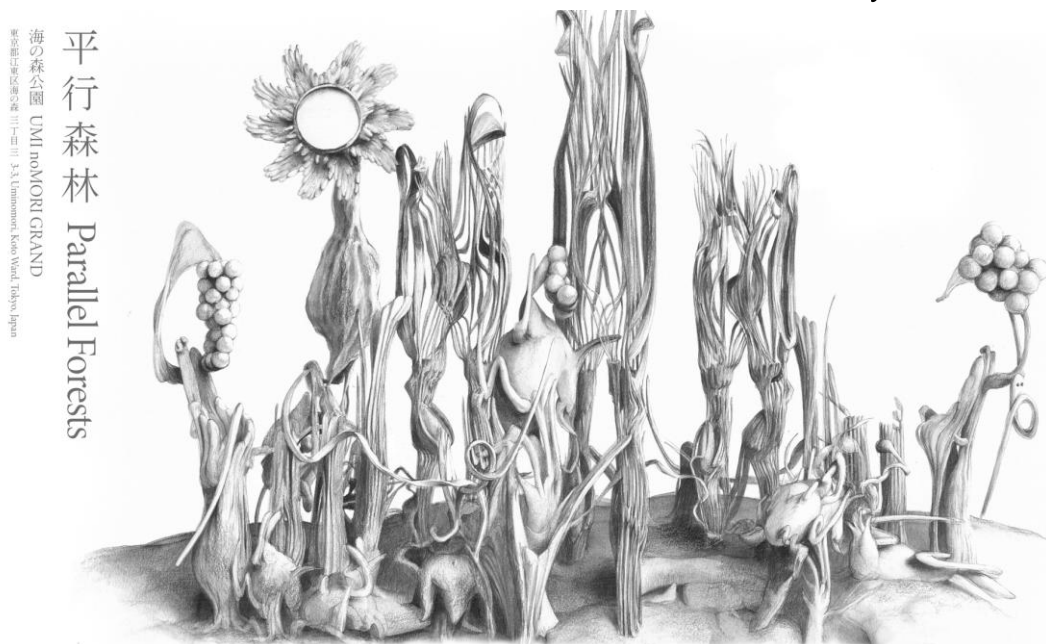


CCBT Art Incubation Showcase: Yuma Kishi Exhibition *Parallel Forests*
March 13–15, 2026 at Umi-no-Mori Park, Tokyo



√K Contemporary is pleased to announce that our resident artist, Yuma Kishi will present *Parallel Forests*, the culminating exhibition of the Civic Creative Base Tokyo (CCBT) 2025 Art Incubation Program, on view from Friday, March 13 through Sunday, March 15, 2026, at Umi-no-Mori Park.

As a 2025 CCBT Artist Fellow, Kishi has developed *Botanical Intelligence (BI)*, an experimental system that reinterprets plant signals through artificial intelligence. The project takes inspiration from *Parallel Botany* (1976) by Leo Lionni, a fictional taxonomy of imaginary plants that unsettles the boundaries between scientific observation and poetic speculation. Extending this lineage of inquiry, BI employs large language models (LLMs) to translate plants' biological signals into perceptible phenomena such as sound and light, rendering otherwise imperceptible vegetal processes sensorially present. Situated in newly opened Umi-no-Mori Park, a site where both ecological and human histories are still in formation, Kishi will install 100 BI units throughout the landscape. Together, they articulate the forest not as a static environment, but as a dynamic, distributed network shaped by the interactions of diverse plant life. Biological signals are continuously transformed into dispersed voices and pulses of light, producing an immersive field of expression that emerges between organism and algorithm.

Through BI, plants, AI, and humans enter into a provisional and speculative relationship—one that reframes the forest as a space of shared agency. “Parallel Forests” proposes the possibility of a new commons, where the vegetal and the human worlds do not stand apart, but reflect and co-constitute one another.

Exhibition Information

Yuma Kishi, *Parallel Forests*

March 13 (Fri) – March 15 (Sun), 2026 5:30pm –8:30pm

Venue: Umi-no-Mori Park (3-3 Umi-no-Mori, Koto-ku, Tokyo)

Free admission

Advance reservation required (capacity: 100 visitors per day)

***Free shuttle bus from Shin-Kiba Station**

Official website: <https://ccbt.rekibun.or.jp/events/parallel-forests>

Reservations: <https://aip-kishiyuma.peatix.com/>

► About the Exhibition

In “La Botanica Parallela” (English title: “Parallel Botany”), the picture-book author Leo Lionni vividly depicts mysterious plants that seem to defy the laws of physics.

To imagine fictional plants is, in itself, a somewhat peculiar act. What might such an act mean?

In Parallel Botany, plants, usually silent presences, becomes gateways to unfamiliar phenomena and unknown worlds.

As readers encounter Lionni’s fantastical ecosystems, they find themselves wondering, What if such plants truly existed? What if we were to wander into such a world? Surprised by the expansiveness of his imagination, we cannot help but let our own imaginations swell. In contemplating these strange plants, we begin to notice that an equally fantastical landscape is unfolding within ourselves.

To lose oneself in an imaginary world through Lionni’s writing is akin to wandering too far at dusk while playing as a child. There is both excitement and anxiety in stepping unknowingly into unfamiliar territory, a fleeting release from the ordinary world of common sense, constraints, or even homework. To explore the unknown with wonder and unease is, in other words, to create a new world through imagination. The parallel plants serve as quiet guides, leading us toward realms entirely distinct from the one we already know.

While reading Parallel Botany, I was reminded of visits to a nearby forest when I was a child, taken there by my parents.

On the way home at dusk, hand in hand, the dim forest before me felt utterly different from the one I had known in daylight. It was not imaginary. It existed tangibly before my eyes, accompanied by the rustling wind, the cries of nocturnal animals, and the low murmur of the earth itself. There was a world there that my young self was not permitted to enter. The presence of that unknown world felt like hope - a small child’s hope toward the vastness of the world.

But where has that twilight forest gone now that I am an adult? The world has begun to feel narrower than I once imagined. With a simple flick of a smartphone, we can access almost anything. Our knowledge has increased, yet the density of the unknown has markedly diminished. I have not encountered that twilight forest for some time.

And yet perhaps the unknown has not disappeared. It may be sprouting elsewhere. That forest may now be unfolding deep within a new form of intelligence, AI. Like trees, AI systems extend their branches (neurons) within computers, continually surprising us with their behavior. But if we, as humans, have so far stepped only into AI’s bright daytime territories such as domains of convenience and reproducibility, then surely, within the depths of its mathematical spaces, a twilight still lies dormant, waiting for us to enter.

Might it be possible to realize Lionni’s “parallel plants” today with the assistance of AI?

By inputting not only human language but also plant signals into large language models (LLMs), might we generate a

new ecology?

This exhibition, Parallel Forests, is an attempt to manifest a “forest of parallel plants” within an artificial woodland floating on Tokyo Bay. The venue, Umi-no-Mori Park, contains a young forest cultivated by human hands over many years on reclaimed landfill beginning in 2005. In this sense, it has no deep-rooted history. Both plants and people have only just taken root here. The forest retains a certain sense of suspension, not yet fully grounded. Within this forest, one hundred small computers equipped with compact AI models are installed. Receiving multiple biological signals from surrounding plants and trees, they murmur softly in scattered voices. Deeper within the woods, a single pillar of light rises, casting signals skyward.

The small voices generated through collaboration between plants and AI, intelligences different from our own, along with beams of light projected into the sky, will invite viewers who wander into the forest toward new horizons of imagination. I have chosen to call this new form of AI, which collaborates with plants and generates networks like trees, Botanical Intelligence (BI). BI brings a “Parallel Forests” to Umi-no-Mori. I hope you will lose your way within it.

— Yuma Kishi

► About the Artist | Yuma Kishi (b.1993)



Reframing AI as “Alien Intelligence,” the artist advocates an emergent relationship between humans and AI as an “alien subject,” and collaborates with a self-developed AI to create paintings, sculptures, and installations. Major solo exhibitions include “Oracle Womb” (2025, √K Contemporary) and “The Frankenstein Papers” (2023 / DIESEL ART GALLERY). Group exhibitions include “DXP2” (2024 / 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa) and “JYU (Second Chapter / BEAUTIFUL

DAYDREAM)” (2024 / Maruka Building), among others.

Kishi has also drawn attention for research-based collaborations with the fashion brand HATRA, artwork contributions for bands such as RADWIMPS and King Gnu, and visual direction for musician Keiichiro Shibuya’s “Android Opera.” The artist is also the author of “Michi tono sozo” (2025, Seibundo Shinkosha). Honors include selection for the “CAF Award 2023” and the “ATAMI ART GRANT 2022.”

IG | @obake_ai/ X | @obake_ai

► About Civic Creative Base Tokyo (CCBT)

Civic Creative Base Tokyo (CCBT) is a hub for developing your creativity in ways that meaningfully engage with society through art and digital technology. Equipped with creative spaces and studios, CCBT organizes a wide-ranging program of events and projects to serve as a driving force for making Tokyo better through creativity and technology.

(text: <https://ccbtor.jp/en/about>)

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【Hours】 1:00~7:00pm

Press Release

March, 2026

√ k Contemporary

【Closed】 Mondays (Open on holidays, closed on the next business day)

【Tel】 +81-(0)3-5458-2700

【Organizer】 Tokyo Metropolitan Government, Civic Creative Base Tokyo (Arts Council Tokyo, Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture)

【web】 <https://ccbtr.kibun.or.jp/>

▶ About Art Incubation Program

Art Incubation Program provides opportunities for creative talent to undertake new projects and makes those processes accessible to the public, facilitating forms of artistic expression, exploration, and action that change our city for the better. Selected through an open call, five artist fellows will act as CCBT partners, developing their projects, making the creative process public, exhibiting the results, and holding workshops and talks.

(text: <https://ccbtr.kibun.or.jp/en/core-programs/art-incubation>)

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