

"Press On Till Japan Changes": Tokyo Rainbow Pride 2023 to Take Place April 22-23.

Internationally Acclaimed Artist Maaya Wakasugi to Create the official Artwork for Tokyo Rainbow Pride 2023

The non-profit organization Tokyo Rainbow Pride (co-chaired by Fumino Sugiyama and Natsumi Yamada), is set to host one of Asia's largest LGBTQ-related pride parades and festivals - Tokyo Rainbow Pride 2023. Celebrating "diversity of gender and life," the event will take place in Yoyogi Park from April 22 (Saturday) to April 23 (Sunday), with both days featuring the Pride Festival and the Pride Parade taking place on Sunday, April 23.



Tokyo Rainbow Pride in 2022

The theme for this year's Tokyo Rainbow Pride 2023 is "Press on till Japan changes," and the event's official artwork will be created by the acclaimed artist Maaya.

Since 2012, Tokyo Rainbow Pride has been organizing the "Pride Parade & Pride Festival" at Yoyogi Park in Tokyo, providing a welcoming space for LGBTQ individuals and allies to celebrate and connect with one another.

In 2022, Tokyo Rainbow Pride returned to Yoyogi Park for the first time in three years, attracting a total of 66,949 people despite the COVID-19 restrictions limiting the number of participants. Despite these limitations, the event, which celebrated its 10th anniversary, still provided an opportunity for individuals to connect in a physical setting and served as a reminder of the importance of embracing one's own identity while respecting the individuality of others.

Each year, numerous individuals participate in the Tokyo Rainbow Pride event, using their voices to advocate for diversity and inclusion, including the LGBTQ community. While societal attitudes and perspectives have shifted considerably in recent times, many challenges remain in Japan, such as the slow progress of LGBTQ legislation compared to other developed nations. In light of these challenges, we believe that the only way forward is to "never give up and keep pushing until positive change is achieved. With a deep-seated desire for positive change in mind, we are committed to hosting the Tokyo Rainbow Pride

event once again at Yoyogi Park in 2023, centering around the theme of "Press on till Japan changes."

The official artwork for this year's festival has been created by the world-renowned artist Maaya Wakasugi, who is based in France. The artwork features a fan, a traditional Japanese item believed to bring good luck, which has been depicted using light blotches and scraps to capture the theme of "Press on till Japan changes" in a subtle and expressive manner.

Tokyo Rainbow Pride 2023 firmly believes that in a truly equitable and happy future society, where everyone, including LGBTQ individuals, must be treated with respect and dignity. The event serves as a platform to promote and celebrate diversity, with the ultimate goal of realizing a truly inclusive and accepting society for all.

The event will be held in accordance with the guidelines of the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, and will be operated in accordance with infectious disease control measures.

Tokyo Rainbow Pride 2023 - Outline

Official name	: Tokyo Rainbow Pride 2023
Period	: April 22 (Sat) to 23 (Sun), 2023
Location	: Yoyogi Park Event Plaza, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo, and other related facilities and public spaces
Participation Fee	:Pride Parade & Pride Festival Admission free (Other programs and facilities may have admission fees)
Organizer	: Tokyo Rainbow Pride
Media Partner	: InterFM897, COURRIER JAPON

Event Outline

April 22 (Sat.) & 23 (Sun.) "Pride Festival"

Time: 11:00-18:00

Location: Yoyogi Park Event Plaza & Outdoor Stage

*Further details, including the time schedule, will be announced in a future press release to be distributed in late March.

April 23 (Sun.) "Pride Parade"

Time: 13:00 start (tentative)

Location: Shibuya - Harajuku

Course and other details will be announced at a later date.

How to Participate

(Note the event will be operated in accordance with the guidelines of the Tokyo Metropolitan Government and with infection control measures in place.)

Pride Festival

The entry method to the Yoyogi Park event site and stage viewing area will be announced in a press release to be distributed in late March.

Pride Parade

Participants can register for the Pride Parade at the dedicated booth located at the event site on April 22 (Sat.) and 23 (Sun.). Please note that only those who have been approved through the registration process will be permitted to participate in the Pride Parade.

This year, Tokyo Rainbow Pride, as the event organizer, will not be accepting advanced applications for the Pride Parade. However, numerous organizations exhibiting at the Pride Festival will participate in the parade. The specific participation procedures in these will vary depending on the organization, and detailed information will be updated on the event website as soon as it becomes available.

From Maaya Wakasugi who the official Pride Festival artist

In 1996, I participated in Tokyo's Pride Parade for the first time, and I still remember the mixture of nervousness and joy that I felt as if it were yesterday. As someone living in France, I am constantly amazed by the differences I observe around the world with Japan, including the fact that after 27 years, Japan is now the only G7 country without any LGBT legislation. I hope that the current situation of LGBTQ+ rights in Japan will improve soon. To express my hope, I have painted a Japanese fan in rainbow colors, a symbol of good luck, with the theme "Press on until Japan changes".



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Maaya Wakasugi Calligrapher / Artist

Born in Okayama, Japan in 1977.

Started calligraphy at the age of 6 and held a solo exhibition at the age of 17. He graduated from Daito Bunka University, a prestigious calligraphy school, with a degree in Chinese literature. His choices of motifs and highly artistic expressions not bound by classical calligraphy styles have received worldwide acclaim, and he has exhibited at the NY ART EXPO (New York) and NEXT STEP BIENNALE (Paris). In 2017, he wrote the opening title character for NHK's historical drama "Onna Jôshu Naotora".

He currently lives in Bordeaux, France.

TRP2023 Theme and Statement

Press on till Japan changes.

We have come this far one person at a time, one by one.

We've re-connected with each other, so we can see the issues and change them for the better.

Yet, the gender gap has not narrowed despite the advancement of women in society.

Even though there is now a rainbow of different types of families, individuals still cannot choose their own surnames.

Inequalities and disparities experienced by those with disabilities remain even now unresolved.

Even though the importance of diversity is now widely understood, inclusion continues to be lacking.

The same is true for the LGBTQ community. Although the word has definitely gained recognition, our reality is that our situation has not changed that much.

Bullying, discrimination, prejudice still exists. Our voices are drowned out.

The partnership system has expanded, but marriage equality has yet to be granted.

Can Japan really change in this rapidly changing world?

It is precisely because we can now see these issues clearly that we feel frustrated at the stagnation.

So now is the time to raise our voices once again.

Tell them we are here to stay.

24 hours a day, 365 days a year, in every generation, in every place.

That we have been and will continue to live together.

Let's keep marching on until the landscape changes.

For a future where everyone of all diversities can live equitably and happily.

Tokyo Rainbow Pride aims to realize a society in which all people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, can live more freely and positively without discrimination or prejudice, and to provide a place to celebrate and connect with LGBTQ people and their supporters (Ally) through events that celebrate diversity in gender and life.

Tokyo Rainbow Pride Official Website: <https://tokyorainbowpride.com/>

TRP Official YouTube channel "TRP Channel": <https://www.youtube.com/c/TokyoRPride/>

TRP Official Twitter Account: https://twitter.com/Tokyo_R_Pride

TRP Official Instagram Account: <https://www.instagram.com/tokyo.r.pride/>