



The Twelfth Wara Art Festival

This year's theme, "if"

At the Wara Art Festival, massive sculptures made of rice straw will appear in Niigata City's Nishikan Ward, an area known for its rice production. The theme of this year's festival is "if". The sculptures, five powerful and charming animals, pose questions such as, "What if you were to sumo wrestle a bear?" and invite viewers to the "World of if". In addition to sculpture, the opening event will feature the sale of local specialties and fun activities such as straw craft workshops and more. The festival is held in Uwasekigata Park, a vast expanse of lush green at the foot of Satoyama Mountains. The sculpture exhibition is held when the cosmos flowers are at peak bloom, and the park is equipped with facilities for barbecuing, as well as pedal go-karts, making it a perfect place to spend the day hiking or having a picnic.

Join us for a late summer day of carefree fun and enjoy the wonderful smell and feel of rice straw.



Huge object made of rice straw the "Wara Art"

1. **Opening event** 25 August, 2019 (Sun) 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
2. **Exhibition** 25 August, 2019 (Sun) to 31 October, 2019 (Thur)
3. **Location** Uwasekigata Park (1 Matsunoo, Nishikan Ward, Niigata, Japan)

This year's theme is "if". Welcome to the "World of if".

As the byproduct of rice farming, rice straw is a symbol of Niigata. At the Wara Art Festival, five sculptures of powerful animals will be created from rice straw harvested here in Nishikan Ward. The theme of this year's twelfth festival is "if", inviting viewers to step into surprising situations with animals.



Work to be produced, Drawing of "What if you were to sumo wrestle a bear?"

Sculptures made by Niigata City citizens and students from Tokyo's Musashino Art University

The rice straw sculptures will be made in cooperation with Niigata City locals and 39 students from Tokyo's Musashino Art University. In order to create these detailed and realistic works of art, the students and locals work together using a variety of materials in addition to rice straw, such as bamboo and wheat straw hats. On the day of the opening event (25 August), the students will provide commentary on their creative process and the effort that went into completing each sculpture.



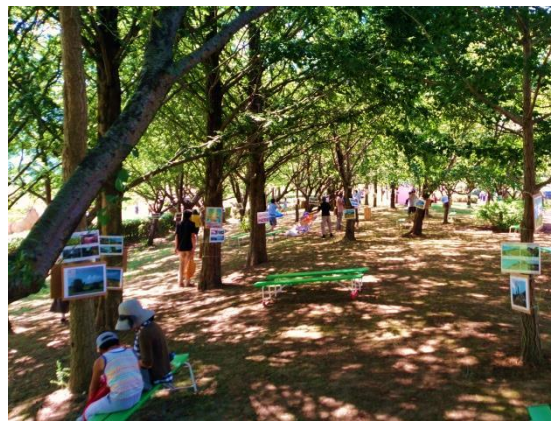
Students at Musashino Art University who are producing.

A variety of fun events in addition to the Wara Art exhibition

Aside from the exhibition, the festival is filled with plenty of things to do, such as the Nishikan Market with local craft beer and other Niigata specialties, an outdoor gallery of photos of past festivals' sculptures, a hands-on rice straw craft workshop, and more.



Local product market.



Gallery in the park.

Located at the base of Satoyama Mountain in the beautiful and vast Uwasekigata Park

One of the best parts of the Wara Art Festival is its location. Spend a relaxing day surrounded by lush and beautiful nature at this huge park.



Uwasekigata Park full of nature.

Information

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