

Tada Minami—Still, shimmering light

August 29 – December 6, 2026

The Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo is pleased to present a major solo exhibition of TADA Minami (1924–2014), a leading abstract artist whose work spans sculpture, design, and architecture in postwar Japan. Tada, who produced approximately 200 sculptural pieces and 500 works integrated into architectural spaces over the course of her career, extended her practice far beyond the confines of the museum, leaving her creations in a wide range of urban spaces—including parks, railway stations, city halls, hotels, and theaters—where they have formed an integral part of people’s everyday life over many years. Her body of work, varying widely in both material and scale, includes stainless-steel sculptures that appear to shapely rise skyward, glass and acrylic works that harmonize with surrounding landscapes, and “Illuminated Walls” that contain richly colored light.

Tada was among the pioneering artists who actively incorporated into their artistic expression industrial materials and fabrication technologies—widely adopted during the period of rapid economic growth in Japan. Her works feature smooth, inorganic surfaces that conceal traces of manual labor, while integrating organic elements such as light’s reflection, transmission, refraction, and fluctuation. They respond to changing environments and the movement of viewers, continually transforming their appearance. These explorations represent a departure from the academic conventions of figurative sculpture, which emphasizes mass and stability, and instead align with postwar abstract sculpture oriented toward spatial and environmental relationships. Notably, Tada positioned light not as a mere visual effect but as the very core of form itself. Through her cross-disciplinary practice spanning fine art, product design, interior design, and architecture and her direct engagement with space, she established a unique position within the artistic trends of her time.

Such achievements were made possible by Tada’s keen sensitivity and relentless spirit of inquiry toward new materials and technologies and the deep trust she cultivated with collaborating engineers and technicians. Underlying her work is a sustained commitment to exploring a “second nature” as a form of beauty that can only be created by human hands.

With the full cooperation of the Minami Tada Associates, this exhibition presents approximately 70 works, including early paintings, sculptures from various periods, and lighting works — including chandeliers — that the artist described as “Lighting Sculptures” alongside components of architectural works, photographs, sketches, and other archival materials. Together, these works and documents offer a comprehensive and renewed overview of Tada Minami’s nearly seventy-year career.

Tada Minami | Profile

Born in Kaohsiung, Taiwan, in 1924 and grew up in Korea. While still in high school, Tada exhibited work at the Chōsen Art Exhibition, where she received an award. In 1944, she graduated from the Oil Painting Department at Joshibijutsu Senmon Gakkō (current Joshibi University of Art and Design). In 1956, she exhibited oil paintings at the 41st Nika Art Exhibition, and then at the 9th Yomiuri Independent Exhibition in 1957. That same year, she produced the relief *Coal Mine* for the Tanrō Kaikan [Coal Miner's Union Building] in Tokyo. In 1962, she established the Minami Tada Associates. Her most representative sculptural works include *Frequency 37306505* (1965, Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo), a piece consisting of hemispherical acrylic forms with aluminum vaporific coating to achieve a mirror-like surface, and *Chiaroscuro* (1979, The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo), an outdoor stainless-steel sculpture. Her architectural works include a lighting sculpture for the new Imperial Palace (1968), *Dawn* (1970), an illuminated wall composed of approximately 7,600 glass blocks for the Imperial Hotel, and *Auspicious Clouds* (1973), a lighting work inspired by auspicious purple clouds for the RIHGA Royal Hotel Osaka, Vignette Collection. Tada passed away in 2014. Awards and honors include Excellence Award at the 8th International Art Exhibition, Japan (1965), Grand Prize at the 1st Henry Moore (1979), the 6th Isoya Yoshida Award (1981), the Medal with Purple Ribbon (1988), and the Order of the Precious Crown, Wistaria (1994). Major solo exhibitions in Japan include *MINAMI TADA* (1991, Mie Prefectural Art Museum and Shoto Museum of Art) and *40th Anniversary Exhibition: Minami Tada* (2009, Hakone Open-Air Museum).

GENERAL INFORMATION

Exhibition Title: Tada Minami—Still, shimmering light

Exhibition Period: August 29 – December 6, 2026

Opening Hours: 10 AM – 6 PM (Tickets available until 30 minutes before closing)

Closed: Mondays (except Sept 21, Oct 12, Nov 23), Sept 24, Oct 13, Nov 24

Venue: Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, Exhibition Gallery B2F

Admission: Adults: 1,600yen

University & College Students, Over 65: 1,100yen

High School & Junior High School Students: 640yen

Elementary School Students & Younger: free

WEB: <https://www.mot-art-museum.jp/en/exhibitions/Tada-Minami/>

Organized by Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo operated by Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture

Research and Technical Support: Minami Tada Associates

Sponsored by The Otsuka Museum of Art, KAJIMA CORPORATION

Curated by Odaka Hikari, Tamura Mariko (Curator, Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo)

Inquiries: 03-5245-4111 (main line)

Also on View

September 5 – December 13, 2026

Synchronic Constellation: Cross-boundary Perspectives in Art

September 19, 2026 – January 6, 2027

MOT Collection

CONTACT Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo | Public Relations (Kudo / Uchibori / Nagata / Otsuka)

E-MAIL: mot-pr@mot-art.jp TEL: +81-3-5245-1134 <https://www.mot-art-museum.jp/en>

All Programs are subject to change.



PUBLICITY IMAGES

MOT provides 11 publicity images to the press. Use of the images for any purpose requires prior permission of the museum. To request any image(s), **please send an email to mot-pr@mot-art.jp with the number of the image(s)**. You shall be deemed to have consented to our terms and conditions by submitting the request.

Terms and Conditions

1. Each image must be accompanied by its **caption information and credit line** provided by MOT.
2. Images may **only be used for publicity purposes solely in connection with the exhibition**.
3. Images must be reproduced in their entirety and may **not be cropped, detailed, overprinted, or altered**.
4. You should send **a proof copy** to the museum **before** the final printing, broadcasting, and/or release for the fact check and confirmation of the use of image/s and credit/s. You should also provide the museum with **a copy of the magazine, newspaper, DVD, video file, website link, etc.** after publication.
5. Secondary use of the image/s is strictly prohibited. **The data of the image/s must be deleted once used for reproduction.**

Caption Information and Credit Lines



1
Frequency 37306505
1965
Acrylic resin, aluminum, iron
Collection of Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo
“MOT Collection Eye to Eye” (2024) Installation view
Photo: Masaru Yanagiba



2
Coal Mine, 1957
Iron
Originally installed at the Japan Coal Miners' Union building,
(Relocated in 1990 to the Yubari Coal Mine Museum)
Photo: Minami Tada Associates



3
Frequency 373055MC, 1963
Aluminum
Collection of Minami Tada Associates
Photo: Shigeyoshi Nobori



4
Lighting Sculpture, 1968
Crystal glass, metal
New Imperial Palace,
Tokyo
Photo: Shigeyoshi Nobori

CONTACT Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo | Public Relations (Kudo / Uchibori / Nagata / Otsuka)

E-MAIL: mot-pr@mot-art.jp TEL: +81-3-5245-1134 <https://www.mot-art-museum.jp/en>

All Programs are subject to change.



5
Illuminated Wall:
Dawn, 1970
Glass, metal
Imperial Hotel, Tokyo
Photo:
Kuniharu Sakumoto



6
Lighting Sculpture:
Auspicious Clouds, 1973
Crystal glass, ball chain
RIHGA Royal Hotel
Osaka, Vignette
Collection
Photo:
Kuniharu Sakumoto



7
Space Eye No.4, 1975
Acrylic
Collection of Minami Tada
Associates
Photo: Minami Tada
Associates



8
Mirage, 1989
Ceramic plate, stainless
steel
Collection of Minami Tada
Associates
Photo: Minami Tada
Associates



9
Coordinates, 2009
Stainless steel
Collection of Minami Tada
Associates
Photo: Mareo Suemasa



10
The artist working in her
studio
1978
Photo: Tomoyasu Naruse
Photo courtesy of
Sekaibunkasha Inc.



11
Auspicious Radiance, 2013
Ceramic plate,
Olive Bay Hotel, Nagasaki
Photo: Minami Tada Associates

CONTACT Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo | Public Relations (Kudo / Uchibori / Nagata / Otsuka)

E-MAIL: mot-pr@mot-art.jp TEL: +81-3-5245-1134 <https://www.mot-art-museum.jp/en>

All Programs are subject to change.

MOT+
MUSEUM CONTEMPORARY TOKYO
OF ART
東京都現代美術館