

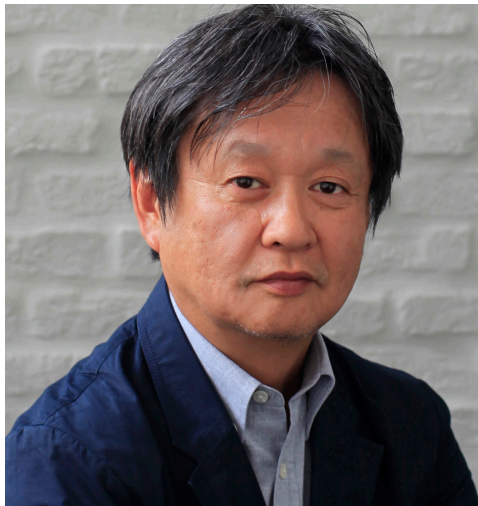
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## **2018 Isamu Noguchi Award Goes to Industrial Designer Naoto Fukasawa and Landscape Designer Edwina von Gal**

*Award to be presented at Noguchi Museum Annual Benefit, May 22, 2018.*



Naoto Fukasawa



Edwina von Gal

**WHAT**

The Noguchi Museum has selected industrial designer **Naoto Fukasawa** and landscape designer **Edwina von Gal** as recipients of the 2018 Isamu Noguchi Award, given to individuals who share Noguchi's spirit of innovation, global consciousness, and commitment to East/West cultural exchange.

**WHO**

Known for designs that are at once simple and poetic, Tokyo-based **Naoto Fukasawa** has designed a variety of objects, ranging from precision electronic equipment to furniture, interior spaces, and more. A graduate of Tama Art University, in 1989 Fukasawa moved to the United States, where he was impressed by Isamu Noguchi's forms and began his own creative pursuits based on the concept of *'hari,'* or "well balanced tension." In 1996, he returned to Japan to head the Tokyo office of the American company IDEO, and in 2003 he established Naoto Fukasawa Design. Fukasawa's wall-mounted CD player created for Muji, humidifier for Plus Minus

Zero, and the mobile phones Infobar and neon for au by KDDI are all in the permanent collection of New York's Museum of Modern Art (MoMA).

Fukasawa is a director of 21\_21 Design Sight, a creative advisor for Muji, and art director for Maruni Wood Industry. Additionally, he works with Geiger and Herman Miller in the U.S., collaborates with leading European brands, and consults with major Japanese corporations. In 2007, he was accorded the title of Honorary Royal Designer for Industry (awarded by the Royal Society of Arts). He has sat on many design panels, including as chairman of the Good Design Award from 2010 to 2014, and was a judge for the Braun Prize in 2012. He is a professor in the Integrated Design department at Tama Art University, and director of The Japan Folk Crafts Museum, Tokyo.

**Edwina von Gal** has been principal of her eponymous U.S.-based landscape-design firm since 1984, creating landscapes with a focus on simplicity and sustainability. She has collaborated with architects including Frank Gehry, Richard Gluckman, Annabelle Selldorf, Maya Lin, and Richard Meier, on projects for numerous people in the design and art community, among others. Von Gal's work has been published widely and her book "Fresh Cuts" won the Quill and Trowel award for garden writing. In 2008, she founded the Azuero Earth Project, promoting reforestation on Panama's Azuero Peninsula. In 2013, she created the nonprofit Perfect Earth Project, dedicated to raising awareness of the dangers to people, pets, and the planet of toxic lawn and garden chemicals.

Von Gal received the Institute of Classical Architecture and Art's Arthur Ross Award in 2012, and was the 2017 recipient of Guild Hall's Academy of the Arts Lifetime Achievement Award for the Visual Arts. In addition to the Isamu Noguchi Award, von Gal will receive the NY School of Interior Design's Green Design Award in 2018.

**WHEN** The Award will be presented **at the Museum's annual benefit, on Tuesday, May 22, 2018.**

**WHERE** The Noguchi Museum  
9-01 33rd Road (at Vernon Boulevard),  
Long Island City, NY

**NOGUCHI MUSEUM** Founded in 1985 by Isamu Noguchi (1904–1988), one of the leading sculptors and designers of the twentieth century, The Noguchi Museum was the first museum in America to be established, designed, and installed by a living artist to show their own work. Widely viewed as among the artist's greatest achievements, the Museum comprises ten indoor galleries in a converted factory building, as well as an internationally acclaimed outdoor sculpture garden. Since its founding, it has served as

an international hub for Noguchi research and appreciation. In addition to housing the artist's archives and the catalogue raisonné of his work, the Museum exhibits a comprehensive selection of sculpture, models for public projects and gardens, dance sets, and his Akari light sculptures. Provocative, frequently-changing installations drawn from the permanent collection, together with diverse special exhibitions related to Noguchi, the context in which he worked, and his ongoing artistic relevance, offer a rich view of Noguchi's art and illuminate his enduring influence as a category-defying, multicultural, cross-disciplinary innovator.  
**718.204.7088 | [noguchi.org](http://noguchi.org) | [@noguchimuseum](https://www.instagram.com/noguchimuseum)**

**PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS** Previous recipients of the Isamu Noguchi Award include: 2014—Lord Norman Foster and Hiroshi Sugimoto; 2015—Jasper Morrison and Yoshio Taniguchi; 2016—Tadao Ando and Elyn Zimmerman; 2017—John Pawson and Hiroshi Senju.

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