

My name is Oriza Hirata, starting from 1st of April this year, I have been appointed as the Artistic Director of Kinosaki International Arts Center (KIAC), located in Toyooka city. Since KIAC opened last year, we have been visited and praised by many artists and creators. This year, we are aiming to improve and develop our reception of artists via the Artist in Residence Program, one of the leading programs of its kind in Japan.

One of the greatest characteristics of KIAC is that whether the artists stay for a short time, or longer to develop their work, they are not obligated to put on a public performance to showcase the results of their work.

Artists can meet and merge with the local people, and possibly use these interactions to inspire the creation of their works. There are lots of new possibilities in this art stronghold, please come and experience them.

One of KIAC's other attractions is of course, onsens (hot springs). Artists staying in Kinosaki Onsen can bathe in open air public baths alongside the locals for just 100 yen a time. Toyooka city even went as far as to change the regulations to allow artists to bathe in the onsens for a lower price. That is the kind of local government organization Toyooka city is. Since ancient times artists and writers have visited and stayed for a long time in Kinosaki Onsen, it is town with a deep relationship with the arts.

I urge you to please visit and experience Kinosaki Onsen for yourself.

Oriza Hirata (Kinosaki International Arts Center Artistic Director)