

Attachment 2 Comments from the Advisors

Titles omitted, listed in Japanese alphabetical order.



Joshua W. Walker, Ph.D

President & CEO, Japan Society

As geopolitical tensions rise, international exchanges become increasingly difficult—just when they are needed the most. Art has the power to foster empathy and reveal the shared humanity between us. I am thrilled that the International House of Japan is prioritizing cultural diplomacy through this initiative. Japan Society and the International House of Japan are strategic allies, and I look forward to collaborating in the arts across New York and Tokyo.



Takeo Obayashi

Chairman of the Board, Obayashi Corporation; Chairman of the Board, Obayashi Foundation. A prominent collector of contemporary art in Japan.

In today's society, companies have a responsibility to extend beyond economic activities and contribute to a prosperous future by promoting culture and the arts. The International House of Japan's establishment of the Rothko Room, featuring works by Mark Rothko from the DIC Museum's collection, is a remarkable initiative that will deepen the connection between art and society. Displaying these masterpieces—created by one of the world's most renowned artists—at the International House of Japan, a hub for private diplomacy and cultural exchange, will not only inspire new dialogue and elevate cultural value but also present a new model of corporate social contribution.



Mami Kataoka

Director, Mori Art Museum. Since 2023, also serving as Director of the National Center for Art Research.

I am delighted that an important collection of Mark Rothko's works will find a permanent home in Roppongi, a district that has evolved into a center for contemporary art. When I was young, I visited the Rothko Chapel in Houston, Texas, and the experience of encountering art in such a solemn setting remains an unforgettable memory. I sincerely hope to see a space emerge in Roppongi—a long-standing hub of international intellectual exchange—where dialogue can truly transcend borders and cultures.

Photo: Shintsubo Kenshu



Kohei Terada

President & CEO, Terada Warehouse. Vice Chairperson, Keizai Doyukai (Japan Association of Corporate Executives); Vice Chairman, ACC Japan.

Art has the power to move people's hearts. In the field of art storage, we have been striving to raise important questions, tackle various challenges, and contribute to the development of the art industry by revitalizing the art ecosystem and integrating art into urban planning. The profound spirituality of Rothko's works, which deeply resonate with audiences, will complement the intellectual space the International House of Japan seeks to create. I am confident that this will spark new dialogue and creativity, opening new possibilities for Japan's future and transforming the venue itself into a bridge to the world.



Lionel Barber

Editor in Chief of FT (2005-20), Trustee & Chair of The Tate (2011-21)

The new Rothko Room, designed by SANAA at the International House of Japan, is a compelling fusion of art, architecture, and nature that will undoubtedly become a must-visit destination for art lovers worldwide. Beyond its artistic significance, this initiative will expand the boundaries of how art can enhance cultural diplomacy and demonstrate how future corporations can continue to serve as patrons of the arts.



Kyoko Mori

Chairperson, Mori Art Museum. Also serves as a trustee of the Obayashi Foundation and a director of the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra.

Roppongi is a unique district where diverse cultures intersect, making it a global center for art. The relocation of the Rothko Room from the Kawamura Memorial DIC Museum of Art to the International House of Japan is highly significant, particularly in terms of integrating art with the urban landscape. Displaying Rothko's masterpieces—some of the most significant and valuable artworks in the world—in this new setting will inspire visitors with fresh creativity and, together with the Mori Art Museum, further elevate Roppongi's status as a cultural hub. I sincerely hope this initiative will strengthen the relationship between art and society, offering a shared vision for a richer future.