

## Talk Event between Mr. Hibino and Mr. Hayano

On December 3, 2024, a talk event titled "Drawing Runner Talk / Running through the City" was held at the "Geidai Mirai Kenkyujou-ten (Geidai Platform of Arts and Knowledge for the Future Exhibition) ("Geidai PARK Exhibition")" hosted by the Tokyo University of the Arts (TUA). The event featured a dialogue between Katsuhiko Hibino, President, Tokyo University of the Arts, and Tadaaki Hayano, Chairman of the Tokyo Marathon Foundation. At the first talk event held in 2023, a collaboration between sports and art was initiated, and this time, taking one step further, they discussed the creation of new values and prospects through "ART x SPORTS."

—**First of all, please tell us what has led to this second discussion and the significance of holding this dialogue at the Geidai PARK Exhibition.**

**Mr. Hibino** The word "Jyo (or Ba or platform)" of Mirai Kenkyujou is the same as "jou (or place)" of Undojou (playground). We started Geidai PARK with the hope of expanding the "platform" where we can exhibit various arts more extensively, in addition to spaces of buildings such as university campuses and museums. We also think that as TUA interacts with diverse stakeholders and expands the significance of art, the power of art may be able to play a role as a starter in order for us to proceed to the next phase in light of the social issues we currently face. When we received an offer to hold a talk event with Mr. Hayano regarding sports, we thought of why not hold it at this Geidai PARK Exhibition. Further, at the last Tokyo Marathon, the "Drawing Runner Exhibition" was launched, so I am hoping to develop it further in our discussion.

**Mr. Hayano** It all started with the dialogue held as a part of the Tokyo Marathon 2024 Official Program, which led to a more specific idea that on the race day, the students drew a croquis of the runners. Runners were too fast to draw, so the punch line was that "drawing itself is a sport." We regard our relationship with Mr. Hibino, or the relationship between art and the world of sports, as the first step and hope to deepen it further. Just yesterday, I went to Nagasaki to talk about a music marathon. To put it bluntly, we can live without music, art, or sports as they aren't essential daily necessities. However, they become necessary in order for humans to live joyful and happy lives. Ultimately, a society where everyone feels happy requires more than just basic survival; it needs added value. Such values include art, sports and music, so there is a significance for us to hold hands together and work together in this world.

—The “Drawing Runner Exhibition,” which was just mentioned in the dialogue, was realized after the idea of collaborating art and sports came about in the talk event between both of you as part of the last Tokyo Marathon 2024 Official Program. On the race day, the students of TUA drew the runners from the start line, perceiving vibrant energy with their senses in the form of a croquis which is a rapid drawing. Please share any comments you received and your thoughts on the “Drawing Runner Exhibition.”

**Mr. Hibino** In the last dialogue, I made this proposal. By drawing and sketching the runners while they run, I thought that we would be able to communicate art and sports in a plain way. The runners’ vibrant energy, movement of the human body, passion and the atmosphere of the race day stimulate the hands to move, leading to drawing, which I find is the most attractive aspect. Instead of drawing a freeze-frame image, by responding to vibrant energy and movement, we become a part of athletes, and the path of the movement becomes drawing, and we do not necessarily think about drawing runners while they run in an exact manner.

I find that athletes and artists are very similar. An athlete visualizes an image and then runs 42.195 km to make it a reality. For instance, football players also imagine the formation of 11 players as well as the counterparty’s movement and communicate it to the ball, resulting in a game. Likewise, the path that is moved by communicating our own image to a brush is drawing. The ultimate difference is whether communicating the image from reflexes to a ball, to our own body to run, or to a brush. It is all the same in terms of exercising images. That’s why I developed the “Drawing Runner Exhibition” with the idea that students who are drawing are also runners. For the students, too, it turned out to be a significantly important experience.

**Mr. Hayano** Marathon is often likened to a drama of 42.195 km, which includes a story before and after the race. We express it in a slogan of “SHOW YOUR TORY” and tell 38,000 runners to express their thoughts. In this sense, runners are also artists. Therefore, we regard the Tokyo Marathon holistically, which includes not only the aspect of sports but also the aspect of culture, and it is not just a marathon race in terms of physical exercise.

To emphasize this point, we link it with art and music, and it is all about how we want to live and express ourselves as humans. The Tokyo Marathon is also a place for self-assertion and self-affirmation. I think it applies to art, too, and in marathon races, it has

an overly sentimental aspect as it involves pushing oneself hard to the limit. I reconfirm that such drama, parts that resonate with what Mr. Hibino just mentioned, and culture are also vital components of expression in the Tokyo Marathon.

—**From your conversation, we understand that art and sports exist through interaction with society in various ways. Then, amid various social issues, what do you think of the impact and possibility that art and sports could contribute to solutions?**

**Mr. Hibino** Humans have desires to “express” themselves. It would be ideal if the act of expression leads to one’s work and financial income. And expression isn't limited to just artists; for example, salespeople also express themselves. If our expression about a product touches someone’s heart and we succeed in selling it, this would also be recognized as “expression.” Therefore, if we consider all kinds of work as “expression,” we would all be artists, and art and sports are the most fundamental sources. School subjects include Japanese language, math, science, social studies, physical education (“PE”), music, and art. Of those, PE, music and art mean drawing, playing and singing in preschool. Therefore, before learning language, math, science and social studies, we have singing, exercising and drawing as the most fundamental nature of humans.

How we, humans, want to express ourselves is equal to how we want to convey to others, wanting to be acknowledged as “I am here / we are here.” We want to be cared for and praised, and if we are scolded, we want to reflect upon and learn from our mistakes for the next action, which is the most important factor in our growth. The most fundamental part of the “expression” is labeled as vertically divided domains such as art and sports, and if there are no such vertical domain names, how humans move out of reflex and how humans communicate are actually quite similar.

**Mr. Hayano** As Mr. Hibino just mentioned the fundamental nature of humanity, I also have been driven by instinct to express myself. Also, while art and sports seem to belong to different domains, they are ultimately the same because we are moved after finishing an art piece and running through a marathon. There is narcissism like we want to praise ourselves. As Mr. Hibino stated, what it means “to express oneself,” humans have self-esteem needs that naturally come out of reflex. In terms of domain, sports, art and music are categorized into different domains, but in human activity, a sense of happiness, a sense of satisfaction and a sense of fulfillment exists within them. I think that the accumulation of feelings like “it was tough, but I am glad I did it” is what makes society

better.

—**In the last conversation, Mr. Hibino talked about how “humans all want to feel valued. This is the reason that we have art museums and exhibitions.” Thinking about sports, and especially the Tokyo Marathon, as a public stage where athletes are seen and appreciated, what potential do you see in that??**

**Mr. Hibino** What is so fair about sports is that its ranking is clear and universally understandable, ranking first and second place. We compete by time or by points, heat up and get livened up, which is something that does not exist in art. In art, “no, my number one is this,” but on the other hand, that's also a characteristic of art. However, when it comes to evaluation, for example, unlike the Tokyo Olympics, where professional athletes gather and compete, in the Tokyo Marathon, of 38,000 runners, some compete by time, while others gain satisfaction by running through the city and communicating with people on the sidelines. Marathon includes a mix of these runners, which is a special feature unlike any other sports. A variety of diverse values can be found in a marathon, and from this perspective, it is a sport that is pro-art. Sceneries change while running, which is also artistic. Each person becomes one color and colors the city. The city is the campus, and each 38,000 runner becomes 38,000 distinctive colors and runs through the city. I think we can evaluate it as having very artistic elements.

**Mr. Hayano** What Mr. Hibino just mentioned is as if he were explaining the logo of the Tokyo Marathon (laugh). Drawing on a white campus with 38,000 colors with a mix of various diversities such as angle, color and width, the race has 38,000 different stories. That is “The Day We Unite.” The concept of the logo is clearly received, and I am amazed by the sensitivity of an artist. Even though I didn't explicitly explain it beforehand, thank you (laugh).

—**Up to here, more or less, you have discussed the feelings of runners, artists and their interaction with society. From here, if we broaden our scope a bit, please tell us your views on how art and sports may be involved in urban development or personal growth?**

**Mr. Hayano** As mentioned earlier, humans can survive with just ordinary life – eating, sleeping, and simply getting by day-to-day, but we need extraordinary moments - experiences, interactions with others - these highlights illuminate our ordinary lives. We hold an event called “The Day We Unite,” the day that captures one of those extraordinary days. Daily life exists within everyone's ordinary life, like walking, running, drawing, and

spending the regular life.

I think we should speak out more in our immediate circle or hold discussions like this dialogue to gain insights for advancing urban development with local authorities. While I may not be at Mr. Hibino's level, I always make sure to raise topics such as urban development, sports and art in public lectures. It is part of our activity for people's happiness and also a role of art and music, as well as what local authorities aim for, and we hope to continue our discussion with the Tokyo Metropolitan Government and the Japanese government. The Tokyo Marathon Foundation aims to broaden this outreach by articulating these ideas in various settings using accessible language in various places and to create an extraordinary dimension in people's lives so that people would feel happier than just "barely making ends meet."

**Mr. Hibino** It is very important to have sports and culture to nurture individuals, as evidenced by the fact that there are Japan Sports Agency and the Agency for Cultural Affairs under the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology ("MEXT"). For example, recently in school clubs, it has been recommended to outsource to sports clubs in town instead of PE teachers playing an advisory role. Old days, after school, children used to play together in school, or on holidays, they used to play on school playgrounds with local residents. PTAs (parent-teacher associations), schools, and shopkeepers from the shopping streets would enthusiastically join in - in such times, school education played a role in teaching societal skills and values., Today, it's becoming difficult to maintain that model. In schools, we learn technical things and gain academic skills, but then where can students adequately experience and develop social sensibilities and activity? I think this aspect is somewhat overlooked. In such circumstances, sports activities and art projects organized in local communities will become increasingly vital in the future.

In order to realize it, it is insufficient for universities alone, as research institutions, to think of art and sports. What sort of sports and cultural environment could we provide with local communities to high school students, junior high school students, primary students, and preschool students before they enter universities? I think this has significant importance in future education as well as urban and societal development. Behavior changes slowly occur in such daily lives, and we may find a foothold to resolve social problems. Therefore, we will have to build community-based activities as a framework for the future.

—**For people to incorporate art and sports into their immediate lifestyle, what measures should we take?**

**Mr. Hayano** What kind of city would people feel happy with, and what kind of lifestyle would truly bring happiness? I believe it's not just about creating a convenient and efficient society like smart wellness. True happiness stems from having art, music, and sports that cultivate a necessary sense of well-being, achievement, and overall contentment. I am assuming nobody would deny this. However, who should control and promote such an idea? Is it going to be led by the MEXT? That is another difficult topic to discuss. As we do not have an Agency of Humans. It's a reality that we lack a government department specifically designed to holistically plan and design human lives from a broad perspective.

Given this situation, the only approach to make art and sports more accessible is to continue dialogue like this one, where we discuss sports with Mr. Hibino, and we need to talk more about art and music. We can also engage in urban development together with the partners and sponsors that support us. The products and services created by most of the companies are developed for humans, right? From this perspective, we share a common ground, so engaging with our partners would be one of the options. In addition, by using the Tokyo Marathon as a platform, we can express Mr. Hibino's world of art, music, and sports. Utilizing the Tokyo Marathon, we can share and collaborate, and that may create another opportunity to include art and sports into our immediate lifestyles.

**Mr. Hibino** There are many programs that link exercise visual sense and sensibility in the Geidai PARK Exhibition through the collaboration between sports and art, thanks to the Tokyo Marathon. For example, if we define exercise as moving one's body in accordance with one's mental image, we have programs where, through games that use sensors to detect hand movements, we can experience if the hand moves as they intend. Another project includes letting one turn on trigger imagination based on visual information by using VR goggles and actual senses. Moreover, what we do at Science LAB is to sleep while listening to music. Sleeping is also one of the exercises, so we experience fusing one's senses with exercise while sleeping and listening to music. When we say sports, we tend to think of athletes and the Olympics. If we focus more on instinctive human actions and reactions, like instinctively reaching for something we desire, I believe the boundaries between art and sports will blur and slowly expand.

Furthermore, the Deaflympics for people with hearing disabilities will be held in Tokyo in

2025, so we have been currently researching what music is for the deaf. For the first time, I learned that we call a culture of hearing people as “hearing culture” and a culture for the deaf as “deaf culture.” It also applies to wheelchair marathons, and in various cultures, disabilities have become more and more special features and then cultures. There is also an artist who expresses by using a haptic sense in a mouth as a material. The artist expresses a sort of mouth cosmos by using one’s inner mouth as a place to gather information to create a shape or a new worldview, not only through visual senses, hands and legs. Considering all of these things, sports are not just about competition, but various forms of exercise become modes of expression. From this perspective, the connection between sports and art will widen the possibility of diverse expressions, the possibility of new forms of sports and ways of building society.

**Mr. Hayano** With a change in the name of the National Sports Festival to the Japan Games, we are currently proposing, in line with Mr. Hibino’s view that sports should not be just for rankings, that the event should be an opportunity for people to indeed truly familiarize themselves with sports. In addition, we have also seen the exhibitions of the Deaflympics and reconfirmed that art is related to this world. We are going to support the operation of the Deaflympics, and there are several ways to approach this event, we strongly feel that this event has various social values. Therefore, one thing I learned is it would be super joyful to expand this idea and increase the number of participants, as well as get involved in both sports and art.

**—If artists run a 42.195 km marathon which is a tough sport, what sort of output will come out from that challenge? We are very interested in this point, and what is your view on this?**

**Mr. Hibino** I have never run a marathon, but as examples of extreme experiences, I have been to a desert, the Arctic Circle and the jungle mountains. When I plan to go to places like these, I tell myself I will never go there again and will never have such an experience again, so that motivates me to take some action. To go to such a polar region, I will need to pack lightly, but the more remote the place, the more art supplies I find myself bringing along. I want to experience and see what action I would take. I have such feelings in my mind, so I imagine if an artist were to run a marathon, that ultimate, unparalleled state of being, unique to that moment, would compel them to express something. I will definitely express myself in some sort of medium - whether paintings, sculpture, movies or any other form - with a strong determination to express the state. It does not matter if I would cross the finish line or drop out midway through the race, and I would be

compelled to express my experience.

—**Would it be possible to allocate running slots specifically for artists to run the Tokyo Marathon?**

**Mr. Hayano** Of course, and I think it would be as challenging as going to a jungle (laughs). But, going back to my earlier comment, having an extraordinary experience can be stimulating, and might even lead to a step up in our expressions, unlocking avenues we could have never noticed before. From this aspect, it is very interesting. We can benefit from some of the attempts we succeed in realizing through this type of collaboration and discussion, so we would be happy to invite the artists. We look forward to working with you.

**Mr. Hibino** You mean artist slots will be created in the Tokyo Marathon?

**Mr. Hayano** We will make it happen!

**Mr. Hibino** Last time, we sketched runners in the “Drawing Runner Exhibition,” and by expressing our experience as a runner, we could express what a marathon truly means to the person and what sports are in essence. That sounds interesting. If we are able to do so, we will need to do a trial trace first. We should not just test whether or not we can run but also experiment how we can express ourselves after running.

—**Are there any initiatives that strongly incorporate physical aspects in the education programs at TUA?**

**Mr. Hibino** Yes, there are. I used to be involved with work for the Japan Football Association and had Mr. Takeshi Okada, the former head coach of the Japan National Team, give a class here at TUA. The class was on football formation (laugh). Speaking of football in a simple phrase, it is a communication task: carrying a ball and delivering it to a goal. When we thought of how we could design the delivery of a ball to a goal, the formation was created, so we had such workshop on the ground of TUA together with Mr. Okada. If we can devise a way, we can come up with countless workshops on the theme of fusing sports with art.

**Mr. Hayano**, I see. Regarding the participation of artists in the Tokyo Marathon, even if they do not cross the finish line, they can still express their regret and anger in art, so it



will be an interesting approach, and I would love to make it a reality.

**Mr. Hibino** Then, wouldn't it be a great idea to present the expression at the Geidai PARK Exhibition next year?

**Mr. Hayano** Yes, for sure. (laugh) I would like to have Mr. Hibino provide his feedback on the piece of art as well as on the marathon performance.

**Mr. Hibino** Then, we would like to develop a next drawing runner as a feature of the Tokyo Marathon, where art and sports fuse.

—**What we wanted to ask you next was about a concrete idea of the future collaboration between TUA and the Tokyo Marathon, and you have just concluded the idea?**

**Mr. Hayano** As I just touched on, a marathon tends to be defined as just a physical sport. But in fact, it involves a very emotional and ambivalent story with various conflicts. In there, we would like to incorporate artistic factors as well as insights gained from today's conversation into collaboration, aiming for deep integration rather than simply forcing it to combine with art. We hope to engage in a measure with Mr. Hibino and delve into the level people may be amazed.

**Mr. Hibino** I just remembered one thing about measurement in architecture. We use measurement instruments, and recently, we use GPS for measurements, too. And a student in the Department of Architecture actually ran to measure. The student presented a video showing the sense of urban scale captured through running. I think there may be many students who have elements of a drawing runner at TUA.

—**That sounds indeed an art itself. The Tokyo Marathon Foundation will make efforts to realize such projects, too. Finally, please share your reflections about this dialogue and what you expect in future initiatives.**

**Mr. Hayano After seeing the** At Geidai PARK Exhibition, I learned that TUA multiplies a variety of things based on art, including sustainability and the Deaflympics. We actually carry out a similar project called plogging, which involves picking up trash while running. We think that we can collaborate with TUA in many aspects regarding what significance we should hold for the Tokyo Marathon, including projects that will contribute to society.

We hope that our collaboration will generate an even larger synergistic effect. It does not have to be in a formal setting like today's session, and we hope to exchange our ideas somewhere in the near future.

**Mr. Hibino** Due to COVID, at TUA, the club activities diminished in size. During my university days, I used to belong to a football club, and I understand the immense power of communication sports possess. We can gain social learning through communication in sports on a large scale such as by communicating among seniors and juniors in a club or games with other universities. We hope to implement projects where we can bring an experience of the joy of expressiveness and communication with the power of sports, which is something unique to TUA. Beyond the structure of the TUA campus, I was given an opportunity to have a dialogue with Mr. Hayano, so taking the marathon as a start, we hope to engage with attractive stakeholders of various sports and develop an education and research institute that can cultivate artists with strong interpersonal skills. Thank you very much.