

# Art Autonomy Network [AAN]

Art Autonomy Network [AAN] acknowledges artistic practices by individuals and groups who act in areas outside large cultural institutions and commercial spaces. We execute various programs, such as exhibitions, workshops, symposiums, educational programs, and create art archives. We also construct systems and develop contents that are necessary for promoting art in an international context. By intimately interacting with spontaneous art projects and groups that expand nationally and internationally, we aim to become a smoothly connected network, internationally and compositely. We have added Art Autonomy in our name, to signify the independence of art when we have set up AAN in 2005.

## Guidelines

### Art Archive

AAN has focused on national and international, spontaneous and alternative art practices. Unfortunately, we feel that in the present condition, many of the documents and information that have been gathered during various art activities have been scattered and lost. Over the years, we have gathered and kept documents (flyers, posters, catalogs, etc.) of national and international art activities, and artists' portfolios according to our own methods. AAN utilizes its network to archive documents of individuals and groups who practice in the field of art, to create a composite archive. This programme is also good for audience to understand art works through their direct voices.

ex.

"Portfolio Meeting",  
a presentation project by artists

### Network

In today's society, there are many institutions and groups who successfully practice art using alternative methods, and with alternative members. AAN sees these associations' and individuals' information as cultural resources and construct a network with high mobility. By matching institutions and individuals, and creating interactive situations, we support their practices to expand dynamically.

ex.

Interactive projects in AAA Kitchen /  
Kamiyamacho, Tokushima (KAIR etc.)

### International exchange

By knowing the world's current art scene and by having a wide vision, we believe that the artistic activities will continue to evolve. At AAN, we actively develop international projects to offer opportunities for artists and curators to foster more prolific inspirations and better methods of examinations. We manage projects for Japanese artists to go abroad and for overseas artists to come to Japan. Also, as supporting projects for these, we coordinate dispatching undertakings and events aimed to promote international exchange.

ex.

"OrnamenTTokYo: Japan-UK Urban Theory Project,  
"Drifting Images" Japan-Korea Exchange  
programmes through photography,  
"Field Trip Project"

### Education

At AAN, we offer various educational programs for people who are interested in art and are enthusiastic to "learn". By presenting art and cultural history, and theory, which often seem difficult, in such a way that make them easy to understand, we hope to extend art's horizon. Today, human resources development in the field of art is accelerating. We offer opportunities to learn English and art along side each other, so people will become more internationally minded, and to train talents that will, in the future, take active role in international activities.

ex.

OrnamenTokYo Symposium (held in cities in  
Japan and UK) /  
ASAKUSA Shashin Kanko (ASAKUSA Photo  
Tourism) (photography workshop) /  
Kamiyama line! (Children's /  
workshop and student's internship program) /  
Oedo Chonin Academy,

## Introduction

## Introduction

When Kato stayed in the UK in the 90's, she witnessed the YBa flourishing (Young British Artists) and saw the innovative forms of pioneering art organizations in London. The artists who took initiatives in creating spaces to show their works were striking individually. They were not restricted to conventional museums and commercial galleries that were the mainstream spaces for exhibitions. Instead, they turned spaces such as vacant stores and churches around the town into galleries of their own and were creatively showing their works. She strongly felt that the pride and creativity seen in these artists' attitude were needed in the Japanese art scene as well.

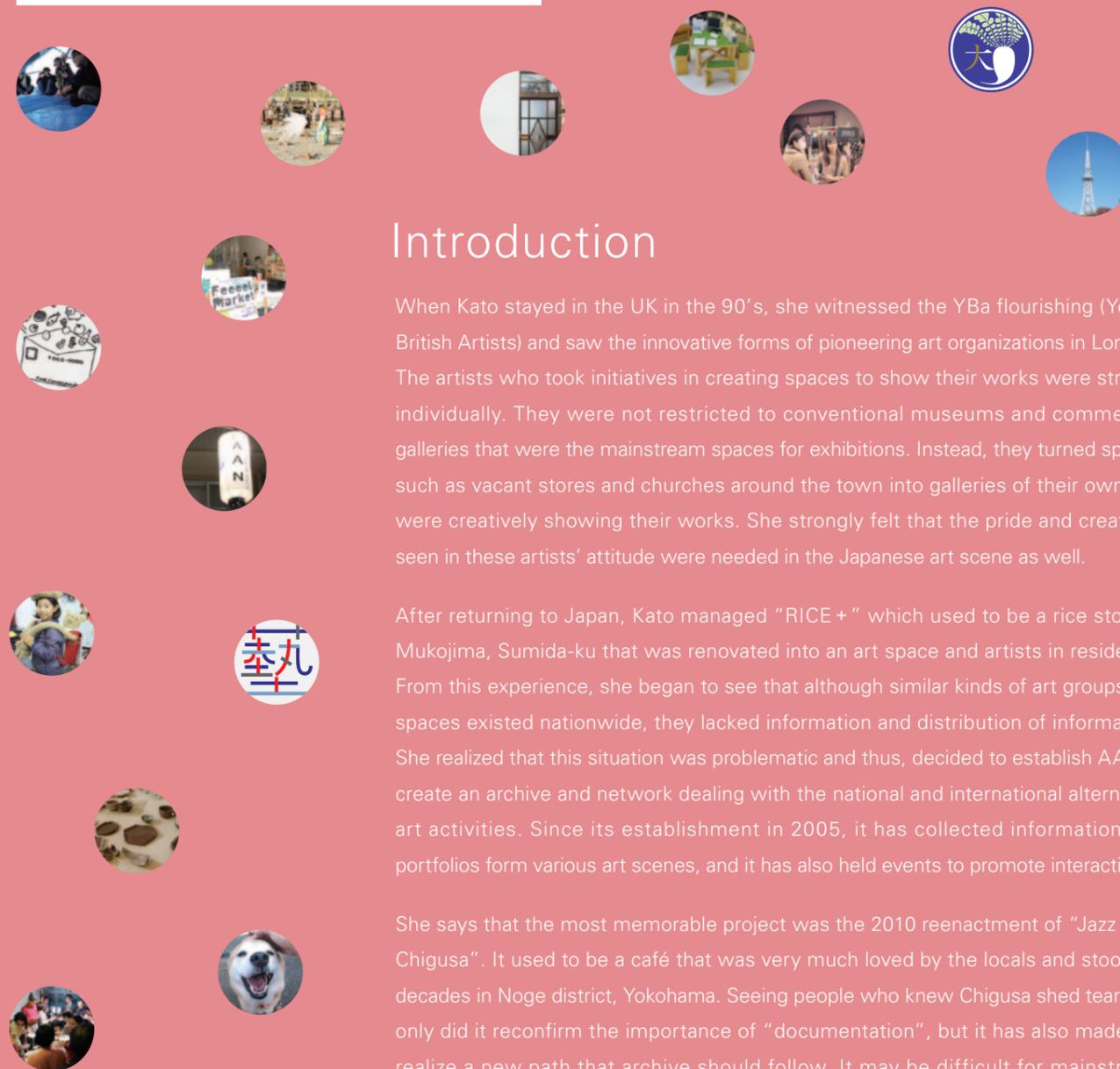
After returning to Japan, Kato managed "RICE+" which used to be a rice store in Mukojima, Sumida-ku that was renovated into an art space and artists in residency. From this experience, she began to see that although similar kinds of art groups and spaces existed nationwide, they lacked information and distribution of information. She realized that this situation was problematic and thus, decided to establish AAN to create an archive and network dealing with the national and international alternative art activities. Since its establishment in 2005, it has collected information and portfolios from various art scenes, and it has also held events to promote interaction.

She says that the most memorable project was the 2010 reenactment of "Jazz Café Chigusa". It used to be a café that was very much loved by the locals and stood for decades in Noge district, Yokohama. Seeing people who knew Chigusa shed tears not only did it reconfirm the importance of "documentation", but it has also made her realize a new path that archive should follow. It may be difficult for mainstream galleries and museums to create a space to experience the atmosphere of the past and a space for conversations to take place, but it may be possible for alternative art spaces. AAN will continue to cooperate with the nation's NPO and cultural institutions to challenge the conventional way of archive.

Emiko Kato (Kato, Emiko)

Art Autonomy Network [AAN] Director  
Part-time lecturer at Musashino Art University

In the 80's, she took part in editing art magazine and books, as well as planning and managing art galleries. She even opened a room of her apartment to the public, as a space of exhibition for young artists. In 1993, she earned her MA degree in Museum and Gallery Management from City University in the UK. She was a research student at Courtauld Institution of Art History in London University during 1994-1995. She returned to Japan in 1998 and started to manage various art spaces such as, "RICE+" in Mukojima and "Noge Hana\*Hana" in Yokohama. As an independent curator, Kato took part in many exhibitions and planning of art events. She established AAN in 2005 and was appointed to be the member of the assessment committee for Kamiyama Artist in Residence (KAIR). Today, she is taking part in various activities to liven up and continues to inspire Japan's alternative art scene.



# AAN's Activity Archive of 2011-2013.

16/Jul/2011 - 20/Jul/2011

## Launch Event of the Studio



"Creative Hub 131" is an experimental space and shared office. It is a renovated building that used to be a wholesaler for beddings. Its members are creative people such as artists, designers, editors and consultants, who are active in various genres. During July 16~18th, 2011 (3 days), using the occupant's strengths, various exhibitions, lectures and parties were held to celebrate its opening. AAN presented "Working Complex Clinic", an event to discuss what "work" is, with artist, Ichirou Kitamura and invited Toshiki Enomoto as a lecturer of "the experience about Reversible Destiny Lofts MITAKA" (July 20th) which is designed by Shusaku Arakawa, an artist.

06/Nov/2011 - 12/Nov/2011

## OrNamenTTokYo



Workshops of OrNamenTTokYo, which aimed to explore the alternative urban life in Tokyo, were held on November 6th, 11th and 12th, 2011 (three days). The workshops were organized according to the three topics, "remix/ walking in the city" (November 6th) "in-tangibilities/ to materialize sympathy, locality and structure" (November 11th), "housing/ thorough debate" (November 12th). Europe and Tokyo based artists, architects and theorists, who are active in art activities and are internationally minded, came together in this event. The "remix" participants walked around Yanaka and Mukojima. "In-tangibilities" workshop nurtured sympathetic feelings between the participants by creating a balloon-shaped shelter together; and "housing" the public nature within the Japanese setting was debated from various aspects. Furthermore, "THE BOOK OrnamenTTokYo", is being prepared for its publication. This book is not only the documentation of this event, but it also acts as a theory book. On January 6th 2014, its pre-launch event was held in Café OTO, London. The main members (Verina Gfader, Merce Rodrigo Garcia, Emiko Kato) each gave presentations and "Project FUKUSHIMA!" (Directed by Hikaru Fujii) was screened at this gathering.

19/Feb/2012 - 08/Mar/2014

## Portfolio Meeting vol. 7~10



Since 2007, we have continuously held meetings where artists and curators give presentations that talk about their work publically. On February 19th 2012, Kenichi Kondo, the curator of Mori Art Museum and Reichi Noguchi, the curator of Mitsubishi Ichigokan Museum were invited as commentators for the meeting. On March 10th 2013, Motoaki Hori, the chief curator of Tokyo Opera City Gallery and Shingo Yamano, the head of secretariat at Koganecho Area Management Center, were also invited. It aims to become an opportunity for artists to meet new people and to widen their range of activities. Also, we hope that the conversation between the artists and the curators seen at these meetings will spark the audience's interest in contemporary art. On March 8th 2014, the students of "Art and Communication Laboratory [advanced session]" gave their presentations in English. The commentators for this event were Hitoshi Kuriyama (artists and assistant at Tokyo University of the Arts) and Peter Bellars (artist), who tutored the class.

02/Mar/2012 - 11/Mar/2012

## Exhibition: ART SYNCHRONICITY

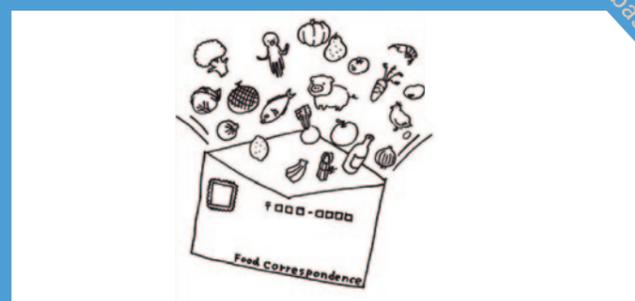


"ART SYNCHRONICITY" was held through March 2nd ~ 11th, 2012 with the cooperation of stores and galleries around Nihonbashi area. After experiencing the huge pain caused by the Great East Japan Earthquake, we realized the importance of the forming a sympathetic local community. With this as a pivotal point, AAN began to promote more art activities in the local communities. As "Creative Hub 131" as the central base, we are holding art events with the local people and community to challenge ourselves in creating a network connecting the world using art. This event was organized in such a way that the audience became familiar with the streets, as they went around the city to see the exhibitions in different locations. Exhibiting artists were Aki Ikeda, EAT&ART TARO, Kouo Uehara, Keijiro Niino, Ichiro Higashiizumi, Shiho Fukuhara, Georg Tremmel [BCL], Hiroyuki Hukuoka, Toru Matsushita, Isamu Mutou, Satoshi Murakami, Takashi Yamauchi, Wataru Yamakami, Takuya Yamashita, Etc.

In January 2011, AAN moved its headquarters from Yokohama to "Creative Hub 131", which is a creative peoples' collective space that newly opened in Ōdenmachi, Nihonbashi. Below are our representative activities in Nihonbashi.

07/Mar/2012 - 15/Jul/2012

## Food Correspondence



"Food Correspondence" is a project planned by EAT&ART TARO, an artist who creates works relating to food. This project required people, who live far apart and do not know each other, to send each other meals four times through delivery, like exchanging letters (March 7th, April 11th, May 9th, June 13th). The correspondent was an architect who lives in Nakatsugawa, Gifu. At the one day, Bettara Zuke (daikon pickled in salted rice yeast) and Hanpen (minced and steamed fish cake), which are food related to Nihonbashi and Edo, were sent through freezer delivery, then wild boar meat and deer meat arrived in return. Through this correspondence of food, understanding of each other's local culture and natural features deepened. This eventually evolved in to the tour to Nakatsugawa (July 15th) from Tokyo and again, intimate interaction through food took place.

16/Aug/2011 - 10/Mar/2012

## Drifting Images (Japan- Korea Exchange Program Through Photography)



During 2011~2012, we cooperated with "BODA", an art center specializing in photography in Seoul, and together, we organized an exchange program to promote development of Japan and Korea's photography culture. From Japan, Shoko Ogushi, Hitoshi Kuriyama, Katsuhito Nakazato participated, and from Korea, Sungmin Kang and Jinhwon Hong participated in this program. The participating artists stayed at the other country and made works to show in the exhibition. These works were shown in both countries in the exhibition, "Drifting Images: Korea x Japan Exchanging Exhibition". At the Seoul venue, it took place during November 25th ~ December 3rd, 2011(BODA), and at the Tokyo venues, the exhibition was shown during February 24~ 6th, 2012 (MAKII MASARU FINE ARTS) and February 24th ~ March 10th, 2012 (Art Lab AKIBA). Also, we held the workshop in Asakusa where participants learned about the photographic process, from shooting to exhibiting (January 14th, 15th, and February 18th). Furthermore, related events such as "Korea x Japan Artists Talk and Edo Magic Lantern Evening Party" (February 25th), which restored the magic lantern (slide projector) of the Edo era and recreated Edo's gimmicky world, were hugely successful. Posting four types of posters for this project on the public buses, was an innovative way of publicity activity for us. (February 1st~ 29th)

07/Jul/2012 - 15/Dec/2012

## Ōedo Chonin (Townsmen) Academy



大江戸町人アカデミー

This project aimed to liven up Ebisuko's festival, " Bettara Ichi", which has continued for over 400 years in Ōdenmachi, Nihonbashi. It presented an opportunity to learn more about the local history and culture, looking at it from a new point of view. Its tag line was, "Edo study, beginning with a daikon". The central concept of this project was to learn the "ancient world in a new way", adding a touch of new interpretation to the history, starting from a familiar festival of Nihonbashi, and looking at the diet and life of the old days. In total, five sessions including, "Bettara Ichi's Town, Former Good Denmachi's Tradition" (July 7th), "Excursion Part 1: Daikon Tour to Tsukiji Fruit and Vegetable Market" (July 21st), "Edo, Tokyo's Vegetables Sent Out From Nihonbashi" (August 4th), "Bookstores Around Nihonbashi" (September 1st), and "Creations on the Rooftop" (September 15th) took place. During "Bettara Ichi" (October 19th and 20th), we organized a tour to go to historical and cultural sites around Ōdenmachi as well as Bettara Ichi, as a special session of this project. Also, as an additional session, we organized "Excursion Part 2: Anecdote of Chushingura, Kira's Head" (December 15th). This excursion took the participants from the remaining of Kira's mansion to Senkakuji, following the path of Akou Roshi (47 Ronin).

09/Mar/2013 - 10/Mar/2013

## Feeeel Market (Project in 39 (Sankyu / Thank you) Art Day)



At AAN, we organized a flea market called "FeeeelMarket" (March 9th and 10th, 2013) that sold art objects that stimulate people's sensitivities. About 30 artists and creative teams came together at "Creative Hub 131" and sold a very original line up of works. At AAN's booth, we opened our library to the public, and introduced our artist's portfolio collection. Also, artists, Iori Yoshimoto and Hideaki Idetsuki showed and sold their original works. This project was a part of "Thank you@RT Day" (March 9th) established to show artists' appreciation to the art fans, and we also held "39 (Sankyu/ Thank you) Art Day Party" (March 10th).

27/Mar/2013 - 29/Jan/2014

**Field Trip Project**

Nihonbashi



Canada based artist, Daisuke Takeya and Onagawa-cho, Miyagi based art teacher, Chie Kajiwara to establish a supportive project regarding the Great East Japan Earthquake, and AAN is a cooperating group for this project. Before the excess secondhand Japanese elementary school backpacks donated as relief supplies to the area stuck by this disaster. Total of 70 artists and artist groups from Canada and Japan turned them into art works. These works go on "field trips" to stores, houses and vacant places all around the nation, to connect people and local areas. AAN has sympathized with this project and has recommended 11 Japanese artists to participate, as well as coordinated the venues for its travels in Kamiyama-cho, Tokushima and Nagoya, Aichi. After the exhibition at Embassy of Canada Prince Takamado Gallery (January 15th ~ 29th), these works were due to travel to Canada.

17/ Jun / 2013 - 27/ Jun / 2013

**OuUnPo**

Nihonbashi



OuUnPo is European artistic group that is like a travelling laboratory. It is an organization without a fixed location, who share knowledge and co-create works through workshops and symposiums that deals with art all over the world. Their sessions have focused on different themes, according to the venues. In Japan, they have held sessions in Tokyo and Yokohama with "Gozilla and Pheonix" as the theme (June 17th ~27th, 2013). Everyday, at the venue, participating organizations and people shared mysterious experiences, which seemed to intertwine with each other. For this project, AAN has organized farming village experiencing event (June 26th) in Katori, Chiba and symposium that included walking around artists' studios in Mukojima. Protection against disaster and community were the topics (June 27th: Kameido Studio) for these events.

16/Nov/2013 - 24/Nov/2013

**Cloud Museum**

Yanaka, Mukojima



This was an art event that opened exclusively from November 16~ 24th, 2013 at Nagoya TV Tower. At the kickoff meeting, Kato, the director of AAN gave the keynote speech (September 6th, 2013). She was the curator of artist, Motohiro Tomii's solo exhibition, "Fabric Town" (September 7th~ 14th) at N-MARK B1 Gallery which was a pre-launch event for this project. Both, Chojyamachi, Nagoya and Nihonbashi, Tokyo are wholesale districts for fabric. The artist created 3-dimensional works, using the fabric of ready-made clothes collected in these two areas. The title of the exhibition, "Fabric Town", has an underlying message that hopes for the exhibition and the works to connect the two places. "Cloud Museum" used the unused second and third floors of the TV tower that was transformed mainly by local artists. It became a temporary museum, where they were able to show their works. During this project, we also presented "TV Tower Exploration! Workshop" (November 17th) by Rumi Kawamura. At this workshop, participants carried art backpacks, on their back and walked around the TV tower and the city.

07/ Aug / 2013 - 08/ Aug / 2013

**Kamiyama Art Tour**

Nihonbashi

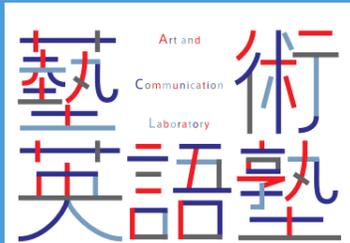


Today, the town of Kamiyama in Tokushima is being noticed for its population growth due to various activities including art and IT. AAN has worked closely with this town's activities. For example, Kato works as a member of the assessment committee for "Kamiyama Artist in Residence (KAIR)" and we have coordinated events for "Field Trip Project" here. In 2013, four Canadian artists stayed in a while and organised the children's workshop called "Kamiyama Good!" and promote the activities by students who led foreign guests as visiting internship. Along with KAIR's exhibition reporting its activities and the symposium of "Field Trip Project" taking place, AAN planned an art tour to introduce Kamiyama's appeals.

19/Nov/2013 - 08/ Mar / 2014

**Kamiyama Art Tour**

Nihonbashi



This is an English and art study course for artists and curators, aimed to train them to "talk about art in English" (November 2013~ March 8th, 2014). International exhibitions, overseas dispatching programs and artist in residence programs have broadened the artists' and curators' opportunities to become internationally active. Today, it can be said that English is an essential skill for the people working in the creative industry. Therefore, AAN has decided to hold an English training program centralized in art. At the introductory sessions (November 19th, 26th, December 3rd, 10th and 17th, 2013, 5 sessions in total), the students learned to discuss about culture and art. At the advanced sessions, (January 18th, 25th, February 1st, 8th, 16th and 22nd, 2014, 6 sessions in total), the students created artist's portfolio aimed at overseas audience, and acquire skills to be able to respond well at interviews in English. Also, at the "Portfolio Meeting Vol. 10", the students gave their presentations in English.



# AA キッチン



## AAキッチン@社員食堂 Lab.

Creative Hub131 の3階にある共有キッチン兼食堂『社員食堂 Lab.』は、入居者やクリエイター、近隣住民が集まり、食を通してコミュニケーションを深める場として運営されています。

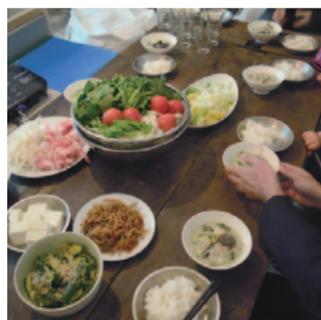
AAN は毎週水曜夜に『AA キッチン』を開催しています。普段はアットホームな雰囲気の食事会ですが、時にはアーティストをゲストとしてお招きすることも。これまで、『勝正光の別府ナイト』(2013年9月25日)ほか『イギリス人アーティスト Charlotte McGowan-Griffin プレゼンテーション』(2013年5月22日)『ニューヨーク州立大学のみなさんごはん会』(2013年7月24日)など魅力的なイベントを開催しました。

また、2014年1月から「なじよも十日町 by AA キッチン」(2014年1月29日、2月26日ほか)という新潟県十日町市と地方の食文化を通じて交流する新プログラムを月例で開始。これらのイベントは、ブログやフェイスブックで告知をしています。なお、東京大学大学院文化資源学科主催『第13回文化資源フォーラム』(2014年2月22日)において配布されたブックレット『食食饗宴～うたげにつどう人と人』(p18～20)にAAキッチンが紹介されました。



## AA Kitchen @ Shine Shokudo Lab.

“Shine Shokudo Lab.”, located on the third floor of Creation Hub 131 is a shared kitchen and canteen, where occupants, artists and locals come together to communicate through food and cooking. AAN continues to hold “AA Kitchen” every Wednesday evening, with the concept being “cook, eat and wash up”. Normally these dinners are casual, but sometimes we invite artists as special guests. We have previously held attractive events such as, “Masamitsu Katsu’s Beppu Night” (April 24th, June 5th, September 25th 2013, 19th March 2014), “Artist, Charlotte McGowan-Griffin Presentation” (May 22nd, 2013), and “Dine with Friends from State University of New York” (July 24th, 2013). Also, from January 2014, we have started a new monthly program called “Najyomo Tokamachi by AA Kitchen” (January 29th, February 26th and others), where participants can interact through Tokamachi, Niigata’s food culture. The food events are announced and updated on our blog and facebook page. Also, AA Kitchen has been introduced in the booklet, “Shu-Shoku-Kyo-En, Utage Ni Tsudou Hito To Hito (Drink, Eat, Entertain and Party, People Who Gather To Party)” (pp.18~20) which was handed out at the “13th Cultural Resources Forum” organized by The University of Tokyo’s Cultural Resources Studies Course.



### これまでのAAキッチンの主なプログラム

- ★ 39 アートの日 PARTY(2012, 2013, 2014) by sippoterry
- ★ Drifting Images 日韓交流事業 韓国フードの交流(2011)
- ★ 山内崇嗣陶芸ワークショップ<加賀家庭料理の会>(2012)
- ★ 出月秀明アーティスト・トーク(2012)
- ★ Kristin and Davy MacGuire を囲む会(2013)
- ★ ベルリン在住アーティスト Charlotte McGowan Griffin(英)のアーティスト・トーク(2013)
- ★ <遠足プロジェクト>カナダのアーティスト・プレゼンテーション(2013 カナダ大使館後援)
- ★ NY 州立大学のみなさんごはんの会(2013)
- ★ Tomo Kobayashi 陶芸ワークショップの発表会(2013)
- ★ 勝正光の別府ナイト (2013-2014)
- ★ AAN の X'mas パーティ(2013)
- ★ なじよも十日町 by AA キッチン(2014)



## AAN スタジオ@Creative Hub 131

『Creative Hub 131』は、地下1階・地上6階の複合ビルで、アーティスト・新野圭二郎が“プライベートから始まるパブリック”をテーマに運営しているスタジオスペースです。さまざまなジャンルのクリエイターが集まる共同オフィスであり、新たな活動を模索する実験場でもあります。AANのスタジオは2階にあり、予約制でアート・アーカイヴのライブラリを公開しています。

\*資料の閲覧を希望する方、活動資料を提供したい方は、メールにて事前にご連絡ください。  
[info@a-a-n.org](mailto:info@a-a-n.org)

## AAN Studio @ Creative Hub 131

“Creative Hub 131” is a six stories high complex building with an additional underground floor. It is a building with studio spaces for creative people and was produced by artist, Keijiro Niino, managed with the theme, “public starting from private”. It contains shared office spaces that attract creative people of different genres and is also a place for experimentation to discover new directions of their activities. AAN’s studio is located at the second floor and our art archive may be opened to the public on request.

\*If you would like to view the archived information, or like to add your activity information to our archive, please contact us via e-mail in advance.

[info@a-a-n.org](mailto:info@a-a-n.org)



## <べつたら市> 地域活性化事業

CH131 が拠点を置く日本橋大伝馬町は、江戸時代から現在に至るまで日本橋の旦那衆が地域を支え続けてきている文化の下地がここにはあります。地域住民と交流をしていくうちに昔からの旦那衆が『Creative Hub 131』の存在を認め始めています。特に「粋人」として目ききな人たちである旦那衆は、私たちのような斬新な活動に対しても心を広くもっていることはうれしいことです。現在、地域のひとたちと一緒に地元の祭りである<べつたら市>や新しい試みなど、自分たちの地域に将来的な活路に向けて、アートと地域が一体になっての都市文化の再生が始まっていると実感しています。AAN は、べつたら市に掲示される名入り提灯を献灯しています。





**Art Autonomy Network**  
 アート・アウトノミー・ネットワーク

[住所] 〒103-0011 東京都中央区日本橋大伝馬町 13-1 Creative Hub 131 2F  
 [Tel] : 03-6206-2767 [E-mail] : info@a-a-n.org [URL] : <http://a-a-n.org/>  
 [Facebook] <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Art-Autonomy-NetworkAAN>

**Art Autonomy Network**

[Address] 2nd Floor, 13-1 Ōdenmachi, Nihonbashi Chuo-ku Tokyo, 103-0011 Japan  
 [Telephone Number] +81-3-6206-2767  
 [E-mail] info@a-a-n.org  
 [Website] <http://a-a-n.org>  
 [Facebook] <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Art-Autonomy-NetworkAAN>