

## Fujiko Nakaya

Fujiko Nakaya (b. 1933 Sapporo, Japan) is best known for her fog sculptures, ephemeral and immersive installations that have been transforming public spaces and structures for nearly 50 years.

Nakaya's innovative use of fog as a sculptural medium emerged during her involvement with E.A.T. (Experiments in Art and Technology). This global initiative promoting collaboration between artists and engineers was a perfect fit for Nakaya, a painter with a preoccupation for natural phenomena and the daughter of Ukichiro Nakaya, a physicist known for his work in glaciology and low-temperature sciences. As Tokyo representative for the group, Nakaya produced the world's first fog sculpture for Expo '70 in Osaka, shrouding the roof of the Pepsi pavilion with simulated fog.

The technology developed for Expo '70, in collaboration with atmospheric physicist Thomas Mee, has formed as the basis of her subsequent works. These include permanent installations at the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao, the San Francisco Exploratorium and Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire, France. She has also created temporary installations in diverse venues, from the Grand Palais, Paris (2013) to Philip Johnson's Glass House, Connecticut (2014). In spring 2017, Nakaya's London Fog took over the South Terrace of the Tate Modern. Created with her long-time collaborators, musician Ryuichi Sakamoto and lighting designer Shiro Takatani, the immersive sculpture was animated with light and soundscapes. In December 2017, Ginza Maison Hermès Le Forum in Tokyo presented an indoor work in Greenland, an exhibition devoted to Nakaya and her father.

Nakaya's fog sculptures have often served as a platform for collaborations with creators from various disciplines, including choreographer Trisha Brown, pianist David Tudor and multimedia artist Bill Viola. She has also collaborated with Viola in her pioneering work to establish video art in Japan. The long-time friends opened Japan's first video art gallery, Video Gallery SCAN, in 1980. The gallery supported new artists through bi-annual competitions and, in 1987, Nakaya organised the Japan International Video Television Festival at Spiral in Tokyo.

Her first citywide exhibition of fog sculptures for Boston's Emerald Necklace Conservancy, a 1,100-acre chain of parks and parkways opened this year. With her new works, Nakaya continues her unique and intimate dialogue with nature, art and technology. Speaking of her work, the artist said, 'I create a scene so that nature can express itself within. I am a sculptor of fog, but I do not attempt to shape it. The atmosphere is the mould, the wind—the burin.'

In 2008, Nakaya received the Special Achievement Prize at the Japan Media Arts Festival, and in 2017, she was made a Commander of the Order of Arts and Letters by the French government. This year she was the recipient of the Praemium Imperiale prize for sculpture, and to mark the occasion, the first large-scale retrospective of her work opens at Art Tower Mito, Japan on 27 October 2018.