Maris
Presented by Liku Maria Takahashi

The world’s first!

Maris…The painting method created to be accessible to blind and sighted people alike. A technique invented for painting appreciation by the blind has become a tool for inspiring the sighted toward greater compassion and world peace.

With my art I aim to create a special space in which we can think about sharing love. We enable blind people to experience the "Maris painting technique" through the sensation of touch and by their imagination.

Maris Art works
“Change the world”
2011~2014 / Maris (sand, acrylic paint) / 193×103 (cm) / canvas
I started this Maris-Method painting in August 2011, on the back of the Fukushima nuclear power plant disaster on March 11, 2011. It took me 3 years to finish it. It is
a requiem and an expression of my hopes for human courage in looking towards the future in the face of adversity.

My Mona Lisa holds a white cane as an icon like the one used by the visually impaired to find their way in the darkness. This life size ‘Mona Lisa’ was painted against the backdrop of nuclear power plant No.1, as viewed from Minami-Soma City in Fukushima Prefecture.

Mona Lisa, famously left unfinished by Leonard da Vinci, was ‘finished’ by me using the Maris-Method. Inspired by a request from a visually handicapped friend to see ‘once again’ the painting he once saw before.

I decided to re-paint the Mona Lisa, the painting which is so iconic that those who developed visual impairment in later life would most likely have seen it before at some point in their lives.

I re-painted Mona Lisa just down to her feet as the terrible events of March 11, 2011 took place while I worked on the concept of this work and how my Mona Lisa took shape.

The flood was painted on the blurred background of the original Mona Lisa. My re-painted ‘Mona Lisa’ was also standing at a sandbar as well where the floods were seen on her both right side and left side, which however I just learned when I finished this work.

The background of original Mona Lisa had somehow reminded me of the Fukushima nuclear power plant No.1 disaster when I had an idea to work out this project.

Sep. 01 2014 Liku Maria Takahashi

About Maris

Maris is a form of sand painting. It is the world’s first painting method designed to be accessible to everyone, regardless of visual ability. The sand’s textures and scents enable blind people to “see” the colors and shapes depicted.

The brightness of colors is defined by sand grain size, all mapped out in the Maris World Standard Table.
(Invented by contemporary artist Liku Maria Takahashi in 2009, patented in Japan)

The coarser the grain is, the darker the tone represented. Each color used—red, yellow, or whatever—is expressed by a specific scent.
(Paintings measuring at least 10 x 5 cm)

Accessible to everyone, even children

Once the simple rule about how grain size expresses brightness is learned, anyone with visual impairment can start enjoying the paintings.
1) Maris is based on the Maris World Standard Table, which defines specific colors and tones by sand grain size and herb essential oil scents.

2) The 10 levels of lightness and hue in the Maris World Standard Table were decided by Liku M. Takahashi.

Grain size = Monochromatic painting (85% of color information)
Grain size + Scent = Colorful Painting (10% of color information)

Note: For simplicity, the Maris Method does not express saturation, which accounts for the remaining 5% of color information.
Maris National Flag Project
This project, part of the larger Maris Art Project, hosts workshops for collaborative creation of Maris paintings of all the world’s national flags.

Participants paint the flag of a country other than their own. Each grain of sand represents one person in that country. As participants place a grain on the canvas, they wish for the happiness of that person. By engaging people in a hands-on activity that encourages them to hope for the happiness of others, this project seeks to foster international mindedness and compassion.
This project was launched on the day of the closing ceremony of the London Olympics in August 2012.

Compassion for others (Invisible) → 1 grain → Compassion is expressed by the number of grains (Visualized)

Message from workshop participant: “I prayed for peace as I placed each grain. I hope that many people will see this and bring peace to our world.”
10-year-old resident of March 2011 tsunami/earthquake disaster area in Japan

Maris exhibition at school for the blind during Rio 2016 Paralympic Games
2016.9.8(thu)~9.18(fri)
Organized by: Instituto Benjamin Constant (IBC is a part of Brazil's Ministry of Education)
The Japan Diversity Art Society (JADS)
In association with: Consulado Geral do Japão no Rio de Janeiro
Sponsored by: Lufthansa‧TURNER COLOR WORKS‧YPP‧ADAMS JAPAN
Supported by: Yuchicom Comunicação, Comércio e Serviços Ltda.
Tokyo Association of the Blind・Art for the Light

Recentry Biography
#24 Maris National Flag Project in Rio de Janeiro / Brazil
08-23 Sep.2016
Held Maris exhibition in Rio de Janeiro during the 2016 Paralympics
Venue: Instituto Benjamin Constant
●Organized by: Instituto Benjamin Constant (IBC is a part of Brazil's Ministry of Education)‧The Japan Diversity Art Society (JADS)
●In association with: Consulado Geral do Japão no Rio de Janeiro
●Sponsored by: Lufthansa‧TURNER COLOR WORKS‧YPP‧ADAMS JAPAN
●Supported by: Yuchicom Comunicação, Comércio e Serviços Ltda・Tokyo Association of the Blind・Art for the Light

#30 Maris National Flag Project in Prague / Czech Republic
19-23 Nob.2017
Venue: Prague Congress Centre (The 42nd Japanweek in Prague)
●Sponsored by: THE ASAHI SHIMBUN FOUNDATION‧Association for Corporate Support of the Arts-Fund for Culture-

#31 Maris National Flag Project in Opava / Czech Republic
03 May – 21 Jun.2018
Venue: Knihovna Petra Bezruče v Opavě
**Supported by:**  Embassy of Japan in the Czech Republic • National Committee of Welfare for The Blind in Japan • Sjednocená organizace nevidomých a slabozrakých ČR (SONS) • SONS DÚN • Tokyo Association of the Blind • Art for the Light

**Sponsored by:**  THE ASAHI SHIMBUN FOUNDATION • Association for Corporate Support of the Arts-Fund for Culture-

#33 Maris National Flag Project in Torino / Italy  
19-27 Oct.2018  
Commemorative business of establishing 45th anniversary of Japan-Vietnam diplomatic relations

Venue : Museo d'Arte Orientale (The 43rd Japanweek in Torino)

#36 Maris National Flag Project in Ho Chi Minh / Vietnam  
14-17 Feb.2019  
Venue : Fine Arts Museum HOCHIMINHCITY

**Organized by:** Fine Arts Museum HOCHIMINHCITY • The World Diversity Art Society

**Endorsed by:** Consulate General of Japan in Ho Chi Minh City • National Committee of Welfare the Blind in Japan

**Sponsored by:**  JAPAN FOUNDATION ASIA center

**Supported by:**  Hội người mù Việt Nam • Hội người mù Hà Nội • Tokyo Association of the Blind • Art for the Light • Satoshi Fukushima (Professor, University of Tokyo RCAST) • Naoyuki Okouchi (Project Researcher, University of Tokyo RCAST)

**Special Supported by:**  Colina Dreamcatcher Group

#37 Maris National Flag Project in Paris / France  
22-25 Apr.2019  
Venue : AAA Paris

**Organizers:** AAA Paris • The World Diversity Art Society

**Endorsed by:** France Embassy of Japan • Fondation Franco-Japonaise Sasakawa

**Sponsored by:**  THE ASAHI SHIMBUN FOUNDATION • National Committee of Welfare the Blind in Japan

**Supported by:** Tokyo Metropolitan Welfare Association of the Blind • Art For the Light (AFL) • Satoshi Fukushima (Professor, University of Tokyo RCAST) • Naoyuki Okouchi (Project Researcher, University of Tokyo RCAST)

#38 Maris National Flag Project in Paris / France  
27 Apr – 08 May.2019

International invention competition 118 Concurs Lepine Paris 2019 In addition to the silver medal, Liku Maria Takahashi (Satoko Takahashi) received a special award gold cup.

Venue : Hall 2-1 Paris Expo Porte de Versailles (PARIS INTERNATIONAL CONCOURS LÉPINE)
#39 Maris National Flag Project in Prague / Czech Republic
14-23 May. 2019
Venue: Czech Embassy of Japan JICC
● Organizer: Czech Embassy of Japan
● Co-organizer: The World Diversity Art Society
● Sponsored by: National Committee of Welfare the Blind in Japan
● Supported by: Tokyo Metropolitan Welfare Association of the Blind, Art For the Light (AFL), Satoshi Fukushima (Professor, University of Tokyo RCAST), Naoyuki Okouchi (Project Researcher, University of Tokyo RCAST)

Biography
Liku Maria Takahashi (Japanese)
Painter, sculptor, designer, art theorist, educator, martial artist
Contemporary Artist
Signature works include the Maris Art Project
President, The World Diversity Art Society

1993
Graduated from Tokyo Zokei University, with a major in Sculpture

2011
Studied at the Art Students League of New York, with a major in Painting,
under the supervision of Charles B. Hinman (NY, USA)

1989–2008
Made many sculptures

2010
Invented Maris, the world's first painting that everyone can see
Started the Maris Art Project and began producing works and exhibitions
as the project’s leader
Published the "Maris World Standard Table "©
Held a special lecture at Perkins School for the Blind (Boston, USA)

2011
Maris Art Project in NY: Exhibition at the front space of seven museums own show
Participated in the Times Warner art program “NoriVision – creative art and
culture tv” in NY

2012
Started the "Maris National Flag Project"

2014
Revised the "Maris World Standard Table"©

2016
Held Maris exhibition in Rio during the 2016 Paralympics own show

2017
Held Maris exhibition at the World Blind Union Officers and Committee
Meetings (Tokyo Japan) own show
Participated in 42nd Japan Week in Prague in 2017

2018
Held Maris traveling exhibition in four countries : Opava (Czech) own show , Torino
(Italy), Hanoi (Vietnam) own show , Shiogama (Miyagi, area affected by March 2011
earthquake/tsunami Japan) own show

2019
Hold Maris traveling exhibition in three countries : Ho Chi Mihn City / Fine Arts
Museum HOCHIMINHCITY (Vietnam) own show, Paris (France), Prague (Czech) own
show
International invention competition 118 Concurs Lepine Lepine  Paris 2019
In addition to the silver medal, Liku Maria Takahashi (=Satoko Takahashi) received a
special award gold cup
Messages
I think that visually impaired people want to see paintings. Do you know how they feel? Maris, the first art method to make paintings accessible to blind people, spreads a message of kindness across the world. By showing that paintings can be enjoyed by the visually impaired, it creates opportunities for the sighted to gain deeper understanding of those with disability. It was in 2009 that I succeeded in creating a technique for finally opening the world of painting to those whose eyes cannot see. I called it “Maris.”
We are all able to rise above discrimination if only we leave our egos behind. Sighted visitors to Maris exhibitions can witness their blind peers enjoying the same paintings they enjoy.

These experiences provided by Maris are opportunities to encounter a realm of Love & Peace that transcends ablebodiedness, ethnicity, gender, and all other distinctions that lead to discrimination. In philosophical terms, my art creates encounters where paintings plant the seeds of understanding.
I am now preparing to launch an art movement of Love & Peace across Europe in 2020. Focused on Paris, this movement will use the power of art to make the world a kinder place.
From the 1970s to the mid-1980s Joseph Beuys endeavored to use art as a force for changing the world for the better. Over the years, I have made the ideals he expressed the foundation of my work, but I have also reshaped them with my own belief that art completely transcends politics and religion.

My vision of art strips away the political and religious aspects from Beuys’ concepts, and replants the underlying mysticism and philosophical thinking of Rudolf Steiner in a soil of ancient Japanese animism and Bushido.
Deeply inspired by Beuys’ concept of “social sculpture”—regardless of any distinctions between East and West—I use my art as a medium for conveying messages on how we can create an ideal society.
Art leads us to new discoveries. And, it has the power to change the world.

Liku Maria Takahashi

Contact
Maris Art Project / The World Diversity Art Society
B-302, 7-19-15 Okusawa, Setagaya-ku, Tokyo, Japan 158-0083
Phone: +81-90-2098-3694 (Liku Maria Takahashi)
E-mail: marisartproject@gmail.com
Web: likutakahashi.com