



# Media Arts Festival

## ART DIVISION GRAND PRIZE:

*Oups!* • Marcio Ambrosio

In this interactive work, graphic images on the screen change as the viewer's body moves.



## MANGA DIVISION GRAND PRIZE:

*Piano no Mori* (Piano Forest) • Makoto Isshiki

The story of an uninhibited young musical genius who encounters diverse people as he pursues his dream of becoming a pianist.

## THE 12TH JAPAN MEDIA ARTS FESTIVAL,

an exhibition of award-winning works organized by the Agency for Cultural Affairs, takes place in Tokyo this month. The event attracted a record 2,146 works and is steadily gaining an international reputation, as evidenced by the 512 overseas entries from 43 countries and regions.

"There have always been a lot of overseas prize-winners in the Art Division, but recently more works from abroad are making it through to the final stages of judging in other divisions too," comments executive committee member Yasuki Hamano, a professor at the University of Tokyo Graduate School.

The festival consists of four separate categories: the Art Division for interactive art and installations, the Entertainment Division for games and characters, the Animation Division for long and short animated features, and the Manga Division for story and web manga.

Grand Prize in the Art Division went to *Oups!*, an installation by Brazilian artist Marcio Ambrosio. This lighthearted interactive work features a variety of graphic images appearing on a screen, which change as the viewer's body moves.

Kunio Kato won the Animation Division Grand Prize for his short feature entitled *The House of Small Cubes*. The film tells the tale of an old man living in a house built like a pile of wooden blocks to escape the rising ocean, and his family memories. It also won the top Annecy Crystal award at the Annecy International Animated Film Festival and was nominated for best animated short film at the Academy Awards. Works emerging from the Media Arts Festival continue to take the world by storm.



ENTERTAINMENT DIVISION

GRAND PRIZE:

Tenori-on • Toshio Iwai and Yu Nishibori representing the Tenori-on development team.

**Tenori-on is a whole new kind of musical instrument, enabling sound to be visually controlled by a player using an interface consisting of 256 LED lights.**

ON THE INTERNET

<http://plaza.bunka.go.jp/english/>



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ANIMATION DIVISION

GRAND PRIZE:

*The House of Small Cubes* • Kunio Kato

**The tale of a lone old man living in a submerged world, told with a delicate and nostalgic touch.**