

About Maris



©Maris World Standard Table

Maris is a form of sand painting. It is the world's first painting method designed to be accessible to everyone, regardless of visual ability. The sand's textures and scents enable blind people to "see" the colors and shapes depicted.

The brightness of colors is defined by sand grain size, all mapped out in the Maris World Standard Table.

(Invented by contemporary artist Liku Maria Takahashi in 2009, patented in Japan)

The coarser the grain is, the darker the tone represented. Each color used—red, yellow, or whatever—is expressed by a specific scent.

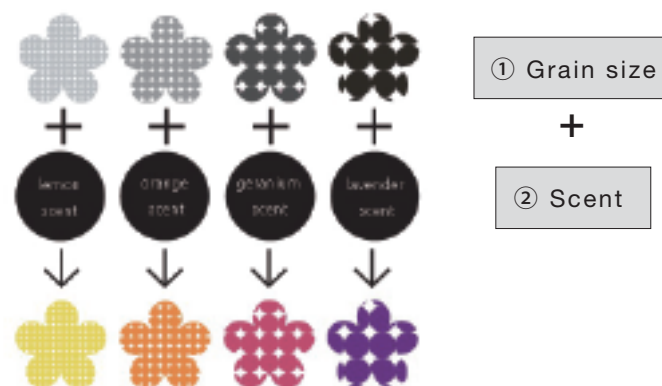
(Paintings measuring at least 10 x 5 cm)

Accessible to everyone, even children

Once the simple rule about how grain size expresses brightness is learned, anyone with visual impairment can start enjoying the paintings.

1 Maris is based on the Maris World Standard Table, which defines specific colors and tones by sand grain size and herb essential oil scents.

2 The 10 levels of lightness and hue in the Maris World Standard Table were decided by Liku M. Takahashi.



① Grain size = Monochromatic painting (85% of color information)
① Grain size + ② Scent = Colorful Painting (10% of color information)

Note: For simplicity, the Maris Method does not express saturation, which accounts for the remaining 5% of color information.



Liku Maria Takahashi (Japanese)

Painter, sculptor, designer, art theorist, educator, martial artist

Contemporary Artist

Signature works include the Maris Art Project

President, The World Diversity Art Society

- 1993 Graduated from Tokyo Zokei University, with a major in Sculpture
Studied under the supervision of Churyo Sato
- 2011 Studied at the Art Students League of New York, with a major in Painting,
under the supervision of Charles B. Hinman (NY, USA)
- 1989~2008 Made many sculptures
- 2010 Invented Maris, the world's first painting that everyone can see
Started the Maris Art Project and began producing works and exhibitions
as the project's leader
Published the "Maris World Standard Table" ©
Held a special lecture at Perkins School for the Blind (Boston, USA)
- 2011 Maris Art Project in NY: Exhibition at the front space of seven museums
Participated in the Times Warner art program "NoriVision – creative art and
culture tv" in NY
- 2012 Started the "Maris National Flag Project"
- 2014 Revised the "Maris World Standard Table" ©
- 2016 Held Maris exhibition in Rio during the 2016 Paralympics
- 2017 Held Maris exhibition at the World Blind Union Officers and Committee
Meetings (Tokyo)
Participated in 42nd Japan Week in Prague in 2017
- 2018 Held Maris traveling exhibition in four countries:
Opava (Czech), Torino (Italy), Hanoi (Vietnam),
Shiogama (Miyagi, area affected by March 2011 earthquake/tsunami)
- 2019 Hold Maris traveling exhibition in four countries:
Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam), Paris (France), Prague (Czech), Stockholm (Sweden)

Contact

Maris Art Project

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Maris
Art Project
European tour
2019!
3 exhibitions!



Scene from
The 30th Maris National Flag Project
in Prague
2017.11.19-23

accessible to blind and sighted people alike Maris

The world's first!

Maris

The painting method created to be accessible to
blind and sighted people alike



Maris... a technique invented for painting
appreciation by the blind has become a tool
for inspiring the sighted toward greater
compassion and world peace.

1 The 37th Maris National Flag Project at AAA Paris



4.22 Mon - 25 Thu 11:00~18:00

Opening party 4.19 Fri 18:30~20:30

Venue
AAA – ETABLISSEMENT LIBRE D’ENSEIGNEMENT SUPÉRIEUR

Address
21 Rue d'Antin, 75002 Paris, France

Tel
+33 1 42 66 69 05

Organizers : AAA Paris / The World Diversity Art Society

Endorsed by : France Embassy of Japan / Fondation Franco-Japonaise Sasakawa

Sponsored by : THE ASAHI SHIMBUN FOUNDATION

National Committee of Welfare the Blind in Japan

Supported by : Tokyo Metropolitan Welfare Association of the Blind

Art For the Light (AFL)

Satoshi Fukushima (Professor, University of Tokyo RCAST)

Naoyuki Okouchi (Project Researcher, University of Tokyo RCAST)



I think that visually impaired people want to see paintings. Do you know how they feel?

Maris, the first art method to make paintings accessible to blind people, spreads a message of kindness across the world. By showing that paintings can be enjoyed by the visually impaired, it creates opportunities for the sighted to gain deeper understanding of those with disability.

It was in 2009 that I succeeded in creating a technique for finally opening the world of painting to those whose eyes cannot see. I called it "Maris."

We are all able to rise above discrimination if only we leave our egos behind. Sighted visitors to Maris exhibitions can witness their blind peers enjoying the same paintings they enjoy.

2 The 38th Maris National Flag Project at PARIS INTERNATIONAL CONCOURS LÉPINE



4.27 Sat - 5.8 Wed 10:00~17:00

Venue
Hall 2-1 Paris Expo Porte de Versailles

Address
12, rue Beccaria - 75012 Paris, France

Tel
+33 01 40 02 04 50

E-mail
crslepine@concours-lepine.com

These experiences provided by Maris are opportunities to encounter a realm of Love & Peace that transcends able-bodiedness, ethnicity, gender, and all other distinctions that lead to discrimination. In philosophical terms, my art creates encounters where paintings plant the seeds of understanding. I am now preparing to launch an art movement of Love & Peace across Europe in 2020. Focused on Paris, this movement will use the power of art to make the world a kinder place. From the 1970s to the mid-1980s Joseph Beuys endeavored to use art as a force for changing the world for the better. Over the years, I have made the ideals he expressed the foundation of my work, but I have also reshaped them with my own belief that art completely transcends politics and religion.

3 The 39th Maris National Flag Project at Czech Embassy of Japan



5.14 Tue - 5.23 Wed 11:00~16:00

Opening party 5.13 Mon 18:00~20:00

Venue
Czech Embassy of Japan

Address
Maléřské nám. 477/6, 118 00 Malá Strana, Czech Republic

Tel
+420 257 533 546

Organizer : Czech Embassy of Japan

Co-organizer : The World Diversity Art Society

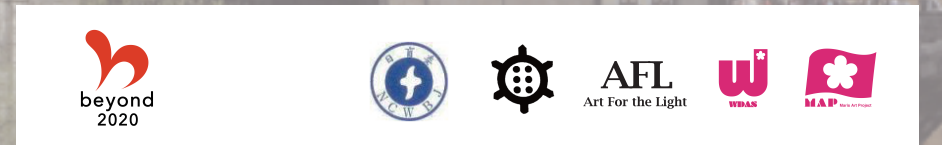
Sponsored by : National Committee of Welfare the Blind in Japan

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My vision of art strips away the political and religious aspects from Beuys' concepts, and replants the underlying mysticism and philosophical thinking of Rudolf Steiner in a soil of ancient Japanese animism and Bushido. Deeply inspired by Beuys' concept of "social sculpture"—regardless of any distinctions between East and West—I use my art as a medium for conveying messages on how we can create an ideal society. Art leads us to new discoveries. And, it has the power to change the world.

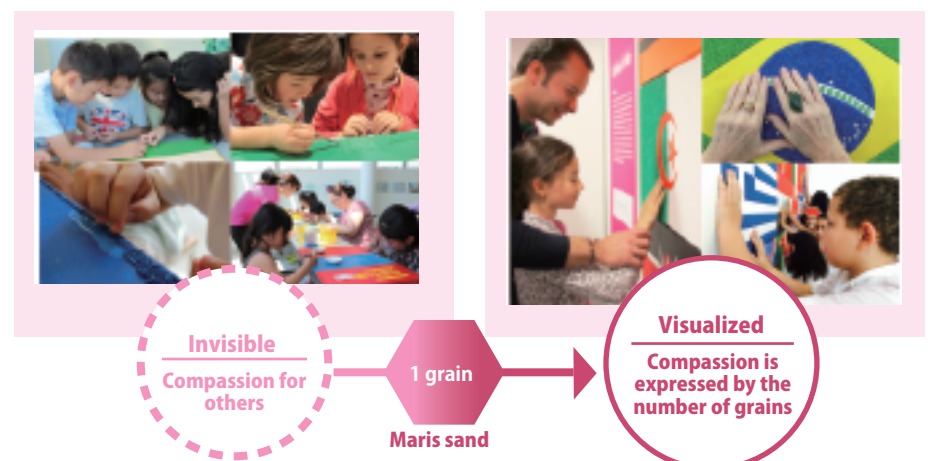
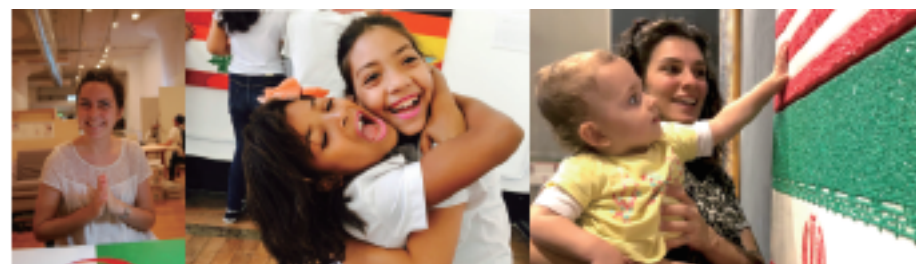
Liku Maria Takahashi
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Maris National Flag Project

This project, part of the larger Maris Art Project, hosts workshops for collaborative creation of Maris paintings of all the world's national flags.

Participants paint the flag of a country other than their own. Each grain of sand represents one person in that country. As participants place a grain on the canvas, they wish for the happiness of that person. By engaging people in a hands-on activity that encourages them to hope for the happiness of others, this project seeks to foster international mindedness and compassion.

This project was launched on the day of the closing ceremony of the London Olympics in August 2012.



Message from workshop participant

すな 1つぶ1つぶへいわをいのりながらはりつけました。
これを見て、はやく、へいわになってほしいです
"I prayed for peace as I placed each grain. I hope that many people will see this and bring peace to our world."
10-year-old resident of March 2011 tsunami/earthquake disaster area in Japan