

PRESS RELEASE

The master of multimedia art's first large-scale solo exhibition in Japan

Tony Oursler: Tech/Gnosis-Magic, Media, Art
Happening at TOKYO NODE!

Venue: TOKYO NODE GALLERY A/B/C (Toranomon Hills Station Tower, 45th floor)

Dates: Friday, July 3 – Sunday, September 27, 2026

TOKYO NODE, the Toranomon Hills creative hub operated by Mori Building Co., Ltd. (Minato-ku, Tokyo; President and CEO: Shingo Tsuji), will hold Japan's first large-scale solo exhibition by Tony Oursler (1957-), a pioneer of American multimedia art, titled *Tony Oursler: Tech/Gnosis-Magic, Media, Art*, from Friday, July 3, 2026 through Sunday, September 27, 2026.



Tony Oursler (1957-) is a highly influential artist known for his enigmatic, immersive installations that combine video, sculpture, sound, light, and words. A pioneer in the field of video installations and outdoor projection, he continues to explore the complex relationships that exist between image and narrative, technology and human psychology, belief system, and society.

Oursler's work spans a wide range of fields, from pop culture and subculture to science, conspiracy theories, religion, the paranormal, and the cosmos. Through his poetic gaze and humor, he explores the desires and anxieties surrounding that which is invisible in modern society, such as data flows, surveillance systems, spirits, and signals, inviting viewers on a journey of reflection through the senses.

This exhibition will showcase his key works such as *Private* (1994-1997), early works featuring contemporary artist Jim Shaw, and *Specular* (2021), as well as unpublished works began more than a quarter of a century ago, and a new site-specific work created specifically for this exhibition. Additionally, it will feature a special selection of archival material from Oursler's own collection of approximately 3,000 items, which encompasses science, magic, and unidentified phenomena, serving as the source of his creativity.

Recent advances in AI, surveillance technology, and generative media have served to dramatically change our perceptions and beliefs, while at the same time, interest in spirituality and unidentified phenomena has also expanded. It is in this context that Oursler's work, which examines the gap between technology and spiritual knowledge, raises important questions.

This exhibition is certain to prove an inspiring experience for anyone interested in magic, media, art, and technology.

Exhibition Highlights

• **Leading multimedia artist's first large-scale solo exhibition in Japan brings together his masterpieces**

The first large-scale solo exhibition in Japan by this world-renowned artist who has been a driving force in the contemporary art scene around the world, including Japan. This comprehensive exhibition will showcase his masterpieces from his early period to the present, from his early works *Private* (1994-1997), *Dust* (2006), *Lock 2, 4, 6* (2010) and *Imponderable* (2015-2016), commissioned and produced by the LUMA Foundation for the Parc des Ateliers (Arles, France), and LUMA Westbau (Zurich, Switzerland), and collected by the MoMA in New York, to new works being shown for the first time. More than half of the works on display will be shown in Japan for the first time.

• **World Premiere of this collaborative work with David Bowie, in planning for more than a quarter century**

The collaborative work *Empty* (2000) with world-renowned musician David Bowie and composer Glenn Branca, in development since 2000, will be shown for the first time in this exhibition, marking its world premiere. Oursler has collaborated with many iconic artists and musicians of the modern era, including contemporary artist Mike Kelley and musician Kim Gordon, Constance DeJong and Tony Conrad and has consistently created works that transcend genres.

• **New works, exclusive to this exhibition, making use of the 15m high space, currently under development**

Taking advantage of TOKYO NODE's dome-shaped gallery space with a ceiling height of 15 meters, Oursler is currently working on the large-scale, site-specific new work, *Chimera* (2026). Based on urban mythical creature and cryptids that Oursler has collected and researched. Various chimeras from Japan and around the world will appear in the sky above Toranomon.

***Specular* (2021)**

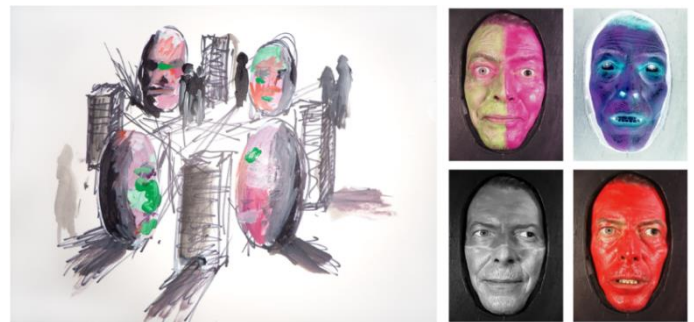
An installation of various sized eye spheres floating in the darkness. Surrounded by a swarm of giant eyes, the viewer sees media reflection of the surfaces of the eyes and experiences a cycle of being looked at and seeing themselves. This work questions the position of the viewer in contemporary visual culture. The eye is an important motif for Oursler, who says that it symbolizes our insatiable desire to consume images and stories. This is an ongoing project in which he has been exploring the eye motifs since 1995, constantly updating its themes and expressive techniques.



Specular
2021
Mock up of Specular

***Empty* (2000) (Tokyo version)**

This project, led by Oursler, combines monolithic projections of spoken words performances by David Bowie, and special musical compositions by composer Glenn Branca, known for his electric guitar-driven style. Conceived as an endless sonic structure, it continually reconfigures poetic text by Oursler, music, and performance to create a layered, ever-shifting experience. While the video itself was shot in 2000, this exhibition marks the first time that *Empty* has been fully realized and exhibited as a complete work.



Study for *Empty*
2000
Collaboration with David Bowie and Glenn Branca
Courtesy: Tony Oursler Studio

***Lock 2, 4, 6* (2010)**

Oursler, who is also deeply interested in psychology, has created one of his most ambitious meta-installations, inspired by psychological experiments. Projected onto a densely constructed layer of various differently shaped planes, the installation explores how viewers shape their perceptions and misperceptions through the whispering voices of drag performers and other archetypal characters. Liquid spills, cigarette smoke wafts through the air, and scratch cards are endlessly lost... This installation will prompt questions about willpower, fear, obsession, and the fragile structure of the self.



Lock 2, 4, 6
2010
Installation view, exhibition *Tony Oursler: Black Box*, Kaohsiung Museum of Fine Arts, Kaohsiung, Taiwan, 2021
Courtesy: Tony Oursler Studio

***Imponderable* (2015–2016)**

This feature-length film installation is a true yet almost unbelievable story of magicians, writers and mystics including the artists family. Characters such as Conan Doyle, the author of “Sherlock Holmes”, and the legendary escape artist Harry Houdini, Margery the psychic and Oursler's grandparents are played by a diverse cast of artists, musicians, and performers, including Kim Gordon and Jim Fletcher. Fittingly it is projected in a 3-D contemporary take on Pepper's Ghost*, a 19th-century illusion technique. The work is exhibited with evidence of the films narrative from Oursler's collection of spirit photographs, magic tricks, pseudoscience, paranormal materials and family artifacts shedding light on the characters. The work uses humor and surrealism to consider the absurd relationship between belief and the veracity of images.

*A visual trick that uses translucent glass and special lighting techniques to make ghostly, insubstantial images appear.



Imponderable
2015-2016
Installation view, The Museum of Modern Art, 2016
Courtesy: Tony Oursler Studio

Artist's Profile and Comments

Tony Oursler (1957 -)

1957 Born in New York, USA
1979 Graduated from the California Institute of the Arts with a Bachelor of Arts. Currently residing in New York, USA.

Since the 1980s, he has held exhibitions at numerous international museums, including the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA, US) and the Centre Pompidou (Paris). Recent major solo exhibitions include *Tony Oursler: Anomalous* at Photo Elysée (Lausanne, Switzerland) in 2022, *Tony Oursler: Black Box* at Kaohsiung Museum of Fine Arts (Taiwan) in 2021, *Hypnose* at the Museum of Fine Arts of Nantes (France) in 2020, *Imponderable* at MoMA in 2016, and *M*r>Or*, Magasin at Magasin III Museum & Foundation for Contemporary Art (Stockholm) in 2016. He has also participated in numerous international group exhibitions.

His works are held in the collections of many museums, including the Centre Pompidou, the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, MoMA, and the Tate Gallery (London), as well as in museums throughout Japan, including the Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, the National Museum of Art (Osaka) , and the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa.



Statement

"I am very enthusiastic to be mounting this first large-scale exhibition in Japan at TOKYO NODE. Japanese culture has fascinated me since the 1970s, when I began studying kabuki and Japanese printmaking, and it has been an important influence on my work ever since. I have been fortunate to exhibit in Japan over the years and first visited in 1987, which was a formative and unforgettable experience.

Returning to Tokyo after so many years, and holding this exhibition at TOKYO NODE, which was designed by OMA, led by my friend Rem Koolhaas, is a dream come true. TOKYO NODE, a gallery 200m above ground, forms an intriguing incubator for a creative experience—literally up in the clouds. This exhibition will feature a compelling selection of works from my wide-ranging practice, including early pieces, recent works, previously unreleased research materials, and a few surprises for the audience.

As a multimedia artist, I have always associated Japan with high-tech experimentation as well as a deep and complex history. That balance feels especially important today, as we navigate powerful new technologies—extraordinary tools that also challenge our sense of human nature. Creativity gave us these technologies; the question now is whether creativity can also help us address the problems they present. I believe art has a crucial role to play in that conversation."

About TOKYO NODE

This new creative hub is located atop Toranomon Hills Station Tower, which opened in 2023. It is a complex of approximately 10,000 square meters, containing an event hall, gallery, restaurant, rooftop garden, and more. The facility also houses a restaurant run by a Michelin-starred chef, and TOKYO NODE LAB, where innovative players gather for collaborative research. As the name NODE suggests, it will be a stage for creating cutting-edge experiential content, services, and businesses that transcend all fields, including technology, art, and entertainment, and disseminate them to the world.



Exhibition Details

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Dates:	Friday, July 3 - Sunday, September 27, 2026
Venue:	TOKYO NODE GALLERY A/B/C
Address:	Toranomon Hills Station Tower 45F, 2-6-2 Toranomon, Minato-ku, Tokyo, Japan
Organizer:	TOKYO NODE (Mori Building Co., Ltd.)
Curator:	Reiko Tsubaki (TOKYO NODE), Alice, Nien-pu Ko (Independent Curator)
Support:	SCAI THE BATHHOUSE
Official Website:	https://www.tokyonode.jp/events/tony-oursler/index.html
Inquiries:	TOKYO NODE Information +81-(0)3-6433-8200 (10:00-18:00)

* Details such as closing days, opening hours, and admission fees will be announced on the official website as soon as they are decided.

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