Sapporo International Art Festival 2014

[Theme and Message]
The land which was named Hokkaido after the Meiji Restoration can be seen as a symbol of Japan’s modernization due to the part it played. Even the indigenous people and nature of Hokkaido were not immune from that modernization. By looking back on our past through art we can explore the concept of nature, cities, economy and lifestyles in Sapporo/Hokkaido in the 21st century (the concept of social sculpture). Leading-edge work based on the themes will be displayed in the most suitable places.

Venues
The Hokkaido Museum of Modern Art and the Sapporo Art Museum will serve as the main venues. We also plan to collaborate with other venues, including the Former Hokkaido Government Office Building known as Akarenga, (meaning “redbrick”) to add a historical dimension, Hokkaido University as a center of scientific excellence in Hokkaido, Moerenuma Park, subway stations and the Sapporo Ekimae-dori Underground Walkway as public spaces. We will also work with shopping districts and other areas to highlight art closely related to people’s everyday lives. Collaboration with other regions is also planned, including the Ainu Museum in Shiraoi Town, the Yubari Coal Mine Museum, and New Chitose Airport as a public space. We would also like to work with the City of Yamaguchi in the field of media arts.

Other resources
Collaboration with existing programs already established in Sapporo, including the Pacific Music Festival (PMF), the Sapporo International Short Film Festival and Market, and food festivals at Odori Park.
Hold a competition to utilize historic buildings as art centers open to local residents. For this purpose, historical structures such as the Former Hokkaido Government Office Building and the Former Sapporo Court of Appeals (known as Shiryokan) should be used rather than temporary venues.

Keep the remains of coalmines as works of art. It will be wonderful if we could keep such remains by repairing facilities in Yubari, for example, as such facilities played an important part in the energy policies during Japan’s modernization. For this purpose I would like to approach German artist Anselm Kiefer.

Establish art centers as described in 1. above and a system for implementing sustainable projects. Issues such as Energy and Art and Urban Agriculture and Art defy easy solutions; such problems require artists and local residents to collaborate to find answers through workshops and other experiences.

Plant trees as a sustained symbol of the memorable inauguration of the Sapporo International Art Festival (Sapporo Triennale). Trees live for a long time – often over 50 or 100 years. This project should serve as an opportunity to pray for the prosperity of Sapporo and Hokkaido for many years to come.

Investigate and address noise pollution in public places, to mark the inauguration of the triennale. As a musician, I have been aware of the problems facing urban sound environments. In Japanese cities, noise pollution remains unchecked, which I believe is a serious problem.