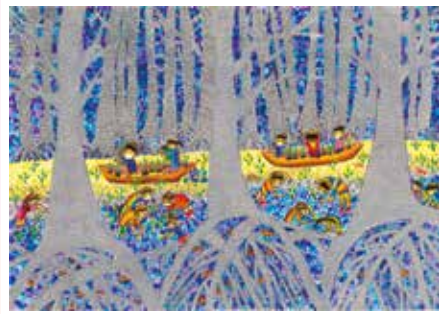




# 花王国際こども環境絵画コンテスト

KAO International Environment Painting Contest for Children



**Kao**  
Kirei—Making Life Beautiful

**13th Contest**  
(2022)  
**Winning Works**

The Kao Group has held this contest annually since 2010, in the hope that paintings and thoughts expressed by children around the world, on their sincere consideration of the environmental conservation around them, the earth and its future, will inspire people across the globe and lead to take action for changing lifestyles.

For this thirteenth contest, we received 13,214 entries from all over the world.

We will introduce 32 of these entries with the children's message through their paintings, which have been selected under strict criteria.

## General remarks by the juries



**Mr. Fumikazu Masuda**

Chair of Juries  
Design Consultant,  
President,  
open house inc.

Society had stalled with the COVID-19 pandemic, but it has started moving again. At once, we have faced to various crises in the time changing rapidly, and I believe that children have also felt confusion. Therefore, emotional support is the world where we feel comfortable after all, and I entirely felt a desire to go back to basics for striving to build such a world. And also, it is very interesting that there were many works that depicted insects this year, including those that were not selected for prizes. This indicates that the children have started to focus not just on plants and large animals, but also the micro-scale world of insects. I eagerly await to see what may come in the future.



**Ms. Sumiko Okubo**

Artist

When this contest began, many works focused on technical aspects more than personal thought on the painting. However, I feel that with every passing year, more children have expressed their desires for how they want the world to be through their works. This year, some children created works that portrayed peacefulness and contentment in their everyday lives, without making a flashy presentation. It was easy to enter myself into the worlds of those works. It is truly wonderful how the children continue to express the point that humans are ultimately a part of nature and that we need to think about just how much nature is giving to us. I would like to express my sincere respect for the children's efforts.



**Mr. Kei Matsushita**

Professor, Tokyo University  
of the Arts

I felt it seemed that many works in this year approached the major challenge of environmental issues as an individual problem rather than facing it as a simply major challenge. Children took it such as "what am I feeling right now?" and "how can I make my and your surrounding happy?" Perhaps the children also have realized that the whole society has exhausted by working toward solutions for the major challenge. This contest was a good opportunity to give me the insight that society is ultimately a collection of individuals, and that there is significant meaning in each person taking on the small challenges around them immediately.



**Ms. Yoko Oyamada**

Artist, Illustrator

The children who submitted works to this contest have studied a lot about the environment, and they have a strong understanding of many different topics. In light of this, I feel that many works express messages based on the reality rather than simply expressing vague dreams about how they wish the world could be. I could receive a strong message that improving lives around us can make the whole world a better place. I would like to express my gratitude to all the children who submitted heartwarming works.



**Mr. Andreas Schneider**

Designer

It has become commonplace for everyone to think and talk about environmental issues. While these issues have become global with uniform perspectives, patterns, and motifs, I feel strongly that the children in this contest are expressing their own ideas with great seriousness. Hopefully, the Kao project will become even more meaningful in helping people take the actions called for in the children's messages and respond with equal commitment.



**Mr. Yasunori Hosokawa**

Director,  
Kao Eco-Lab Museum,  
Kao Corporation

This is my third year as a judge. I am impressed every time that children fully put and express their sensibilities and what they feel into their works. The theme for this year was the same as last year "Let's make our environment sustainable, together!", however, I think that children have expressed "being kind to human beings", "to living things" and "to the society" than just "being kind to the environment." I felt that we adults also need to seek for a world in which everyone can work toward a sustainable environment and thus a sustainable society.

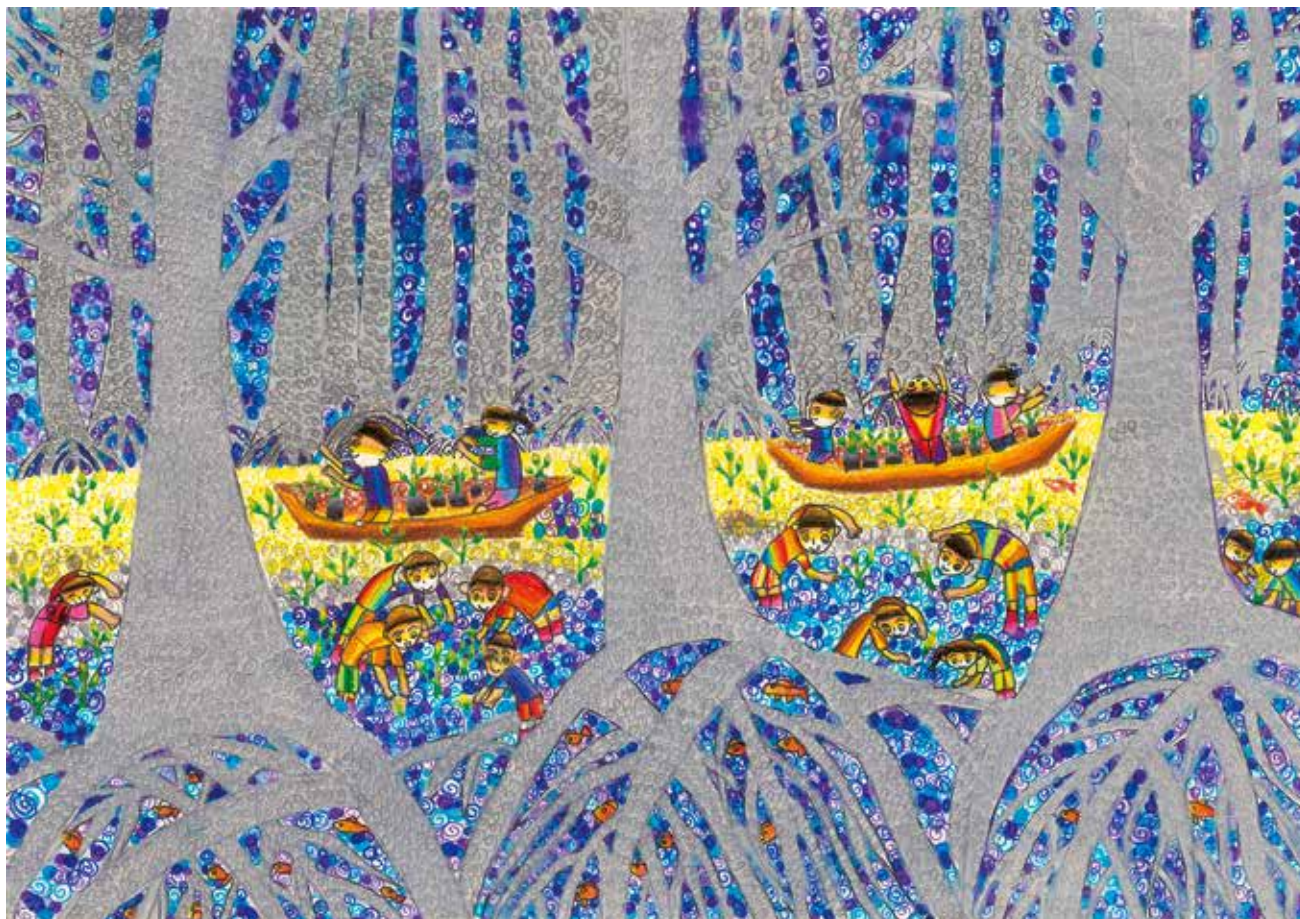


**Mr. Naoto Katahira**

Vice President,  
Creative, Kao Corporation

I am grateful that the children sent us so many works despite the difficult situation worldwide. Adults tend to treat environmental issues as such a major challenge, so we sometimes may lose a sense that these are our own issues. However, children understand obviously that they are also part of the environment. Therefore, that is why we have received more works depicted everyday life and scenes right in front of the children's eyes. Many works express a clear message that protecting the environment is directly connected to protecting our own happiness and important things we have. It gave me an opportunity to think again about the meaning to take care of the environment.

# “eco together”— Planet Earth Grand Prix



## Help to plant mangroves

### Thoughts and wishes regarding the painting

Mangrove forest are inhabited by various animals such as mudskipper, mangrove crab, egret and loris. In addition, the mangrove forest is also a line to prevent the washing of the sea as well. In my painting, my friend and I are helping to plant mangroves to provide their homes, food and a good weather. We have a great time, and we are proud of our efforts to protect the mangrove forests, I promise I will be environmentally friendly.

#### Comment by the juries

When we draw nature, we tend to feature the regular colors of trees and leaves, but this work presents it using extremely unique colors for attracting attention to the activities of the people in the background. It is an excellent work because of its truly unique sensibilities and distinctive concept. The work depicts intricate details, but it is balanced as a whole, and also the particular space catches our eyes, even from a distance. It is a profound work and sparks inspiration in many ways.

# “eco together” – Kao Prize



## the case for environment and land

### Thoughts and wishes regarding the painting

We should be diligent in preserving the environment and my painting was about giving a message to my friends to love the earth. In my painting someone is cleaning the earth and every person is doing something to make the planet happy.

#### Comment by the juries

It is quite interesting that the earth in the center is drawn beyond the common sense. The work is excellent to express that the earth has feelings and emotion just like us. The use of colors and techniques are also elaborate, and the touch and coloring give us a strong passion into the work. This work shows the message to try working on the global environment issues positively.

## Nature of life

### Thoughts and wishes regarding the painting

Nature and environment such as tree, river, wind, sky, and air are part of life. They are related. It is a contributing factor to life balance. So, nature and environment are very important to every life.

#### Comment by the juries

It is very interesting how trees and clouds are each depicted repeatedly in the same way. This repetition shows an energetic expression, and it makes the painter's thoughts and wishes on the painting more impressive. The foreground can be interpreted either as trees growing on a mountain or on a single tree trunk. The work encourages us to think about why the painter has drawn it in this way.





### Thoughts and wishes regarding the painting

I have depicted two hands - human and natural. In the human hand there are people and garbage, and in the natural there are plants and animals. The human hand holds the universe, and the natural hand holds the sea. I drew this to show people that they can help make nature more sustainable by stopping polluting it.

#### Comment by the juries

At first glance, this work appears to show two hands are supporting the earth, but it also resembles two trees. It can be interpreted in different ways depending on who is looking at it, and it has a wondrous appeal. There is a contrast between the two hands that one hand features humans and garbage, while the other has the natural environment with insects, plants, and fish. The work expresses a message on how different these two groups are, despite the fact that they are all living things, and also a story that how animals in nature are working hard to cleanse the earth polluted by humans.



### In sync with nature



### Shade

### Thoughts and wishes regarding the painting

My painting depicts the shade from the trees, the shade from the buildings, referring to our world that grows and develops with nature still in tandem. People and animals sleep peacefully because they are happy, people have compassion to animals, love animals, love nature and live together without fear.

#### Comment by the juries

This work exactly depicts the concept of living in harmony with nature. The people and animals are lying down on the greenery with gentle expressions, and they all look truly comfortable. It expresses the message "coexisting with nature is a very happy thing" very well, and it makes our heart warm just looking at the work. It is finely depicted from the painter's eye how important it is for humans and animals to be in the same place and share enjoyment together, as well how wonderful it is to spend time together.





## Friendship

### Thoughts and wishes regarding the painting

I like to make friends. You can be friends with boys or girls. And you can make friends with animals. I dream of making friends with a bear. It is not for nothing that animals are called our smaller brothers. Our friendship will be permanent and strong.

#### Comment by the juries

This work depicts a simple and direct message about being friends with nature. It is interesting that a human is cuddling close to a bear. We generally tend to draw more gentle animals, but it is extremely unique to see a human smiling and standing close to a bear that looks stronger than humans, and also the bear standing close to the human friendly. The background features an effective use of blue lines alongside subdued colors, and the sunlight is also drawn in orange, red and pink carefully. This work is highly vivid and expressive with an attractive and unique atmosphere.

### Thoughts and wishes regarding the painting

The Earth does not just belong to people. This planet is also home to other animals, plants, fish and insects. In this picture, many different living things are supporting the shining Earth in harmony together. Environmental destruction is an issue in the present day, so I expressed my feelings in this picture that people need to think seriously about coexisting with many different living things.

#### Comment by the juries

The soft, light brush strokes and the delicate colors are extremely beautiful. The center of the painting resembles the earth, the sun, or perhaps a flower. Inside this, we can find many different colors and objects from nature like humans, animals and plants. At the same time, it is totally harmonized. The work expresses dreams and hopes for how things should be, and it simply depicts a bright future. This work seems to fit a phrase "return to nature."



## The future of the world that we all support together





## DISPLACED

### Thoughts and wishes regarding the painting

The betrayal is upon ourselves, human beings, yet we feel displaced and threatened when we are the ones encroaching into the habitats of the other living things such as animals and displacing them. Our human activities have threatened many into potential extinction or already into extinction. Who is displacing who?

#### Comment by the juries

This work has a highly unique idea with animals inside the building and humans outside. This is an inversion of the regular relationship between humans and animals. Perhaps the humans may be displaced from their houses by the animals. They have an indescribable expression of a desire to return home. This is in fact what we humans are doing to animals, and the work ironically depicts the feelings of animals chased out of their homes. This work can serve as a starting point for thinking about the obvious, but highly important thing that the earth is not just for human beings.

## BIRDS IN THE GARDEN

### Thoughts and wishes regarding the painting

I want to live in harmony with nature and therefore I created a roof garden to attract birds to cities and to make the cities greener and more animal friendly. I like animals and I think that people steal their natural environment by building bigger and bigger cities and roads and therefore people should provide a piece of green to them as a substitute for the stolen land. I think all animals in the world deserve to have a happy home like people.

#### Comment by the juries

Despite being a block print with a monochromatic and extremely simple presentation, it spontaneously drew our attention. The painter draws himself on this work, with a tree in the garden and house with windows. The work simply shows that the painter really enjoys such ordinary daily life. It conveys a desire to live closely and in harmony with nature.





# Eco Friend Prize

## Jury's Special Prize

Chair of Juries Fumikazu Masuda Selected



**beautiful nature**

Comment  
by the  
Jury

This work brings us into the world a deer seeing. We can recognize and empathize with the deer is feeling comfortable. The work sends out the message that nature belongs to all living things.

Jury Sumiko Okubo Selected



**Pets**

Comment  
by the  
Jury

The vivid orange color is impressive and has the impact. The spider drawn large in the foreground is attractive, and perspective is expressed well. The painting evokes an atmosphere by pure expression based on the painter's keen observation of elements in everyday life.

Jury Kei Matsushita Selected



**I feed my birds**

Comment  
by the  
Jury

This work utilizes each individual color without mixing or blurring them. It expresses a message for the future, encouraging us to respect the individuality of each living thing while working to create the same world together.

Jury Yoko Oyamada Selected



**Mother Earth**

Comment  
by the  
Jury

The figure in the center appears to be the goddess of the earth modeled as rivers flowing down a mountain. The work brings us an excitement and the imagination when we wonder if the plants and fruits on the mountain grow and may become the goddess's hair ornaments.

Jury Andreas Schneider Selected



**We will protect the greenery in cities**

Comment  
by the  
Jury

This work guides us to take simple actions in our everyday life, such as to clean the space around them and water to trees. At the same time, it expresses the gratitude and joy of being able to spend a daily life as usual.

Jury Yasunori Hosokawa Selected



## Water keeps the baton going in the relay of life

Comment by the Jury

This work expresses the importance of water. The painter is from Japan, a country that is blessed with relatively clean water. It is remarkable that focusing on this theme indicates that the painter is turning eyes to the world and is thinking about the earth as a whole.



## Take care of life

Comment by the juries

The painter turns to the future and environment of the earth, and fully includes the environment itself into the painting. The work sends out a quiet, yet powerful message that we can overcome if we believe in hope and possibility.



## Rethinking the Importance of the Sea

Comment by the juries

This work has a unique composition with a child imagining the feelings of marine life. The painting seems to depict the child going into the sea and witnessing that single piece of light plastic piles up together, then they can lie on as a heavy problem.

Jury Naoto Katahira Selected



## The sick Earth

Comment by the Jury

This quite humorous work shows the earth receiving care on a bench that looks like it is used for a nap. The work tells us to take care of the earth as something with emotions just like humans, and a desire for the earth to feel better.



## land of love world

Comment by the juries

A person unified with plants at the center appears with a slightly confused face. This work reminds us that humans are not special but are a member of the ecosystem just like other living things.



## Gorgeous Nature

Comment by the juries

This work brings a tremendous power, almost breathtaking impact from the greenery. The painter's passion moves our heart that a person tries to plant more despite plentiful greenery. The small pink flower nearby a girl's foot serves as a good accent in the painting.



### Our happy home

Comment  
by the  
juries

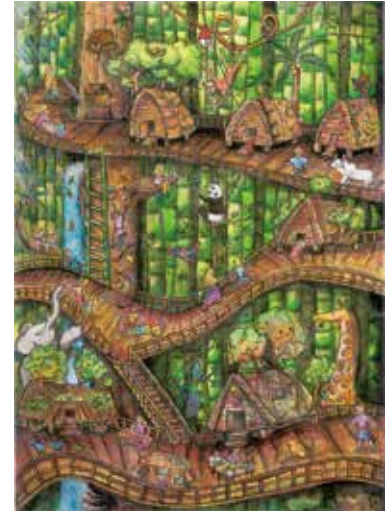
At first glance, this work appears a pangolin parent and child, but on closer look, we can find human hands are surrounding various creatures in the center. It seems to appeal that the world is as one. This work shows brilliant descriptions with concentrating the painter's wishes on the painting.



### Life as a duck in a farm

Comment  
by the  
juries

The work has remarkable expressions. It makes us feel as if the clouds in the center of the work are moving, and we can almost hear the sound of them coming up rapidly. We sincerely wish for such a peaceful future.



### There is a heaven in my bamboo village

Comment  
by the  
juries

The bamboo forest is depicted in green and brown features a panda, a giraffe, an elephant, and other animals. An accent of color to the pieces brings an excellent sense. The work deftly expresses a desire for a lifestyle of respecting and living in harmony with nature.



### Happy in nature

Comment  
by the  
juries

Black is a rare color for flower petals. This striking flower placed in the center of the work makes the painting highly impactful and interesting. It also conveys a message to take care of nature.



### Care for Our Home Earth

Comment  
by the  
juries

The color combination is impressive to contrast complementary green and blue based on pink tone. The painter has clearly paid attention to colors, composition, and other elements in a planned, systematic manner. The work directly expresses the painter's dream for a bright future.



### I love nature and I love trees

Comment  
by the  
juries

It is generally difficult to depict nighttime scenes, however, this work expresses well the smell of trees and roasted marshmallows by the bonfire, and the cold night air under the moon. Expressions on the work are excellent, such as depicting of the darkness and people's face lightened by the bonfire.



**My Thoughts on Unity in Space**

Comment  
by the  
juries

It seems showing the future that environmental issues in the earth get worse, and that a human goes to space for preserving species. The painter may convey a message that while space development is in progress, it would be better to allocate the technology and time more toward living things on the earth.



**hand in hand to protect the environment**

Comment  
by the  
juries

This work depicts a multi-layered world that is home for living things. The connections between each layer have been thought out carefully for the composition of the work. It resembles a mandala in some ways. The work is highly detailed, and it leaves a stronger impression the more we look at it.



**Seed Bombing**

Comment  
by the  
juries

This work depicts a scene with an imaginary machine sowing seeds to grow good plants. It is quite unique with the contrast between slightly futuristic ideas and a traditional artistic pattern, as well as with the use of color for human and nature.



**Indigo, living with nature**

Comment  
by the  
juries

The traditional culture such as indigo dyeing of natural fibers is gradually being declined. Meanwhile, the painter expresses an important issue based on habits around them with hope for future environment and lifestyle that we can keep the indigo dyeing.



**Artistic Mothers**

Comment  
by the  
juries

There are still many issues in the world that cannot be solved immediately. Even so, the painter expresses an earnest wish that every living thing holds each other's hand and to build a peaceful world. It is remarkable to be expressed purely them as the painter's honest wish through the eyes of a child.



**Live in harmony with nature**

Comment  
by the  
juries

The painter draws thoughtfully balanced with powerful brushwork using warm colors for artificial objects and cool colors for nature. This work seems to be expressed by this selection of colors as an awareness of society and the earth. It conveys a message that we should turn our mind to that balance in the real world as well.

# 受賞者など、顔写真が多いため、このページは削除？

This year's painting contest marked the 13th time. We received 13,214 entries from all over the world (390 from Japan and 12,824 from overseas). During the final screening, the seven juries involved in the fields of art and environment took a close look at each work carefully and were impressed by children's sincere wishes for the future and new perspectives. Many of children focused on the desire to coexist with nature familiar to them so that all people and creatures living on the earth can enjoy their lives together, and the environment in their daily lives.

## The final screening



The final screening held on October 20th



Winners of  
the "eco together"  
Planet Earth Grand Prix  
and  
the "eco together"  
Kao Prize

## Online Awards Ceremony

Participants from all over the world enjoyed the ceremony and interacted with full of smiles.



Visit here  
for a movie filled  
with the children's  
thoughts!

## 10th Anniversary of Kao International Environment Painting Contest for Children "Children's thoughts"

Since 2010, more than 130,000 paintings have been submitted to the Kao International Environment Painting Contest for Children, which has been held annually. We hope you will take a moment to listen to the thoughts and voices expressed in the paintings from children around the world.



Information about  
the 14th Kao International  
Environment Painting  
Contest for Children



For more information please visit the "Kao International Environment Painting Contest for Children" website

English

<https://www.kao.com/global/en/sustainability/society/painting-contest.html>

Kao Painting Contest

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