

A new public art installation in Akita airport in September 2016

## “Tsurikichi Sanpei – Yamame Gunei (Masu salmon swarm)”

A large ceramic relief by Takao Yaguchi, a representative cartoonist of Japan from Yokote-city, Akita prefecture



The original drawing of the ceramic relief

For the purpose of creating cultural public spaces that are comfortable and pleasant, Japan Traffic Culture Association (JPTCA) promotes projects to create and install artworks at public spaces, such as stations and airports throughout Japan.

Having received the Japan Lottery Association’s grant on social contribution public relations projects, it has been decided that, together with Akita Airport, Terminal Building, Ltd., JPCTA produces and installs a ceramic relief in departure lobby on the second floor of the domestic terminal in Akita airport.

This public art is a ceramic relief based on the original drawing by Takao Yaguchi, a representative cartoonist of Japan from Masudacho, Yokote-city, Akita prefecture, who is a winner of Regional Person of Cultural Merit Award in 2009. It is now being created at a studio in Atami, Shizuoka prefecture. At the end of September this year, we plan to have an unveiling of the work, celebrating its completion.



On April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016, Takao Yaguchi visited Creare Atami Yugawara studio to check the ceramic relief in production.



This public art is maintained by the Lottery’s grant on social contribution public relations projects.

1. The purpose of this project
  - 1) To appeal the importance of the spread of public art through ceramic relief by Takao Yaguchi
  - 2) To provide an opportunity to enjoy public art through the ceramic relief and create an environment to raise social morals
  - 3) To contribute to develop tourism resources in Akita and to revitalize the region
2. Installation site
 

Departure lobby on the second floor of the domestic terminal in Akita airport (next to Komorebi café)
3. Completion date
 

End of September, 2016
4. Title
 

Tsurikichi Sanpei – Yamame Gunei (masu salmon swarm)
5. Size
 

Height 3.5m x Width 6.7m
6. Original drawing
 

Takao Yaguchi, a representative cartoonist of Japan from Masudacho, Yokote-city, Akita prefecture, who is a winner of Regional Person of Cultural Merit Award in 2009
7. Production of the ceramic relief
 

About 10 relief professionals are producing the artwork at Create Atami Yugawara studio (230-1, Izumi, Atami, Shizuoka)
8. Production Scene



## 9. Artist Profile

### Takao Yaguchi

Cartoonist. Born on October 28<sup>th</sup>, 1939 in Masudacho, Yokote-shi, Akita prefecture. When graduating from high school, he joined Ugo bank (currently Hokuto Bank) and worked for 12 years. In 1970, he left the bank to become a cartoonist. He made a cartoonist debut with "Ayu" in *Weekly Shonen Sunday* (published by Shogakukan). In 1973, he started a series "Tsurikichi Sanpei" in *Weekly Shonen Magazine*. In the same year, he released "Maboroshi no Kaija Bachihebi", making a boom for fishing and Tsuchinoko in Japan. Besides short series featuring wildlife and nature, he also wrote series that covered his own life in a chronological order in a form of memoirs, such as "Yamabiko", "Keisetu Jidai", and "9 de ware!!" as well as essays such as "My School is Mountains and Rivers" and "My Teacher is Mountains and Rivers". In 1995, his achievement was commemorated in his home town, Masuda-cho, and in the event of opening of "Masuda Manga Museum" that is run by the town (now by Yokote City), he was involved with its production and was appointed to be a honorary director of the museum. In 2003, he also became the second-generation director for "Ishinomori Manga Museum", following the promise Yaguchi made before Ishinomori passed away. From 2001, he serialized "Tsurikichi Sanpei – Heisei version".

### Awards

1974 - 4th Kodansha Publishing Culture Award - children cartoon category "Tsurikichi Sanpei" and "Maboroshi no Kaijya Bachi bebi"  
 1976 - 5th Japan Cartoonists Association Award Grand Prize "Matagi"  
 2009 - Regional Person of Cultural Merit Award