



Press Release

March 10, 2026

**GARDE Reopens “GARDE ART GALLERY” in Minami-Aoyama as a Multipurpose Art Hub
A New Art Platform Launches, Bridging Architectural Philosophy and Curatorial Practice
Opening Exhibition “Urban Portraits” Held
Architecture and Design Professionals Attend the Opening Reception**

GARDE Co., Ltd. (Headquarters: Minato-ku, Tokyo; President and CEO: Kenji Muro), a global provider of interior design, consulting, and coordination services, has reopened its GARDE ART GALLERY in Minami-Aoyama, Tokyo.

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ART GALLERY

GARDE ART GALLERY is relaunching as a hub exploring the intersection of spatial design and contemporary art. It will evolve into an experimental platform that bridges architectural thinking and curatorial practice, visualizing “the emotional and economic value that art brings to space.”

In addition, the gallery aims to create opportunities for emerging artists to present their work while supporting their development. By providing a platform for diverse art-related activities, it seeks to foster an environment in which new talent can continually challenge themselves through collaboration with spatial design and engagement with businesses and society.

Through these initiatives, the gallery aims to build a sustainable cycle that channels creativity back into society.

■Grand Reopening Exhibition

To commemorate the grand reopening, we will present the solo exhibition “Urban Portraits” by Nicola Maniero from Monday, March 2 to Friday, March 13, 2026.

This exhibition shifts the perspective away from viewing the city through architecture or landmarks, instead focusing on the “people” who inhabit public spaces. It presents portraits capturing fleeting expressions and gestures encountered in transitional environments such as streets and stations.

The works are not presented as narratives of individual stories but as fragmentary, open-ended images that reflect the inherent instability and ambiguity of the modern city. By minimizing the urban background and focusing on the frame of the “face,” layered emotions—fatigue, loneliness, strength, and fragility—emerge.

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Created against the backdrop of architectural thinking, this series questions how constructed environments are perceived and emotionally experienced.

■ Artist Profile

Nicola Maniero

Nicola Maniero is an Italian architect and photographer based in Tokyo. He graduated in Architecture from IUAV University of Venice, where he developed an early interest in the relationship between space, perception, and everyday life. Since 2010, he has been part of Kengo Kuma & Associates, where he is currently Partner, working on cultural, infrastructural, and urban projects across Europe, the Middle East, and Asia.



His architectural practice is characterized by a strong sensitivity to context, materiality, and public space. Over the years, he has been involved in complex international projects that explore architecture as a mediator between landscape, social use, and collective experience. This background has deeply influenced his approach to photography, which he considers an extension of architectural thinking rather than a separate discipline.

Alongside his professional activity as an architect, Maniero has developed an independent photographic research focused on the contemporary city. His work investigates urban life at a human scale, paying particular attention to marginal situations, everyday gestures, and moments that escape planned representation. Rather than depicting architecture as an object, his photography explores how built environments are inhabited, perceived, and emotionally experienced.

■ Exhibition Overview

Title: Nicola Maniero Solo Exhibition “Urban Portraits”

Dates: March 2 (Mon) – March 13 (Fri), 2026

Venue: GARDE ART GALLERY (4F, ALLIANCE Building, 5-2-1 Minami-Aoyama, Minato City, Tokyo)

Admission: Free

Exhibition Details:

<https://www.adfwebmagazine.jp/art/adf-art-gallery-project-vol-38-nicola-maniero-solo-exhibition-tokyo-urban-portraits/>

■ Future Utilization of GARDE ART GALLERY

This gallery extends beyond a conventional exhibition space and can be utilized for the following purposes:

- Exhibitions / Art Events

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As part of our support for emerging artists, the gallery offers a free rental program for young and new artists.

- **Art Project Presentations for Brands / Commercial Spaces**

The space can serve as an experimental platform for integrating art into brand experience design.

- **Media Events / Press Conferences**

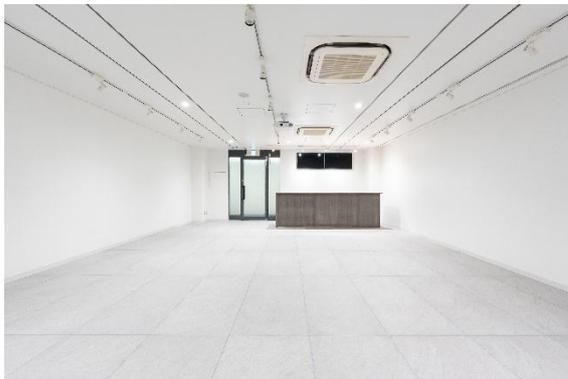
Suitable for presentations, talk events, photo shoots, and press events related to design, fashion, and architecture.

- **Corporate Exhibitions / Product Launches**

The gallery can be used as a venue that embodies brand philosophy or architectural concepts.

The gallery will also promote collaboration with companies, media organizations, and artists, functioning as a spatial platform that expands brand value through art.

Inquiries regarding use: info@garde-intl.com



■ **Opening Reception Held**

On Friday, March 6, an opening reception was held for members of the media and professionals from the architecture, design, and art industries to commemorate the reopening of the gallery. The event featured an artist talk, a toast ceremony, and networking among attendees, creating an opportunity to experience GARDE's unique world where space and art intersect. The reception welcomed numerous guests, including internationally active architects as well as professionals from the architecture, design, and art fields. Kenta Ichinose, the gallery's curator, introduced the concept of the exhibition and the activities of the gallery. Footage from the reception will soon be available on the official GARDE YouTube channel.

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GARDE Official YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@gardeco.ltd.3580>



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About GARDE

Founded in 1985, GARDE is a design and consulting firm that undertakes a wide range of spatial design projects, including luxury retail stores, hotels, high-end residences, large-scale shopping centers and department stores, F&B outlets (including food courts), offices for global corporations, and sports and entertainment complexes.

In addition to its core Design Division, which focuses on architectural and environmental design, GARDE operates two other main business divisions: the Consulting Division, which handles real estate sales and brokerage, new business planning and development, and support for overseas expansion; and the Coordination Division, which offers real estate coordination, art support and sales, digital solutions including metaverse development, and regional revitalization services. In recent years, GARDE has opened and now operates art galleries in New York and Minami-Aoyama, leveraging art as a platform for value creation and international cultural outreach, thereby expanding its business scope beyond traditional spatial design.

With a commitment to delivering “Creating lasting value through spaces that resonate,” GARDE deeply understands each client’s history, philosophy, technology, and vision, integrating these elements to create spaces and experiences that combine exceptional design with superior functionality. In addition to its Tokyo headquarters, the company has established offices worldwide, including Milan, Paris, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta, Dubai, New York, and Los Angeles.

Official Website: <https://www.garde-intl.com/>

Design Magazine: <https://gardedesignmagazine.com/>

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