

MOT Plus

Soundwalk Collective & Patti Smith:

CORRESPONDENCES

April 26 – June 29, 2025

Audiovisual works by Soundwalk Collective and Patti Smith will be presented for the first time in Japan.



CORRESPONDENCES is an ongoing body of work by Soundwalk Collective and Patti Smith, consisting of multiple films, light tables, mixed media collage works, and site specific interventions.

These unique works are composed of audio-visual material, where 'sonic memories' collected through field recordings are paired with film photography and original poetry.

Multiple narratives are woven together in eight films that correspond as diptychs, and which explore themes such as the nuclear disaster of Chernobyl, wildfires destroying forests around the world since

Patti Smith's year of birth, and the mass extinction of animals; while also referencing artists and revolutionaries such as Pasolini, Medea, and Godard; questioning the role of the artist and the nature of humanity.

Contact Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo | Public Relations (Kudo / Uchibori / Otsuka)

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*All Programs are subject to change.

1. Exhibition Overview

From April 26, 2025, the Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo will host *CORRESPONDENCES*, an exhibition of the ongoing collaborative project by Berlin based contemporary sonic art platform Soundwalk Collective and global cultural icon, artist and writer Patti Smith.

Soundwalk Collective, led by artist Stephan Crasneanski and producer Simone Merli, is a contemporary sonic arts platform that uses the tangible and spiritual power of sound to create site-and-context specific projects that bring stories to life and explore themes such as memory, time, love, and loss. Through collaborations with artists such as photographer Nan Goldin, Jean-Luc Godard Archives, Charlotte Gainsbourg, and choreographer Sasha Waltz, they have created numerous works based on conceptual, literary or artistic themes.

In 2017, music created by Soundwalk Collective was featured in the radio project *Every Time a Ear di Soun* that was presented at documenta 14, and in 2019 they presented the sound installation *Mirage* at the Louvre Abu Dhabi. They also composed an original score for *All the Beauty and the Bloodshed*, a documentary following the activities of Nan Goldin that won the Golden Lion at the 2022 Venice International Film Festival, while recording and releasing numerous records and exhibiting worldwide.

Patti Smith is a poet, musician, painter, and performer who has continued her creative work for more than half a century. Her groundbreaking debut album, *Horses* (1975), has earned a place in music history with its fusion of poetry and rock, expanding the possibilities of expression through punk and rock while inspiring generations of artists, from Sonic Youth's Kim Gordon to PJ Harvey. Starting in the late 1960s, Smith began creating photography and drawings, and in recent years, has expanded her creative activities to include installations, exhibiting in major museums around the world, including a large-scale solo exhibition *Land 250* (2008) at the Fondation Cartier Pour L'Art Contemporain. Her works are also included in prestigious museum collections, such as the Museum of Modern Art in New York.



01 Mathilde Brandi, taken at Kurimanzutto gallery NYC 2025



02 Mathilde Brandi, taken at Kurimanzutto gallery NYC 2025

The creative collaboration between Soundwalk Collective and Patti Smith has continued for more than a decade, with their collaborative works being presented in various forms such as live performances, exhibitions, screenings, poetry readings, and workshops around the world, including at the Venice Film Biennale, Kurimanzutto New York, and the Museum of Modern Art in Medellín, Colombia.

This exhibition will introduce their latest project, *CORRESPONDENCES*. The project has toured several locations, including the Tbilisi Photography and Multimedia Museum (2023, Georgia), the Museum of Modern Art in Medellín (2024-2025, Colombia), the Onassis Foundation in Athens (2024, Greece), Mendes Wood DM in Sao Paulo (2025, Brazil), and Kurimanzutto (2025, USA). This will be the first time the project is presented in Japan.

The exhibition *MOT Plus Soundwalk Collective & Patti Smith: CORRESPONDENCES* is the first initiative of *MOT Plus*. Launched in 2025 to mark the 30th anniversary of the Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, the *MOT Plus Project* serves as a platform for experimental projects that go beyond conventional exhibition formats to encompass performances, film screenings and other works. This exhibition marks the first in an ongoing series, and is co-organised with the cultural platform YY and is supported by MODE, the event series introducing experimental music, audiovisual art, and performing arts.

An artist talk between Soundwalk Collective founder Stephan Crasneanski and Patti Smith will be taking place on 26th April. Information on how to participate and further details will be released on the MODE Instagram and the Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo website.

2. About *CORRESPONDENCES*



03 Soundwalk Collective & Patti Smith 'Correspondences' - kurimanzutto NY (installation view), courtesy of kurimanzutto

CORRESPONDENCES is a collaborative project between Soundwalk Collective and Patti Smith, born from a dialogue spanning more than a decade. This ongoing and ever-evolving collaboration evokes the 'sonic

memories' of various geographies, embodying the footsteps of artists, revolutionaries, and the continuous impact of climate change.

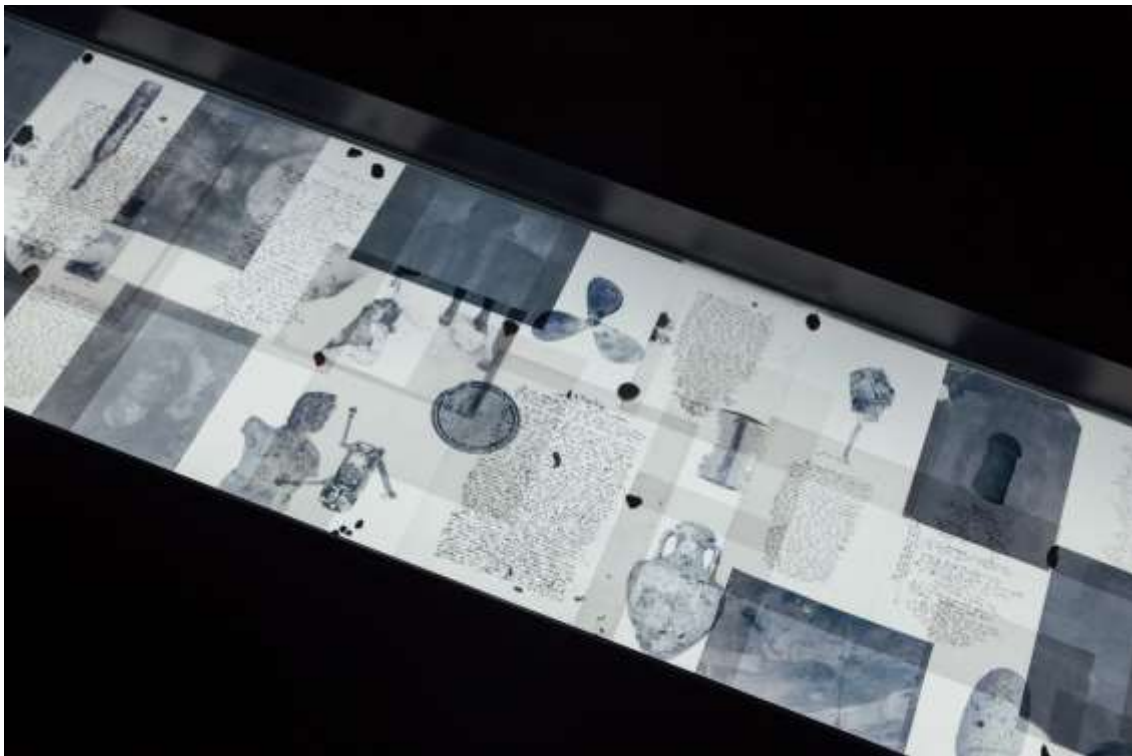
The process sees Crasneanski visit distant lands of poetic inspiration and historical significance, collecting sonic memories through field recordings. Smith then composes poems through an intimate dialogue with his recordings, whilst Soundwalk Collective edits visuals to match the soundtrack. This process of "correspondence" has resulted in the eight video works that form the core of the exhibition—*Pasolini, Medea, Children of Chernobyl, The Acolyte, the Artist and Nature, Cry of the Lost, Prince of Anarchy, Mass Extinction 1946-2024*, and *Burning 1946-2024*.



04 Soundwalk Collective & Patti Smith 'Correspondences' - kurimanzutto NY (installation view), courtesy of kurimanzutto



05 Soundwalk Collective & Patti Smith 'Correspondences' - kurimanzutto NY (installation view), courtesy of kurimanzutto



06 Soundwalk Collective & Patti Smith 'Correspondences' - kurimanzutto NY (installation view), courtesy of kurimanzutto

These works will be presented as a bespoke audiovisual installation that envelops the entire exhibition space with Soundwalk Collective's recordings and sound design, layered with Smith's distinctive voice, inviting viewers into an immersive experience of approximately two hours where sound, visuals, and poetry intersect.

The eight works, each focusing on different themes, will be projected on multiple screens, creating a direct connection between each work whilst communicating with the other artworks in the exhibition.

Lightboxes will display the inspiration behind the video works and the research conducted during their production process. It will showcase handwritten poems, scans of found objects, drawings and lyrics by Patti Smith, photographs and scientific data, offering a visual insight into the research and dialogue between Soundwalk Collective and Patti Smith.

CORRESPONDENCES explores themes such as the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, forest fires and the mass extinction of animals, while also referencing artists and revolutionaries such as Andrei Tarkovsky, Jean-Luc Godard, Pier Paolo Pasolini and Pyotr Kropotkin; questioning the relationship between man and nature, the role of the artist and the nature of humanity.

3. Exhibition Highlights

1) Rare Film Footage

The videos in this exhibition include edits of rare, previously unreleased footage from films such as Andrei Tarkovsky's *Andrei Rublev*, Pier Paolo Pasolini's *Medea* (in which Maria Callas plays the tragic heroine from Greek mythology), Abel Ferrara's *Pasolini* (which depicts the final day of the murdered Italian master Pier Paolo Pasolini), as well as NASA satellite imagery, ocean data visualized through collaboration with the research foundation TBA21-Academy, and the voice of Jean-Luc Godard.



07 Soundwalk Collective & Patti Smith 'Correspondences' - kurimanzutto NY (installation view), courtesy of kurimanzutto



08 Soundwalk Collective & Patti Smith 'Correspondences' - kurimanzutto NY (installation view), courtesy of kurimanzutto

2) Patti Smith's Latest Works

Patti Smith, who began her career as a visual artist, has spent half a century pushing the boundaries of expression since her groundbreaking debut album *Horses*, which fused poetry and rock. In addition to her ongoing work in painting and photography since the late 1960s, she has expanded her creative scope to include installation works since the 2010s, and now, approaching 80, Smith has created new audiovisual works in collaboration with Soundwalk Collective. The powerful poems she composed while listening to field recordings amplify the 'sonic memories' of these various geographies, and present a perspective of the world and our environment that should be the focus of humanity's attention.

3) New Works Created in Residence in Japan

As *CORRESPONDENCES* tours around the world, it continues to evolve with the creation of new works in each location, resulting in site-specific exhibitions that change shape and form. In the past, Soundwalk Collective and Patti Smith have created site-specific works in countries such as Georgia, Colombia, Mexico, and the United States, building a multifaceted relationship with audiences through works that respond to the history and cultural landscape of each place. On this occasion, Soundwalk Collective and Patti Smith will be working on new pieces during their stay in Japan, which will be presented as part of this exhibition.

Artist Profiles

Soundwalk Collective

Soundwalk Collective is the contemporary sonic arts platform of founder and artist Stephan Crasneanski and producer Simone Merli. Working with a rotating constellation of artists and musicians, they develop site- and context-specific sound projects through which to examine conceptual, literary or artistic themes.

Evolving along multi-disciplinary lines, Soundwalk Collective has cultivated long-term creative collaborations with musician Patti Smith, late director Jean-Luc Goddard, photographer Nan Goldin, choreographer Sasha Waltz, and actress and singer Charlotte Gainsbourg, among others. In doing so, their practice engages in the narrative potential of sound across mediums such as art installations, dance, music and film.

A unique artistic approach to sound ties together the different forms in which Soundwalk Collective work. Whether in original composition or the use of archival recordings, they treat sound as material that is both tactile and poetic. This allows them to create layered narratives that address ideas of memory, time, love and loss.

Their latest original score for 'All The Beauty and the Bloodshed' (dir. Laura Poitras) won the Golden Lion at the 2022 Venice Film Festival. In 2024, they showed 'Correspondences', a new exhibition and performance with Patti Smith at the Onassis Foundation in Athens, the BAM in New York, and the MAMM Museum of Contemporary Art in Medellin, that weaves an audio-visual journey through literature, art, philosophy and the current state of our planet in reaction to the impact of climate change.

Soundwalk Collective have performed and exhibited at a diverse range of arts and music institutions, such as BAM, CCB Lisbon, Centre Pompidou, CTM Festival, documenta, KW Institute of Contemporary Art, Louvre Abu Dhabi, Manifesta, Mobile Art Pavillion by Zaha Hadid, New Museum, Reethaus, TPMM Tbilisi and Volksbühne Berlin.



09 Photo by Vanina Sorrenti B

Patti Smith

Patti Smith, born in Chicago and raised in South Jersey, migrated to New York City in 1967. Her extensive achievements as a performer, author, recording and visual artist is acknowledged worldwide. Released in 1975, Smith's first recording, *Horses*, was inducted into the National Recording Registry at the Library of Congress in 2010 by the National Recording Preservation Board. Her subsequent albums include *Radio Ethiopia*, *Easter*, which included *Because the Night*, cowritten with Bruce Springsteen, *Wave*, *Dream of Life*, which included *People Have the Power* cowritten with her late husband Fred Sonic Smith, *Gone Again*, *Peace and Noise*, *Gung Ho*, *Trampin'*, *Land*, *Twelve*, *Banga*, and *Outside Society*. She is a four-time Grammy® nominee and a Golden Globe nominee for the song *Mercy Is* cowritten with Lenny Kay for the film Noah. Steven Sebring's 2008 documentary, *Patti Smith: Dream of Life*, received an Emmy nomination. Patti Smith was awarded the prestigious 2010 National Book Award for her bestselling memoir, *Just Kids*, chronicling her deep friendship with photographer Robert Mapplethorpe and the evolution of their work. Her books include *Wil*, *Babel*, *Woolgathering*, *The Coral Sea*, *Auguries of Innocence*, *Collected Lyrics*, *M Train*, *Devotion*, and *Year of the Monkey*.

Smith holds the honor of "Commandeur des Arts et des Lettres" from the French Ministry of Culture. In 2007 she was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. She was honored by ASCAP with the Founders Award in 2010, representing lifetime achievement, and was the recipient of Sweden's 2011 Polar Award, an international acknowledgement for significant achievements in music. In 2013, Smith received the Katharine Hepburn Medal from Bryn Mawr College, recognizing women whose contributions embody the drive and work ethic of the celebrated actress. In 2014, Barnard College Board of Trustees presented Patti Smith with their Medal of Distinction. In 2016, she was awarded the Burke Medal for Outstanding Contribution to the Arts in Trinity College, Dublin.

Smith's photographs, drawings, and installations have been exhibited in galleries and museums worldwide. Coupled with her photography exhibit *Higher Learning*, Smith received the Laurea Magistrate causa from Parma, Italy, and an honorary doctorate in Euro-American Literature from Padova University.

Her renowned band includes guitarist and author Lenny Kaye, who she has collaborated with since 1971, drummer Jay Dee Daugherty since 1975, Tony Shanahan on bass and keyboards, since 1996, and her son, guitarist Jackson Smith, for over a decade.

At present Smith writes, performs, lending support for human-rights issues and environmental groups, primarily Pathway to Paris, a nonprofit organization co-founded by her daughter, Jesse Paris Smith, offering tangible solutions for combating climate change. In May 2020, she received the PEN Literary Service Award, and an honorary Doctorate from Columbia University.

May 21, 2022, she received the French Legion of Honor for her life's work.



10 Photo by Jesse Paris Smith

Information

Exhibition Title	MOT Plus Soundwalk Collective & Patti Smith: <i>CORRESPONDENCES</i>
Exhibition Period	Saturday, April 26 – Sunday, June 29, 2025
Closed	Mondays (excluding 5 May), Wednesday, 7 May
Opening Hours	10:00 – 18:00 (Tickets available until 30 minutes before closing.)
Admission	Adults ¥1,800/Free for elementary school students & younger
Venue	Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo Exhibition Gallery B2F
Organized by	Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo operated by Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture / YY Co., Ltd.
Planning Cooperation	MODE
Sponsors	Audio-Technica / Analogue Foundation
Inquiries	03-5245-4111 (General Information)
Curated by	Sanghae Kwon (Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo)

Related Programs

An artist talk between Soundwalk Collective founder Stephan Crasneanski and Patti Smith will be taking place on 26th April (Sat). Information on how to participate and further details will be released on the MODE Instagram and the Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo website.

Also on view

“MOT Plus Collaboration with Han Nefkens Foundation: Shahana Rajani”

“Kenjiro Okazaki” Exhibition Gallery 1F/3F

“MOT Collection” Collection Gallery

***CORRESPONDENCES* – Performance**

During the exhibition period, live performances of *CORRESPONDENCES* will be held in Kyoto and Tokyo.

Tuesday 29th April | Performance – Kyoto

KYOTOPHONIE in collaboration with MODE

Soundwalk Collective & Patti Smith: *CORRESPONDENCES*

Date & times Tuesday, 29 April 2025 (National holiday)

Matinee performance: Doors open at 12:00 / Performance starts at 13:00

Evening performance: Doors open at 16:30 / Performance starts at 17:30

Venue ROHM Theatre Kyoto, South Hall (13 Okazakisaishoji-cho, Sakyo-ku, Kyoto 606-8342)

Organized by KYOTOPHONIE INC./MODE/YY Co., Ltd.

Website <https://kyotophonie.jp/>

Inquiries KYOTOPHONIE Office info@kyotophonie.jp

Performance – Tokyo

MODE 2025

Soundwalk Collective & Patti Smith: *CORRESPONDENCES*

Date & times Saturday, 3 May 2025

Doors open at 17:00 / Performance starts at 18:00

Venue Opera Palace, New National Theatre, Tokyo (1-1-1 Honmachi, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 151-0071)

Organized by MODE/YY Co., Ltd.

Supported by Arts Council Tokyo, Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture

Website <https://mode.exchange>

Inquiries MODE info@mode.exchange

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Required Information

Company name/Name of contact person/Name and type of media/Scheduled release or broadcast dates

Use Policy

- Please note all artwork information (artist name/artwork title/production year/copyright, etc.)
- Do not trim, edit, or add text to images.
- Please provide us with a draft of the article before releasing. After released, please send us a copy of the publication or the website URL.
- Secondary use of image data is not permitted. Please delete all image data after use.

List of Artwork Image Credits

- 00 Main Visual
- 01 Mathilde Brandi, taken at Kurimanzutto gallery NYC 2025
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