

Join Koebitai!

Let's go to the islands!

Koebitai is a volunteer group that provides support to Setouchi Triennale. Volunteers from Japan and all around the world come to the Seto Inland Sea and participate in various activities on different islands. People of all ages are welcome. You can join even just for one day. Do you love islands? Art? Or maybe you want to help in the art festival? Come and join us!

<http://koebi.jp>



瀬戸内国際芸術祭2019

Setouchi Triennale 2019

Setouchi Triennale is the art festival held on 12 islands in the Seto Inland Sea once every three years. However, many activities are still held continuously on each island the other two years. We call them "Art Setouchi".

Venue / Naoshima, Teshima, Megijima, Ogijima, Shodoshima, Oshima, Inujima, Shamijima, Honjima, Takamijima, Awashima, Ibukijima, Takamatsu Port, Uno Port

Contact / Setouchi Triennale Executive Committee Office

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<http://setouchi-artfest.jp>

What are the Activities?

There are various volunteer activities to support Setouchi Triennale, such as helping in the production of artworks, PR activities for the art festival, operation tasks during the art festival, and helping in local events of different islands. Even outside of the festival periods, we would have artworks open to public as well as all kinds of events under the banner of "Art Setouchi." Through the many activities all the year round, Koebitai plays the role of connecting the islands and people with warmth and laughter.



Reception at Artworks

During the festival periods, we man the reception desks and introduce the artworks to visitors on the islands every day. Even outside of the festival periods, we would conduct the same activities, mainly on weekends. Our staff will come along, so beginners can join us without worries.



Helping in Restaurants

By helping in restaurants and cafes on the islands, we promote the charm of the artworks and the regions through cuisine.



Exchange with Fellow Volunteers

To make activities on the islands even more enjoyable, we organize exchange meetings and study meetings for fellow Koebitai volunteers. We hold "Koebi Meetings" to explain our activities; we also invite guests to give talks for our "Setouchi Talks" series on various topics relating to the Seto Inland Sea and the art festival. First-timers are also welcome.



Production and Maintenance of Artworks

Before the commencement of the art festival, we help artists during the production of their artworks. Meanwhile, maintenance and cleaning of artworks would be carried out through the year.



Island Guides

Guides from Koebitai are unique. While introducing the artworks, we also share interesting episodes about their production, as well as the history, culture, and charm of each island.



Koebi Newspaper

This is the newspaper produced by Koebitai several times a year, connecting islanders, artists and visitors together. As Koebitai members have unique perspectives about the islands they travel to every day, in Koebi Newspaper you can find information drawn from such unique perspectives.



Helping in Events

Why don't you join us to make once-in-a-lifetime events happen? We help set up the venues for workshops and concerts, receive participants and give instructions, and clean up the venues.



Helping in Local Festivals and Events

The Setouchi region is full of colorful events. Let's sweat together with our local friends! Autumn festivals in the region are spectacular, while bon odori dance in the summer and cultural festivals in the winter are also exciting. There are so many of these local events. Join us, and get a taste of the traditional cultures and customs of the islands. Your experience on the islands would be even more fruitful!



Helping in Other Art Festivals

Our great passion towards art festivals is never limited to Setouchi Triennale! We participate in various art festivals around Japan too!

Year-round activities

Let's go to the islands!

Year-round activities include: manning the artworks which are to be continued after the art festival, helping in cafes and restaurants on islands, helping in local festivals and other events, maintenance of artworks, PR activities, the publication of Koebi Newsletter, Koebi meetings and study groups.

Activities for the art festival

Let's "produce" the art festival!

These activities include: tidying up the vacant houses, collecting materials for artwork production, helping artists with the production and installation of their artworks, art workshops, and the removal of artworks.

Let's "do" the art festival!

These activities include: manning the artworks (we need over 50 helpers every day during the festival period!), explanation of artworks, helping in art events, helping in cafes and restaurants on islands, and tour guiding.



Interviews with Koebitai members

Helene Crusson (France) Joined in Spring 2016

● How did you learn about Koebitai?

I visited Naoshima in Fall 2015 to see Tadao Ando's architecture. I went to Teshima Art Museum as well. As an architect, I learned about architecture on Naoshima and Teshima from books that introduce Japan; these were taught in school, too. I got information about the art festival when I was staying in Japan. As it was a long stay, I tried to search for cheap accommodation. Then, my friend discovered Koebitai. Although I knew nothing at the very beginning, I learned a lot through e-mail correspondence with the Koebi Office; there was nothing to worry about.

● How were the Koebi activities?

The islands in the Seto Inland Sea are of different colors and characters, and it was so great to visit all these different places! Moreover, it was nice to have met people from different locales and countries in the Koebi Dormitory. Our warden and wardress were very kind. I wish to visit Setouchi again. I asked my architect friends to go and see, too.



Simon Tu (Hong Kong) Joined in 2013 and 2016

● How did you learn about Koebitai?

In 2012, I was doing research about Setouchi Triennale, and then I found Koebitai. That was the time when I was studying in Japan. In 2013, I went to the Koebi meeting held in Osaka, and learned many things about the group and activities.

● How were the Koebi activities?

It was great to exchange with many people. As a Hongkonger, it was exciting to experience the abundance of nature. I also learned about how hard working all the staff members were; they are such amazing! For instance, it was impossible for them to schedule the daily shift duties without knowing each volunteer-supporter's personality, character, and experience. Furthermore, I also witnessed how deep the connections between Koebitai and local people were by observing their social exchanges.

How to join us.

Registration procedure:

Webpage of Koebitai

【www.koebi.jp】⇒【English】⇒【Signing up with Koebitai Newsletter】

Upon completing the on-line registration, you will receive an acknowledgement email to confirm your registration. Should you not receive the acknowledgement email.

Procedure after signing up

After signing up with Koebitai Newsletter, you will receive the newsletter (in Japanese) occasionally from the Koebi Office, through which we make announcements about the availability of activities. Meanwhile, we also announce this information on our Koebitai website; you may apply whenever you find activities that you want to join. For non-Japanese speakers, please visit our English webpage.

Sign up with Koebitai Newsletter

Select activities to join

Enter your information as required, and apply for joining the activities

Decide and confirm the activities

Email communications regarding details

Join and have fun!

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