



Japan Pavilion Presents Ei Arakawa-Nash's Performance Installation at the 61st International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia

In *Grass Babies, Moon Babies*, 208 baby dolls invite visitors to imagine a future—one formed under the long shadow of historical and social constraints within and beyond Japan.

May 2026 – Commissioned by the Japan Foundation, the Japan Pavilion will present ***Grass Babies, Moon Babies*** by Japanese American queer artist Ei Arakawa-Nash at the 61st International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia. This will be a co-curatorial collaboration between **HORIKAWA Lisa**, Senior Curator and Director (Curatorial & Collections), National Gallery Singapore, and **TAKAHASHI Mizuki**, Executive Director and Chief Curator, Centre for Heritage, Arts and Textile (CHAT) in Hong Kong. This will be the first time the pavilion will host a solo show exploring the concept of 'nikkei' – the global diaspora of Japanese descendants. The exhibition will be open to the public from 9 May to 22 November 2026 at the Giardini di Castello, Venice, Italy.

Grass Babies, Moon Babies creates an immersive journey activated by visitors through acts of care and movement. Upon entering the Pavilion, visitors are invited to hold and carry one of 208 baby dolls through the Pavilion's pilotis, gardens, and interior spaces. Visitors participate in a final act of collective care by changing the dolls' diapers and activating a QR code that delivers a "diaper poem" based on each baby's assigned birthday. These birthdays are shaped at the intersection of the artist's intimate, personal experiences and the long arc of historical and social forces within and beyond Japan.

Based in Los Angeles after more than two decades in New York, Arakawa-Nash (b. 1977, Fukushima) is known for reconfiguring the notion of the subjective "I" through collaborative and performative practices. Since the early 2000s, the artist has been at the forefront of expanding the international visibility and possibilities of performance art, drawing on—and reworking—its historical lineages, from Japan's Gutai to New York's Fluxus, Happenings, and Judson Dance Theater, as well as Viennese Actionism. After becoming a queer parent to twins in 2024, *Grass Babies, Moon Babies* marks their first major performance installation, framing care as a collective practice.

The exhibition is proud to partner with three international institutions, J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles; Kestner Gesellschaft, Hannover; and The Isamu Noguchi Foundation and Garden Museum, New York. This will also mark the first collaboration between Japan Pavilion and Korean Pavilion. Please view the exhibition website here: <https://venezia-biennale-japan.jpf.go.jp/e/art/2026-en>

■ Museum Partnerships

The Japan Pavilion presentation is further enriched through a museum partnership with the Getty Museum, supporting the inclusion of works by Isamu Noguchi. Noguchi participated in the United States Pavilion at the 42nd International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia, underscoring the Pavilion's transnational dialogue across generations. As a prelude to the Japan Pavilion exhibition, Arakawa-Nash staged a series of performances at the Getty Museum on 15 March, marking the first chapter of an extended artistic project that will now culminate in Venice this May.

■ Collaboration with the Korean Pavilion

Collaborating for the very first time at the 61st International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia, the Japanese and Korean Pavilions will exhibit elements of each other's exhibitions in their respective venues. This combined effort manifests friendship, trust, and solidarity built through dialogue and conversation.

■ Onsite Performances

Daily (Except Monday) from 9 May to 22 November 2026

Audience Activation Grass Babies, Moon Babies

8 and 10 May 2026 | 4 – 4:45pm

FAC XTRA RETREAT (Ei Arakawa-Nash, Patty Chang, Pearl C Hsiung, Amanda Ross-Ho, Anna Sew Hoy, Shirley Tse, and Amy Yao)

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■ **Press Kit:** <https://egnyte.suttoncomms.com/fl/Gt7KyMwdrc6C>

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■ Exhibition Details

The Japan Pavilion at the 61st International Art Exhibition, La Biennale di Venezia

Title of Exhibition: **Grass Babies, Moon Babies**

Commissioner: The Japan Foundation

Curators: **Lisa HORIKAWA** (National Gallery Singapore, Senior Curator and Director (Curatorial & Collections), **Mizuki TAKAHASHI** (Centre for Heritage, Arts and Textile, Hong Kong, Executive Director and Chief Curator)

Exhibitor: **Ei Arakawa-Nash**

Dates: Saturday, 9 May 9 – Sunday, 22 November 2026

Venue: The Japan Pavilion (in the Giardini, one of the Biennale venues)



Special support: Ishibashi Foundation

NOTES TO EDITORS

■ About the Commissioner

The Japan Foundation (JF) is an independent administrative corporation that promotes exchanges of culture and art, Japanese-language education, and Japanese research and international dialogue based on its mission: “Cultivating friendship and ties between Japan and the world.” The JF has been the commissioner of the exhibition in the Japan Pavilion at the International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia since 1976.

■ About La Biennale di Venezia

La Biennale di Venezia is an Institution organizing International Exhibitions and Festivals that uses locations in the island city of Venice as venues. It has made its mark on history for more than 130 years, starting with the first International Art Exhibition in 1895. In the present day, it embraces its International Art and Architecture Exhibitions, International Theatre, Contemporary Dance, and Contemporary Music Festivals, as independent departments; among these, the International Art Exhibition draws the attention of the global art world as a place to get an overview of current artistic trends.

Japan officially participated in International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia for the first time in 1952, and has continued its involvement in every exhibition following the completion of the Japan Pavilion in 1956. The JF has organized the Japan Pavilion exhibitions from 1976 to the present day. See the Japan Pavilion’s [official website](#) for more information about its previous representative creators.