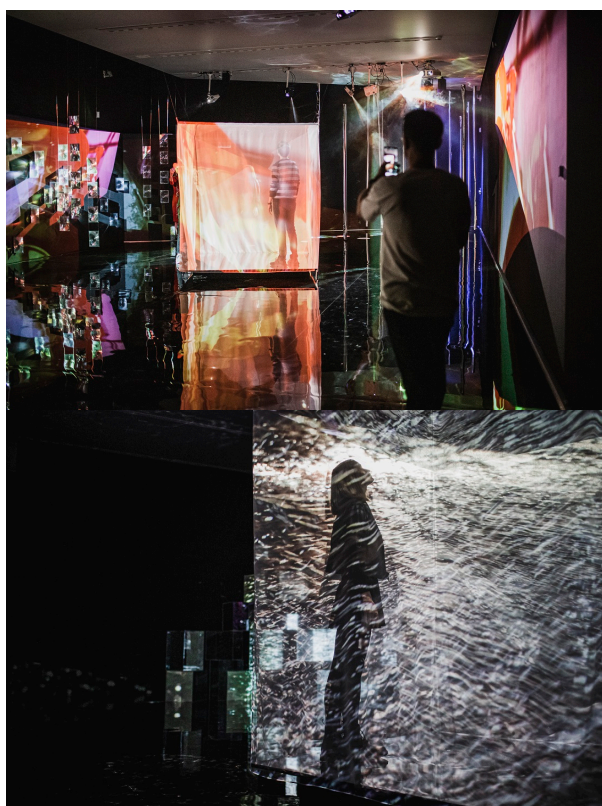


**NEWS & EVENTS** > Exhibition: "Tokyo 24" at the Manggha Museum in Kraków

BY JORDI BALTÀ PORTOLÉS  
12 JUL 2019 - 29 SEP 2019

## Exhibition: "Tokyo 24" at the Manggha Museum in Kraków



The exhibition **"Tokyo 24"**, at

the **Manggha Museum of Japanese Art and Technology**, in Kraków, Poland, until 29 September, results from the collaboration between the Manggha Museum's curators and **Krzysztof Gonciarz** – one of Poland's leading Internet video makers. The exhibition was conceived and designed by Joanna Haba and Monika Pawłowska.

Introduction to the exhibition, by Krzysztof Gonciarz

**Tokyo is a city of predictable chaos.** Surprising, but only to a safe extent, as intended by the Japanese. It is an environment of norms and principles that spawns extremities. The seemingly unbounded expression of Tokyo's culture is also cautionary. Manifested in such ways as to make sure that – as is expected in Japan – no one ever feels offended. Tokyo also means a future that has never happened. I would refrain from calling this city futuristic because it is more of an alternative version of the present. Rather than forwards, Tokyo has moved into a side alley. It looks like the 1980s' cyberpunk visions of the 21st century, and the denizens of the glassy headquarters of supercorporations here still prefer to send a fax rather than email. I've lived in Tokyo for over five years. I've spent most of this time (other than when asleep) with a video camera in my hand. I am a witness to the process that is underway in this city, changing continuously like an artificial intelligence that constantly improves and recompiles its own code. Buildings vanish and are replaced by others in just a few months. In fashion and cuisine, new trends keep coming and going faster than you manage to visit a restaurant you've made a mental note of. ***Tokio 24* is my documentation of the loop experienced by a resident of Japan's capital every day, over and over again.** I want to show the ordinary and the extraordinary elements of the quotidian, both the intimate ones and those pertaining to the city as a whole. This exhibition is **an invitation to take a look at Tokyo through my eyes.** To pause, find delight in an innocent detail, and immediately afterwards feel overwhelmed by the city's massive scale.

## Tokyo - a city of contrasts, by Monika Pawłowska

Tokyo – a city of contrasts. One the one hand: incessant commotion, multicoloured lights, modern technologies, cyberpunk chic. On the other: geometric harmony, charming sakura, lazily blossoming gardens, people dozing on the Metro, a gentle tune played on the *shakuhachi*. Japan's capital compels you to experience micro-epiphanies of delight by pausing in its din and taking a closer look at the images of the floating world – much like Edo-period prints. **Many young people admit that their interest in Japan was sparked by viewing video productions by the well known Internet artist Krzysztof Gonciarz.** His YouTube channel is subscribed by more than 870,000 people and his vlogs have millions of hits. Krzysztof comes from Krakow but has spent the past few years living in Tokyo. The bulk of his activity is the publication of his productions in the form of a video diary. The Internet floods us with images on a daily basis, so our visual sensitivity – ability to actually 'experience' the image that we view – can be dulled. Gonciarz proves that he can rekindle this sensitivity and

fascination, by showing the charm of Japan in its full glory – tranquil, close to nature, and at the same time highly technological. **The exhibition tells a tale of a fascinating city in the Land of the Rising Sun** – its people, its emotions, its architecture – through his eyes. The film made by the YouTuber will be complemented by an art installation created jointly by the artist and the exhibition curators, Joanna Haba and Monika Pawłowska. Get out of *hikikomori* and dare to experience *ukiyoe*.

## Further information

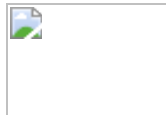
For additional information about "Tokyo 24", please visit <http://manggha.pl/en/exhibition/tokyo-24>

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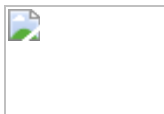


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