in the form desired by exhibitors.)
- Exhibitors are expected to prepare all personnel and equipment needed for rehearsals, installation, and removal of works, including audio and visual equipment and tools.
- There are no mains electricity points available for use inside or outside of the park, and use of generators is forbidden. Please use battery-operated equipment.  
✖ Please consult the organizing committee in advance regarding use of equipment.

- The available exhibition areas are as shown in the diagram on the right. However, even in areas where exhibits are allowed, consideration of valuable plant species and plantings may be requested following consultation with the park management office and at public hearings. In some cases, the final form and location of the work (or performance site) may have to be adjusted

✖ The main locations of rare and endemic species are indicated with green lines. However, additional sites exist beyond those listed and require confirmation at the public hearing.

✖ Locations and details to be noted will be provided at the second screening.



- Works using the surface of Zempukuji Pond are prohibited in areas that interfere with boat operations. Even in other areas, special consideration for birds is required in particular. Please be aware that the approval process for such requests from the city government may face difficulties, and will require thorough consultation with the park management office.

## Prohibited Items and Conduct

- The use of or entry into areas outside those permitted for the exhibition.
- The use of light or sound that is harmful to the park and its surroundings.
- The use of fire, smoke, or large amounts of water.
- The collection of admission or performance fees.

- The sale of artwork.
- The committee will not be responsible for any damage to or soiling of artwork or equipment due to weather conditions or other causes, or for any accidents or injuries that may occur during performances.

**In the case of spatial representation such as installations, please pay attention to the following.**

- Works must be completed by **November 1 (Sun)**.
- Works must be of sufficient durability to be able to withstand all weather conditions for the approx. one-month period of the exhibition (including the period of installation).  
The artwork itself must be structurally sound, but must also be designed to withstand the specific installation site and environmental conditions.
  - ※ If typhoons or other severe weather conditions are expected, please consult and coordinate with the organizing committee in advance.
- Maintenance (and inspection) of artworks for the duration of the exhibition is the responsibility of the artist.
- After the exhibition has ended, the site must be returned to its original condition **by November 29 (Sun)**.  
(Please ensure that any traces of the artwork's installation are removed, such as material fragments or filling holes made during its installation)
- It must be possible to return the location used in the park to its original state at the end of the exhibition.
- Exhibitors are expected to participate in a public explanation of proposals (**September 6**) and the art tours held during the exhibition (**first and last day**).

**In the case of performance-based artworks, please pay attention to the following.**

- The park grounds within the upper pond area are the locations assigned for performances.
- Performances are limited to the time slot of 10am to 4pm.
- The date, times and location of performances will be decided following consideration of other performances.
- Decisions about whether to postpone or go ahead with performances in the case of bad weather will be made through consultation between the committee and performers.
- The rehearsal period will be the same as that of the installation period for site-specific works in the park.
- On the day of implementation, consideration must be given to the free movement and safety of visitors to the park. Exhibitors are responsible for arranging the necessary personnel for this purpose.
- Preparation and removal of chairs or other items for spectators must be carried out by the exhibitors.
  - ※ Please inform the organizing committee of your safety management plans for the date/s of your performance in advance.
- First-time participants and those requiring consultation regarding the location of performances must attend the public hearing held on **September 6 (Sun)**.

**● Artwork Proposal: D**

- Artworks should reflect the history and culture of the Nishi-Ogikubo and Zempukuji area and respective venues.
- Venues (shop, gallery, etc.) do not need to be decided at time of application.
  - ※ Please have an idea of where you would like to exhibit or perform your work.
- Exhibitors will lead negotiations for use of venues after prior consultation with the Organizing Committee.

- Site-specific works must be completed within the allocated installation period, and maintenance of works during the event (including regular inspection) is the responsibility of the exhibitor.
- At the end of the exhibition, please return the venue to its original condition by the specified date based on the standards and arrangements made with respective venues.
- Please consult the Organizing Committee in regard to collection of entrance fees and sale of artworks etc.

### ● **Artwork Proposal: F**

- **November 14 and 15** are set aside as days when the public is free to come and view exhibits in the school. Workshops, performances, and exhibits will be held on these days (please note that exhibited works may be displayed throughout the duration of Trolls in the Park depending on their location inside the school, but not everyone will be able to view them).
- Artworks must give due consideration to the safety of pupils and teachers, and the teaching environment of the school.
- Possible sites for site-specific works: Playground, walls in school grounds, classrooms (limited to rooms not in use on regular basis), staircase landings, stairways, etc.
- Feasibility of proposals will be considered through consultation with Momoi Daishi Elementary School based on the contents of proposals.
- There may be possibilities to develop workshops for school pupils depending on the contents of proposals.
- If workshops for school pupils are undertaken in class time, a fixed teaching fee will be paid to artists.
- Dates for the exhibition may be subject to change after consultation with staff of the elementary school.
- In the event that an unexpected situation, such as an election, prevents the elementary school from being used as scheduled, exhibitors may be consulted about alternative dates or venues.

## **【Other Provisions】**

### **1. In relation to artwork rights**

Copyright of artworks remains the sole property of the exhibitors. However the organizers reserve the right to use artworks for the printed advertising, the website and posting on other web-based media, use in catalogs, the production of goods relating to the exhibition, and for the general administration and public relations of the exhibition. The organizers also reserve the right to make modifications or changes to the images of artworks for such purposes.

Additionally, for the purpose of promoting information about this exhibition, visitors are permitted to photograph exhibited works, record performances in the park, and share such content on social media, blogs, etc. (commercial photography and use are prohibited).

Thank you for your understanding in advance.

Please note that the organizers shall bear no responsibility whatsoever in the event of any objections or complaints from third parties regarding copyright, portrait rights, etc. Exhibitors shall be solely responsible for addressing such matters and covering any associated costs.

### **2. In relation to expenses**

Costs relating to production, de-installation, postage, travel, transportation, and accommodation incurred during the application process and the exhibition are the responsibility of exhibitors.

### **3. In relation to exhibited works**

As a general rule, exhibitors are expected to realize works based on the plan submitted during application. In some cases, the organizers may request changes to the content of works in cases when, after consultation, it is deemed necessary from the point of view of safety or maintenance, etc.

### **4. Use of Personal information**

The organizers will safely manage the personal information of applicants and shall not provide it to third parties. However, the use of personal information provided by applicants may be used at the time of implementing the current exhibition or for documentation sent to the applicants of the following year. The name, CV, and image etc. of exhibitors will also be published.

### **5. Other additions**

- ① Only applicants deemed to have accepted the content of these requirements at the time of application will be considered.
- ② No exceptions can be made in regard to the final selection.
- ③ Refusals to participate on the part of exhibitors are not permitted once exhibitors are confirmed (after the results of the second screening have been issued).
- ④ Participation in the exhibition may be cancelled if applicants violate these regulations.
- ⑤ Even after the decision to exhibit has been made, the applicant's participation may be cancelled if he/she does not submit the required documents and illustrations, or if the response to inquiries from the committee is deemed inadequate.
- ⑥ In the event of any operational issues during the exhibition (such as foul odors, noise, risk of damage or harm, etc.), or violations of laws, regulations, or public order and morals, the organizers reserve the right to terminate participation at their discretion, even after approval has been granted or during the exhibition period.
- ⑦ The organizers will make a decision after consultation should there be any issues relating to the selection process or the signing of contracts after confirmation of exhibitors not described in these guidelines.
- ⑧ Disasters, outbreaks of infectious diseases, or other unforeseen circumstances may result in changes or cancellation of the screening and this exhibition.

## **【For those wishing to participate from overseas】**

- We are unable to pay for travel, accommodation, production, exhibition or performance costs. Please make use of financial support provided in your country of residence or in Japan to foreign residents.
- You may be subject to travel restrictions when traveling to Japan, depending on the Covid-19 situation in your country of residence or in Japan at the time of travel.
- If you are unable to come to Japan to exhibit or perform, we will not be able to reimburse you for expenses incurred up to that point.
- If you are unable to come to Japan, it may still be possible to organize an online program, such as a workshop or other suitable form.

## **【Enquiries】 [mail@trollsinthepark.com](mailto:mail@trollsinthepark.com)**

Enquiries are only accepted by e-mail. In some cases, there may be a delay in the organizers' response.

## [Schedule]

### From Open Call to De-installation of Artworks (subject to revision)

**5/25(Mon)**

#### **Application Deadline**

**6 (Beginning)**

#### **First Screening (written applications)**

- ※ All applicants will be contacted about the results of the first screening by **June 10 (Wed)**

**6/20(Sat)&21(Sun)**

#### **Second Screening (interview)**

##### **Participation required**

- ※ 5-minute presentation of artwork proposals followed by questions and answers.
- ※ Interviews may be conducted online for those who live far away.

**6/30(Tue)**

#### **Participants Selected**

**7/12(Sun)**

#### **Kick-Off Meeting for All Participants**

##### **Participation required**

**7 (End) –**

#### **Proposals Considered**

- ※ Proposals will be examined in detail before their implementation.
- ※ The details of outdoor works in Zempukuji Park will be considered, followed by negotiation with the park manager from the viewpoints of safety, durability, park biodiversity, legal requirements relating to the Natural Park Act, and influences on the neighboring residential area. Those who receive approval may begin production of proposed work.
- ※ In the case of proposals for the Nishi-Ogikubo town area, negotiation with related shops, etc. will be undertaken, and dates and other details fixed.

**9/6 (Sun)**

#### **Public Meeting **Participation required (A&B)****

**Attendance is mandatory for exhibitors in categories A, and exhibitors in category B who are first-time participants or require location consultation.**

- ※ A meeting for the general public taking place in Zempukuji Park in which respective proposals are explained, and details about location and installment are verified.

**10/21 (Wed) – 11/1 (Sun) Installation of Artworks**

- ※ Artworks in Zempukuji Park only

**11/3 (Tue/Public holiday) – 11/23 (Mon/Public Holiday)**

#### **Trolls in the Park Exhibition**

- ※ During the exhibition, an art tour will be organized in Zempukuji Park (first and last day). Participation is required for artists who present site-specific work in the park.

**11/24 (Tue) – 11/29 (Sun) De-installation of Artworks**

- ※ Artworks in Zempukuji Park only