Emi Kusano

Artist based in Tokyo, Japan

Emi Kusano is a multidisciplinary artist whose practice integrates emerging technologies, including AI, to explore nostalgia, pop culture, and collective memory. By visualizing the dialogue between past and present through a retro-futuristic aesthetic, she invites viewers to reconsider contemporary society.

Her work has been exhibited internationally in over 20 countries at major institutions including M+ (Hong Kong), Saatchi Gallery (London), Grand Palais Immersif (Paris), and the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, as well as at major international art fairs such as Frieze and Paris Photo. Her artistic roots lie in street photography, and her early archival work on Harajuku fashion was featured at the Victoria and Albert Museum (London).

Kusano has realized a commissioned project associated with the seminal cyberpunk work Ghost in the Shell, and participated in collaborative auctions with Christie’s for Gucci and UNHCR. She was recognized by the World Economic Forum as a Young Global Leader in 2025 and a Cultural Leader in 2026.

Having served as a lecturer at Tokyo University of the Arts, she currently serves on Japan's Agency for Cultural Affairs' Copyright Subcommittee, addressing issues of authorship and rights in the algorithmic age. Her background also includes leading the synth-wave unit Satellite Young.

Project

Co-founder of Web3 Anime Project Shinsei Galverse

Lead Singer and Music Composer, Synth-wave Music Unit Satellite Young

Position

Former Part-time Lecturer, Tokyo University of the Arts

CEO / Co-Founder, Fictionera Co., Ltd. (2021~ Present)

Education

2015 · Keio University, Faculty of Environment and Information Studies

emikusano.art | Exhibitions

Selected exhibitions

2026-11: END OF NOSTALGIA (HYPER MUSEUM HANNO, Hanno, Japan)

2026-06: Basel Social Club 2026 (Basel, Switzerland)

2026-05: SPECTRUM 2076 AD — Conscious Entities of the Coming World (GYRE Gallery, Tokyo, Japan)

2026-05: Ornament Survival (√K Contemporary, Tokyo, Japan)

2026-03: Art Basel Hong Kong 2026 — Zero10 Sector (Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre, Hong Kong)

2026-01: Ghost in the Shell: The Exhibition (TOKYO NODE, Tokyo, Japan)

2025-12: Bodyscapes (Load Gallery, Miami, The United States)

2025-12: Media Under Dystopia 6.0: Looking at Models (Miami, The United States)

2025-11: uni form: Broken Twill – Berlin Edition (P61 Gallery, Berlin, Germany)

2025-11: Paris Photo 2025 — Digital Sector (Grand Palais, Paris, France)

2025-10: EGO in the Shell: Ghost Interrogation (Offline Gallery, New York)

2025-05: Asian Avant-Garde Film Festival (M+ Museum, Hong Kong)

2025-05: New Dimensions: Expanded Consciousness (Mikke Gallery Tokyo, Japan)

2025-03: Office Ladies (ArtVerse, Paris, France)

2025-03: RIVALS - Photography vs. Promptography (Galerie Guelman und Unbekannt, Berlin, Germany)

2025-01: The Second-Guess (House of Electronic Arts, Basel, Switzerland)

2024-12: Ai: The Expo (Discovery Museum, Kerkrade, Netherlands)

2024-12: Untitled Art (Miami Beach, The United States)

2024-11: TOKYO ART BOOK FAIR (Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan)

2024-11: 17–24 NOVEMBER 2024 | AI BIENNALE, ESSEN REIMAGINE TOMORROW, 1954–2024 (Stiftung Zollverein und Digital Campus Zollverein, Essen Germany)

2024-11: 19th Digital Art Festival Taipei (Art Space IV, Future Square Taiwan Contemporary Culture Lab, Taipei, Taiwan)

2024-10: Artificial Dreams (MEET Digital Culture Centre, Milan, Italy)

2024-09: Art of Punk (Museum Francisco Carolinum, Austria)

2024-09: Kiaf SEOUL (Coex Exhibition Centre, Seoul, Korea)

Selected exhibitions & recognition

2024-05: Artificial Dreams (Grand Palais Immersif, Paris)

2024-03: Now in Digital Art: Game Room (Akbank Sanat, Istanbul)

2023-12: Neural Fad: AI dreams Nostalgia, “NIPPON TV IMAGINARIUM AWARD 2023” award jury presentation, organized by NIPPON TV, (Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo)

2023-12: The Gateway Miami - Art Basel Miami (Faena Forum)

2023-10: DXP (Digital Transformation Planet): Towards the Next Interface (21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa)

2023-10: Long Live London (Saatchi Gallery)

2023-09: E-Motions (UNIT London)

2023-07: Christie's 3.0 presents Future Frequencies: Explorations in Generative Art and Fashion in collaboration with Gucci (Rockefeller Center)

2023-06: Non Fungible Conference (Carlos Lopes Pavilion)

2023-05: Bright Moments Tokyo (Shibuya Parco)

2020-08: Kimono: Kyoto to Catwalk (Victoria and Albert Museum)

2019-11: SIGGRAPH ASIA Art Gallery (Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre)

2018-03: Art Hack Day (National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation)

2011-04: Japan Fashion Now (Fashion Institute of Technology, New York)

Awards, fellowships & selections

Finalist of Digital Art Awards 2026 by Hofa in Partnership with Phillips (2026)

Inaugural AI Art Fellow, Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence (2026)

Cultural Leader, World Economic Forum Annual Meeting (Davos, 2026)

Artist Cohort, OpenAI (2026)

World Economic Forum Young Global Leaders 2025 (2025)

Aesthetica Art Award Longlist (2025)

Sora Select Feature Film (2025)

Excellence Award "Currents Art Award" (2025)

Lumen Prize Finalist (2024)

Winning Prize "Meta Morph Award" AI Video (2024)

Winning Prize "SIGGRAPH Asia Art Gallery" (2019)

Jury Award "Art Hack Day" (2018)