



花王国際こども環境絵画コンテスト

KAO International Environment Painting Contest for Children





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The Kao Group has held this contest annually since 2010 for inviting children around the world to create works expressing their thoughts on the environment and the future. We also hold exhibitions with hoping that the paintings expressed by children with their thoughts will inspire people around the world to take actions for sustainable lifestyles.

For this fifteenth contest, we received 16,639 entries from all over the world. We will introduce selected 51 winning works with the children's message through their paintings.



Mr. Fumikazu Masuda

Design consultant,
President,
open house inc.

This year, more than ever, I was keenly aware that the children's honest feelings were expressed very well in their beautiful and joyful paintings. After 15 years of judging the entries, I am amazed at how much we can learn from the wisdom of children around the world.



Ms. Sumiko Okubo

Artist

In response to the fact that environmental efforts have become widespread among children, many of the paintings carefully and finely depicted the importance and thoughts of the global environment from the children's viewpoint. Every time, the children's paintings definitely give me the power to become a bridge of dreams and hopes for tomorrow.



Mr. Kei Matsushita

Professor,
Tokyo University of the Arts

In general, there were many excellent paintings filled with lots of elements. Children feel the environment around them through their own bodies before they understand it in words. I realized once again that it is the duty of adults to find hints and guidelines in the world they depict as they feel it.



Ms. Yoko Oyamada

Artist, Illustrator

This year, we received many paintings again, and it was difficult to select for screening. However, each one expressed the way of thinking of people from various countries and regions and delighted our hearts. I believe that we adults must continue to learn to cherish nature.



Mr. Andreas Schneider

Designer

We are deeply humbled by the energy with which the participants respond to the expectations of a world controlled by those who are considered Grown-Ups. Beneath the paint of seeming common ground, I sense many souls pounding for just recognition. The onus to respond is clearly ours.



Mr. Leonhard Bartolomeus

Curator,
Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media

The paintings are very rich in color, style, and subject. I am glad to be able to learn from the kids about sustainable living. While not every participant will be an artist in the future, I think by creating the paintings, the kids will have time to think about their lives, now and in the future.



Ms. Ayami

Recycled materials
Artist

Through the paintings, I could feel how children today are looking at the earth. I felt that the bright future envisioned by children who are not bound by anything is like a dream, and that it is a painting of hope that can serve as a flag for our actions.



Mr. Atsushi Tanaka

Director,
Kao Eco-Lab Museum,
Kao Corporation

We were exposed to many paintings and felt the strong messages from the children on environmental issues, through the screening. By discussing with each jury not only creativity and expressiveness, but also science and technology perspectives, we were also able to feel diversity among juries through screening process.

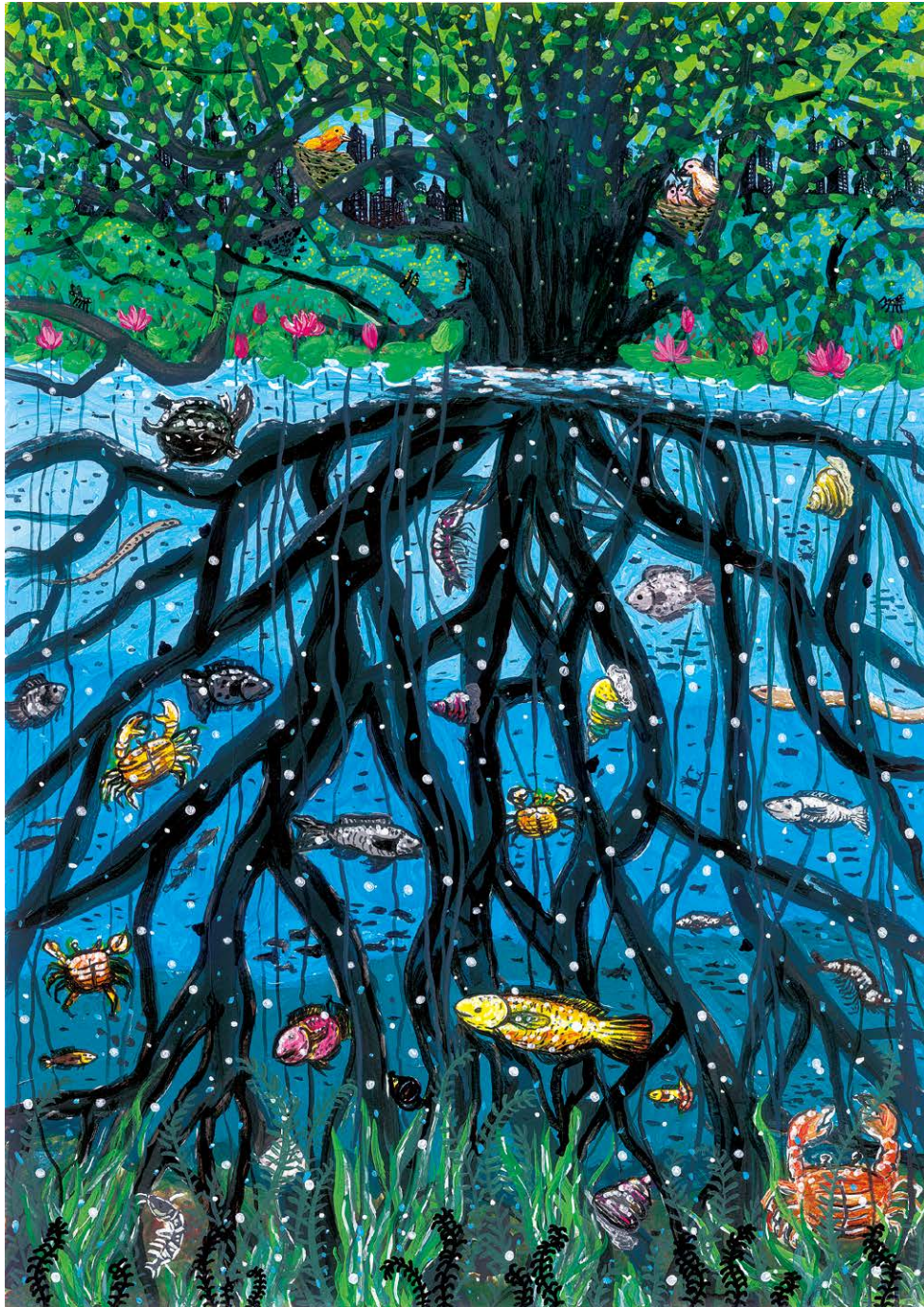


Mr. Naoto Katahira

Vice President,
Creative,
Kao Corporation

Many of the paintings were filled with the artist's thoughts and ingenuity, even in the smallest detail, and we were impressed as we looked at them carefully. We the juries also received messages and power from some of them that depicted a sense of crisis about the current situation in a positive way.

❧ Kao Kirei Grand Prize ❧



Urban Wetland

Thoughts and wishes regarding the painting

Preserving important forests and wetlands in the urban will help the ecosystem remain intact and act as a source of fresh air.

Comment
by the
juries

The importance of forests and wetlands is vividly expressed in deep green and beautiful blue. The birds that appear and disappear in the forest in the background are delightful, and the brightly colored fish and small creatures in this work offer a message for the future.

Kao Special Prize



Let's fly around the fields together

Thoughts and wishes regarding the painting : I drew a cheerful bee flying around a beautiful meadow filled with nature. I want to cherish our natural world where people, animals, bugs, trees, and flowers can have fun and fly around together.

Comment by the juries : When considering a sustainable global environment, there are too many things that can be understood only through the eyes of animals other than humans. Just children have such eyes, and this painting, in which the world is viewed through the eyes of bees, is the work that adult could not have created.



Natural Colors

Thoughts and wishes regarding the painting : Nature has beautiful colors and it is full of various kinds of wildlife. Because we work together to conserve nature.

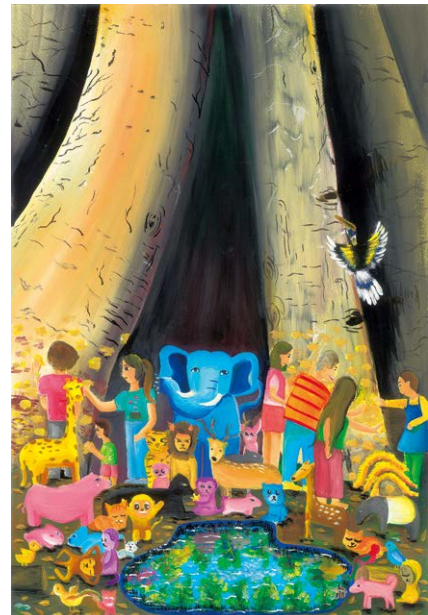
Comment by the juries : This painting expresses not what the artist drew, but how she felt. She tried to depict the environment around her as it is, and as a result, diverse natural worlds were revealed. The work gives us an opportunity and power to think about what is necessary to maintain such a diverse society.



Tree of life

Thoughts and wishes regarding the painting : In my painting I want to show how reach is our nature. People can't live without it. We get inspired by the song of the nightingale. We compose melodies, write books and poetry. Beauty of the nature is magic and powerful. We should love and value our nature, our planet. It is unique.

Comment by the juries : This painting clearly expresses how nature enriches our lives. It is wonderful that the artist expresses that not only food, clothing, and shelter, but also arts such as music are enriched by the voice of nature. It is truly worthy of the Environment Painting Contest.



The forest blessing ceremony

Thoughts and wishes regarding the painting : The forest blessing ceremony raises awareness of the importance of the forest, as the forest provides home and food for many animals. If we are mindful and protect the environment, we won't be disturbed by animals in our agricultural areas. Moreover, we can live happily together.

Comment by the juries : Each animal species is different in size, but it is impressive that they are depicted as almost the same size in the connection of the earth's precious resources. This work powerfully conveys the message that we have something important for life to coexist.



The revived butterfly

Thoughts and wishes regarding the painting : Plants and forests are disappearing as the environment is worsening, so I'm worried the Gifu butterfly might go extinct. I hope we can restore the environment and have more butterflies.

Comment by the juries : It's depicted with a painful concern for the decline of endangered the Gifu butterfly. Main subject is drawn impressively and attractively, also when we look at it closer, a variety of ingenious uses of paint and brushwork reveals and the artist's sincere wish for the revival of this butterfly is very well conveyed.



We are one family

Thoughts and wishes regarding the painting : There are many families in the world. There are families of animals, birds, insects, and people. But if we take care of the environment, we will become one family. And the world will become harmonious and beautiful.

Comment by the juries : Families of elephants, birds, dragonflies, and snails, creatures we all know well, are vividly depicted. The painting conveys very well the desire and kindness to protect the environment together with us humans.



The End of the Desert: Machines and Nature

Thoughts and wishes regarding the painting : This painting depicts a scene in which a robot leopard is chasing a rabbit. I imagined that the Earth would be very dry in the future and many wild animals will go extinct. I hope this painting inspires people to focus on protecting the environment.

Comment by the juries : Amazing painting! A sci-fi scenery portraying possibly Earth after Catastrophe, represented by landscape and bionic animals; perhaps this is how the sustainable future will look if we are not taking action right now. Instead of depicting a beautiful scene, this work critiques our perspective on sustainable living.



Taking Care of a Bamboo Forest in Mu Cang Chai, Yen Bai Province

Thoughts and wishes regarding the painting : Bamboo is extremely resilient against climate change as it can absorb up to three times as much carbon gas as other trees do. Bamboo forests reduce carbon emissions and bring economic gain. So let's take care of the bamboo forests in our town more proactively.

Comment by the juries : The painting is a powerful representation of the bamboo forest - a symbol of resilience. The activities around and within the forest - Seeding, Breeding, and Cultivating - require the participation of the whole community and invite engagement from all members across generations. This is the strong message that is relevant to us all. Not only in the countryside, but also in the big cities, everywhere on earth.

~ Jury's Special Prize ~



ORANG UTAN

Thoughts and wishes regarding the painting : Orangutans on the island of Kalimantan are joyous because people have given up on the plan to cut down the trees in their forests. The areas where they live, and the forests are now going to be safe.

Chair of Juries Fumikazu Masuda Selected The forests in Kalimantan were originally the land of orangutans. Humans should not destroy the forest. This painting clearly conveys the artist's desire to take good care of the forest in order to be friends with orangutans.



THE FOREST

Thoughts and wishes regarding the painting : Message of hope and prayers for the future, there is a premonition of a new beginning.

Jury Sumiko Okubo Selected The painting has such a generous and gentle child's gaze. The artist vividly captures the casual moments of living creatures coexisting in nature, and we can hear the joyful poetry of nature. The sun, sky, clouds, and dragonflies are well balanced, and the depiction of the dragonfly's wings is especially exquisite.



Saving Animal's Homes

Thoughts and wishes regarding the painting : Monkeys and owls are losing their homes because people are cutting down trees. Now, they are cold because the wind blows on them. We need to stop cutting trees so the animals can stay warm and safe.

Jury Kei Matsushita Selected The forest like the narrative with the owl at the center is depicted from a critical perspective. Elements with individual meanings, such as clouds, trees, wind, and leaves, are combined like a collage, and as the result of the fusion, it seems that we can read a story finding hope for the future.



The Power of Seedlings

Thoughts and wishes regarding the painting : Small seedlings become one by human hands, becoming a powerful force. Just like a big tree that provides shade and spreads its branches, bringing blessings to living things and the environment.

Jury Andreas Schneider Selected The painting uses a simple graphic technique to illustrate the role of countless people in sowing - the source of all living things. Holding the young saplings in both hands, close to the heart, is a powerful representation of people's devotion to the perpetual cycle of life. This is a call we can only heed.



Connecting to the future through reading books

Thoughts and wishes regarding the painting : I drew some plants and animals that I had grown to love while reading books. Through research, I learned that many plants and animals are in danger due to environmental destruction. I want to protect the plants and animals by reading more books and learning how to protect them.

Jury Yoko Oyamada Selected I was very impressed by the process of how the artist started learning and thinking about the environment steadily from the animals and plants encountered in the book. This painting teaches us the importance of thinking about nature and the environment from various perspectives.



Starting from a small point expanding to sustainability

Thoughts and wishes regarding the painting : This work wants to convey the message of helping each other create the environment from a small point and grow it into a great nature. From starting with planting trees until expanding into a large, sustainable forest.

Jury Leonhard Bartolomeus Selected From a top perspective, we can see a band of humans and animals doing activities in the middle of a forest. The human is trying to plant a small tree with the hope of making it grow and creating a better environment. The scene gives the feeling that we are looking down into a better life where all the species are working together to create a better life.



A Pleasant View in the City

Thoughts and wishes regarding the painting : My family and I are watching small fish and ducks swimming along happily and slowly. The joy of living comes from such moments!

Jury Ayami Selected There is no complicated message in this painting and the simplicity is good, as it is enjoyable to watch creatures living freely. Humans seem to be enjoying themselves with ice cream and juice in their hands. We can receive the message that a future in which both living creatures and humans can live freely is ideal.



A possible change

Thoughts and wishes regarding the painting : I got inspiration from a banner. It was the first thing that popped into my mind when I saw the banner. I wish that we can change the way we're living, to a world where the nature is preserved well.

Jury Atsushi Tanaka Selected Water, a resource, is squeezed out of the hands of children holding each other's hands and the hands of action to take care of the earth. The message that an abundant environment is provided from this process is expressed in an understandable way and reaches to the viewer's hearts.



Boarding the Ship of Hope

Thoughts and wishes regarding the painting : We must try hard to protect the environment of only one Earth together. We will load everything into a small boat with hope, make an effort holding the oars of time in our hands, and take small steps for moving toward the vision of coexistence with the environment and Mother Nature.

Jury Naoto Katahira Selected A bright future cannot be reached immediately but requires everyone to work together. The idea of expressing the message that the accumulation of time and effort is important with a ship of hope and oars imitating the hands of a clock is very unique.

CEO
Special
Prize

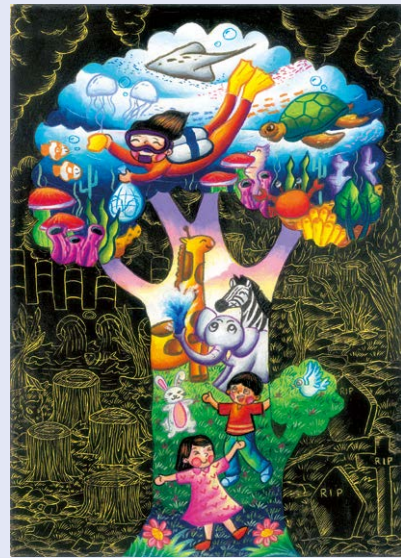


Heading into the future

Thoughts and wishes regarding the painting : I believe it is important to create a sustainable environment so that all living things can live and prosper well into the future. That is why I drew some animals moving toward the future from a world full of nature.

Comment by the CEO : Diverse animals, plants and other elements are depicted as one in a natural cycle, vividly expressing "living in harmony". It is a wonderful work that depicts the wish for a sustainable environment using the beautiful colors of nature.

Employee
Special
Prize



TREES FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVING

Thoughts and wishes regarding the painting : Tree as a symbol of growth, strength and immortality. Trees provide a source of life for all of us, so don't cut down the trees carelessly, don't throw away waste and rubbish carelessly for a sustainable healthy environment.

Comment by the Employee : The contrast between the black tree stump and the tree in the center full of life is very beautiful, and it is wonderful to represent various kinds of life. I can empathize that protecting forests leads to sustainability.

Honorable Mention



The River of the Environment

Comment by the juries : The artist likens the leaves to the trees, the trunk to the roads and houses to be lined up along them. It expresses the unity of nature and human activity.



The flow of my veins is a witness to the future

Comment by the juries : Various actions for environmental protection are depicted in each hand. It expresses the importance of our own actions and learning.



Let's fill the ruined world with nature

Comment by the juries : The world full of flowers and trees depicted on the left side is the future we want to achieve. The wish to make it come true by working together is well conveyed.



First period: ESD

Comment by the juries : A class on sustainability. A distinctive composition depicts the seriousness that students learn about the current state of the earth and its importance.



Look at Us, Aren't We Cute?

Comment by the juries : The way each animal is depicted is very ingenious. The joy of meeting the animals and the desire to take good care of them overflows.



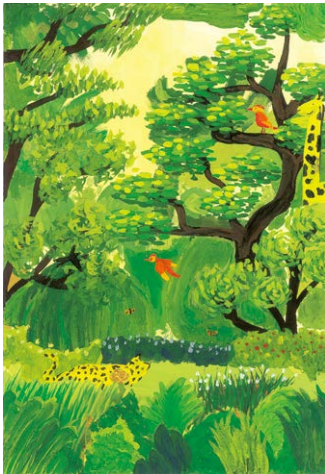
MUSICIAN

Comment by the juries : The message is that if you sing to nature, nature will sing back to you. The depiction of creatures and people is also unique.



The Voice of Happiness

Comment by the juries : The flowing composition of traditional lanterns expresses the idea that protecting both the environment and our own culture so that we can coexist leads to happiness.



A New Forest

Comment by the juries : This work questions new ways to conserve ecosystems. It uses various shades of green and yellow-green and a dynamic touch to vividly depict nature.



Glowing Plant

Comment by the juries : The green lines, which seem plant vines, convey various messages. The patterns on the background also make the work unique.



Let's Stop Food Waste For Our Planet

Comment by the juries : The theme is a warning to food waste. It captures the essence of the problem, which is that it not only leads to food shortages, but also affects to whole global environment.



**MY LOVING AND COLOURFUL
RAINFOREST FLOWERS**

Comment by the juries : This work depicts joyful creatures mingling with the vivid flowers filled in the frame. It expresses a wonderful harmony in coexisting beautifully and powerfully.



**LIVING WITH BEES AND
BUTTERFLIES IS MY FUTURE DREAM**

Comment by the juries : Bees and butterflies are important to the natural world. From themselves depicted as if blending in, it is expressed that human beings are also one with nature.

* Based on the organizer's decision, one award winner has been rescinded.



Kela Pola

Comment by the juries : This work depicts a market for organically grown produce. The colorfully drawn painting clearly conveys the vibrancy of the local market and the joy of the harvest.



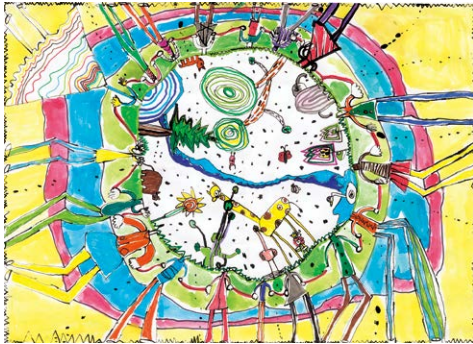
The Story of Why Yesterday, Today And Tomorrow Are Important

Comment by the juries : It is impressed by the artist's expression and composition with a precise touch, which has brought together in a single painting the long history of the ecosystem and the integral part of all living things.



Fashioning the Future from Recycled Bottles

Comment by the juries : Reclaiming plastic for fashion. This is a cheerful depiction of not only resource reclamation, but also adding ideas can deepen the meaning.



WE RESPECT THE PLANET ENTRUSTED TO US!

Comment by the juries : A bold composition depicting people's heads as one world, with nature in harmony within. It uniquely expresses that everyone should be aware and act accordingly.



Hoping One Day We'll Meet

Comment by the juries : The combination of the watercolor background and the pen-drawn creatures is beautiful. It conveys a strong wish that the sea will remain clean until they grow up.



Protect the environment and enjoy nature created by air God

Comment by the juries : The painting depicts a happy coexistence with nature in a bold composition. Scratching techniques and the way light shines through the center are also ingeniously used.



We must share

Comment by the juries : The work depicts the importance of coexistence with animals. The unique angle from below looking up and the composition of the picture are fascinating and seem to draw you in.



Urban forest

Comment by the juries : Trees and houses that reduce the effects of global warming are depicted in a beautiful colors. The seamless composition also conveys the importance of coexistence.



All of Us, the Beautiful Forest, and the Environment

Comment by the juries : The message is to plant trees and live together in harmony for protecting our precious forests and water. Every detail is carefully painted to enhance the beauty of the blue color.



Live Together

Comment by the juries : The artist hopes to coexist peacefully with plants and animals even in the city. The ideal world is depicted in the backlight of the setting sun, creating an impressive work.



Take care of living things in the world for sustainability

Comment by the juries : This work appeals for coexistence with all living things. The harmonious world is beautifully depicted as a fragile jellyfish, with striking white lines.



Let's plant the trees to create the forest

Comment by the juries : It is a fantastic depiction of planting the seedlings for the abundant environment in the future. When we get closer, we are impressed by the detail and ingenuity of the expression.



Admiration for the Beauty and Vibrancy of the World

Comment by the juries : The artist conveys a sense of fun as she flies and jumps among the flowers. The way to paint the flowers and backgrounds is ingenious and makes the work attractive.



The World of the Ocean in My Eyes

Comment by the juries : Unlike the imaginary sea, this work depicts sad reality of coral bleaching and marine debris. The touch is ingenious and the artist conveys his desire to protect the ocean.



Pu Peo Tribe's Pledge to Protect Forests

Comment by the juries : A ceremony that tribal elders tell their children and grandchildren to protect the forest. The forest brings abundance and happiness, and we feel the wish to preserve the tradition from generation to generation.



Shade

Comment by the juries : With nature as a single living organism in the center and human activity in the periphery, the work uniquely expresses the fact that we could not exist without the natural environment.



The Last Tree

Comment by the juries : The last tree and the crying people are depicted in striking colors. It is symbolically warning us against the damage being done to nature.



Protecting the Environment Is Fun

Comment by the juries : The message that humans are a part of the earth, therefore we have a role and responsibility to protect nature is powerfully expressed in a bright colors.

Your entry will lead to a donation!



Kao Corporation donate 50 Japanese yen to the environment conservation activity that you choose from the three categories on each submission. We hope your paintings who bear the future will lead to a step forward for changing the world.

Wildlife protection



Saving endangered wildlife and conserving nature

WWF Japan



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Green forest conservation



Preventing desertification in the Aral Sea region of Uzbekistan

OISCA International



Reducing marine pollution



Solving marine pollution with research and technology

Pirika



Award-winning works will be exhibited around the world!

We hope that people around the world will feel the messages and be inspired to lead a sustainable lifestyle through children's paintings.



Hachioji City Global Warming Conservation Center
(Tokyo, Japan)



Eco Messe Kasugai
(Aichi, Japan)



Kirei Lifestyle event
(Taiwan)

Exploring environmental issues, together!



Water



Wildlife



Waste



Carbon emissions



Forestry



For more information please visit the “Kao International Environment Painting Contest for Children” Special site

https://www.kao.com/global/en/children_painting/

