

Wind Sculptor Running Around the World

Susumu Shingu, 86 years old

Sculptor Susumu Shingu is an energetic 86-year-old. He is traveling the world, having just held a major retrospective exhibition at the Nakanoshima Museum of Art in Osaka last year, a solo show in Paris this March, and this month, he installed a new work to a new museum in Taipei, Taiwan. He is also planning various events in his hometown of Sanda, Hyogo Prefecture, and a solo exhibition in New York is scheduled for next year. I interviewed Susumu Shingu, who is busy with his daily life. (Toshikazu Masaki)

Shingu's notebook is filled with illustrations of his ideas. According to his staff, he apparently does not sleep at night but drawing.

He flipped through the pages and said, "Isn't this interesting?", showing an illustration drawn by a child with an idea to turn it into a sculpture. It was the winning entry in a project to create a wooden zoo in Arimafuji Park (Sanda, Hyogo Prefecture) in cooperation with a local sculptor. The winning sculptures will be unveiled at an original musical performance to be held there on October 27, 2024.

Shingu, who has created sculptures that move with wind and water, is an artist who is called "wind sculptor."

Offers have been pouring in from all over the world, and on March 2 this year, a solo exhibition of about 20 sculptures and paintings opened at an art gallery in Paris (through July 13).

In addition, two wind-driven indoor sculptures, "Future Forest" at the entrance of the Fubon Tower building in Taipei, designed by Italian architect Renzo Piano, and "The Galaxy" at the Fubon Museum of Art adjacent to the tower, which opened on May 3, were installed to celebrate its opening.

After the current exhibition on Rodin and Impressionism at the museum, Shingu's solo exhibition is scheduled to be held in the museum's second exhibition (October 12 through February 17 next year). "I am currently developing "Silent Water," a sculpture that moves only with water, for its debut in Taiwan, and I have to go to Tokyo early tomorrow morning for a meeting with the engineer."

In addition, he has decided to hold a solo exhibition at a gallery in the headquarters of the Japan Society, a Japan-U.S. exchange organization in New York, starting next June, and is now in talks with the art director, adding to his busy schedule.

In a little while, he will be 87 years old. But he is in high spirits.

“I am thinking of making my next Shingu work in the U.S.,” he said. “That is also a challenge. It is meaningful that I have been allowed to live so long. I set goals that are hard to reach.” Challenges are the secret of the “wind sculptor’s” youthfulness.

(captions)

A model of his new work in his studio for his solo exhibition in Taipei

Susumu Shingu explains his new model at his studio in Sanda City, Hyogo Prefecture, in preparation for his solo exhibition in Taipei.

↑ Opening ceremony of his solo exhibition in Paris

↓ “Future Forest” displayed on the “Fubon Tower” building in Taipei City

(all images courtesy of Mr. Shingu)