

February 17, 2023  
Keio University

---

---

**Exhibition at Keio Museum Commons**  
**Who Forms Archaeological Sites — in What Manner?**  
**(March 6 – April 27)**

What are 'archaeological sites'? It is where traces of people's activities exist, which are revealed through excavation. The excavations by Keio University carried out during the construction of Keio Museum Commons (KeMCo) in 2018–2019 yielded many records and artefacts dated from the Edo period to the Jomon period. Still, the items collected were not all the vestiges of life that were buried at the site. Excavation is an act of selecting which traces to preserve, and 'archaeological sites' and 'history' are constructed through the selection. In this exhibition, we would like to focus on the results of selection and omissions, questioning the very status of 'archaeological sites' and 'history' itself. In addition, we will exhibit a project-based installation centered around the idea of artefacts in collaboration with the artist Kenji Yamada.

### **1. Overview**

**Date:** Monday 6 March–Thursday 27 April 2023

\*Closed on Saturdays, Sundays, and public holidays

\*\*Special opening on Saturday: 3/18, 4/22, Closed on Monday: 3/13, 4/17

**Venue:** Keio Museum Commons (East Annex, Keio University Mita Campus)

**Opening Time:** 11:00 – 18:00

**Admission:**

Free, open to the public

Please visit the KeMCo website for more information on the exhibition and related programmes:

<https://kemco.keio.ac.jp/en/>

### **2. About the Exhibition**

What are 'archaeological sites'? Generally, an archaeological site is any place where traces of people's activities from the historical past exist, most of which are under the ground. Therefore, excavations are necessary to reveal the contents of these archaeological sites.

When Keio University built the Keio Museum Commons (KeMCo), it excavated the site to preserve the records and artifacts at risk of being destroyed during construction. The excavation was fruitful, producing various traces from the Edo period to the Jomon period among other findings.

This, however, does not mean that all traces in the area were unearthed. For example, traces of natural phenomena and the modern period were not covered. This brings into focus that excavation is, in fact, an act of selecting traces, which dictates how we construct the 'archaeological site' and the 'history' told there.

This exhibition highlights the results of what was – and wasn't – selected. Dismantling the framework which constructs archaeological sites is an excellent opportunity for participants to question the status of 'archaeological sites' and 'history'.

### **3. Selected Materials**

1. Earthenware in the shape of a stem cup (Late Yayoi period, 2nd-3rd century): Typical of earthenware from the Tokai region's western part.
2. Circular inkstone (Nara period, 8th century): Evidence of documentary administration. The first excavated example in the Ebara district.
3. Atsumi and Tokoname pottery (Kamakura period, 12th-13th century): Large wide-mouthed jars and pots with three-lines design. Rarely found in ordinary villages.
4. Lacquerware (Edo period, 17th century): Discarded items from daimyo feudal lord residences. Residents of townhouses sometimes accepted things thrown out from neighbouring daimyo's homes.
5. Bottle inscribed with 'Mita Nicho...' (lit. 'Mita Second Str...'; Edo period, 18th-19th century): Bottle evidently used at the site.
6. Bottle inscribed with 'Uchita' (Edo period, 18th-19th century): Remains suggesting this site was a liquor shop called Uchida-ya.
7. Tableware from the Hiyoshi Campus canteen (during and after WWII): Important historical materials in the history of Keio University. Excavated from Keio's Hiyoshi Campus.
8. View during the excavation: Western side of the excavation area.
9. View during the excavation: A stem cup from the Yayoi period pit dwelling site.
10. View during the excavation: Site survey of the Kofun period pit dwelling.

Photo credits:

1-7: Katsura Muramatsu (Calo works Co.,Ltd.)

8-10: Department of Archaeology and Ethnology, Faculty of Letters, Keio University



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



10

### **Exhibition Highlights**

#### **Room 1: Findings from the excavation of the Mita 2-chome Machiya Site**

- 01 Overview of the excavation
- 02 Investigation of the topographical formation process
- 03 From the Yayoi to the Kofun period: Roads give rise to settlements
- 04 From Antiquity to the Middle Ages: Comings and goings of people and objects
- 05 The early modern period: glimpses of life in townhouses

#### **Room 2: Who Forms 'Archaeological sites'?**

- 06 What was and was not excavated at KeMCo
- 07 What was and was not excavated at Hiyoshi Campus
- 08 Does the hill of Mita classify as an archaeological site?
- 09 Searching for traces of the past at Mita Campus

### **4. Related Programs**

Dialogue between Archaeology and Contemporary Art

Prof. Hiromichi Ando (Faculty of Letters, Keio University) × Kenji Yamada (Artist)

Date: Friday 14 April, 19:00–20:30

Venue: Keio University Mita Campus, G-Lab (East Research Building, 6F)

Admission: Free, open to the public (advance registration required)

\*Please visit the KeMCo website for more information on this and other KeMCo programmes:

<https://kemco.keio.ac.jp/en/>

Project | *Mita Intercept\_* (Kenji Yamada)

The public art *Mita Intercept\_* was created by artist Kenji Yamada as a virtual common space where citizens and students mingle in ruins excavated before the construction of Keio Museum Commons. This exhibition will show a video installation that records of the workshop to reactivate the relics in the project space to the present day as their activity for continuing the excavation openly.

## **5. Venue and Access**

**Venue:** Keio Museum Commons (Keio University Mita Campus East Annex)

**Address:** 2-15-45 Mita, Minato-ku, Tokyo 108-8345  
East Annex, Keio University Mita Campus

**Access:** • Tamachi Station (JR Yamanote Line/Keihin Tohoku Line) 8 minutes on foot  
• Mita Station (Toei Subway Asakusa Line/Mita Line) 7 minutes on foot  
• Akabanebashi Station (Toei Subway Oedo Line) 8 minutes on foot



Keio Museum Commons  
(East Annex, Mita Campus)

## **6. Organisers**

**Organisers:** Keio Museum Commons  
Department of Archaeology and Ethnology, Faculty of Letters, Keio University

**Cooperation:** TOKIO-bunkazai Co.,Ltd.

※Please direct any requests or inquiries to the contact information provided below.

### **Inquiries about press release:**

Keio University Office of Communications and Public Relations (Toyoda)

Tel: +81-3-5427-1541

Email: m-pr@adst.keio.ac.jp      <https://www.keio.ac.jp/en/>