

October 3, 2025 KOBE SHIMBUN

LINE stickers featuring “Sandalino,” a character created by world-renowned sculptor Susumu Shingu (88), a resident of Sanda City, have been released. While he has previously published picture books and created stage musicals, Shingu hopes the new stickers will introduce his work to a broader audience. The set includes 24 designs, featuring typical Sandalino messages such as “Totally Unique.” (Hideto Doi)

A Character Created By Susumu Shingu

Sandalino Now Available as LINE Stickers

A Friendly Alien Talks About How Wonderful Earth Is

24 Special Designs

Susumu Shingu. At the end of August, Shingu gave a “musical talk” at the Italian Pavilion at Osaka-Kansai Expo.

=Konohana Ward, Osaka City

Susumu Shingu, known as the “Sculptor of Wind,” has installed works worldwide, including in New York skyscrapers, the Greek National Opera House, the Italian port of Genoa, and Hermès in Tokyo's Ginza district. He was ambassador for the Italian Pavilion at the Osaka-Kansai Expo (Konohana Ward, Osaka City).

At the Italian Pavilion, an excerpt from the musical that features Sandalino was performed on August 29th. Sandalino is a friendly alien who traveled through time and space to Earth. He landed suddenly in the village of Sanda when a thunderbolt struck and met an 8-year-old girl named Sora-chan. He quickly became friends with the other children and grew to love Earth.

One morning, while Shingu was at his home in France, Sandalino suddenly appeared in his mind—everything from his vivid colors of red, green, blue, and yellow, to his name. In Italian, small sandals are called “sandali” (and Sandalino wears them), but the name Sandalino is really all about the city of Sanda.

“Earth, overflowing with life, is a unique planet in the universe, and being born human here is a miracle,” says Shingu. Sandalino truly celebrates the wonders of the Earth. Shingu published a Sandalino pop-up picture book in Japanese, French, and Italian in 2019. He also serialized the story in Sanda City's public relations magazine and installed a 3.5-meter

statue of Sandalino in Arimafuji Prefectural Park (Ninji).

The creation of LINE stickers was proposed and realized by the staff of Shingu Atelier. Alongside everyday phrases like “Thank you”, “Sorry...”, and “Got it”, they also include “One, two, three” and “Vroom.” English versions such as “OK” and “Thanks” are also available, selling for 120 yen on the LINE Store.