

## Bicycles in Japan

We asked Adrian, who enjoys cycling, how bicycles are used differently between Japan and Australia. He answered that in Japan, there are a lot more bicycles, and many people use them as a means of transportation. Though there are also a lot of cyclists in Sydney, they mainly ride for leisure.

In Japan, bicycles are often more convenient than cars for getting around towns where the roads are narrow and a lot of shops are close to one another. Bicycles don't get stuck in traffic and don't need a lot of parking space, so they are an essential way of transportation.

We have some unique types of bicycles. For example, he had never seen people using what we call *Mama Chari* or a battery-powered bicycle in Sydney. *Mama Chari* means "Mom's Bicycle". Have you ever seen a person riding a bicycle while carrying many plastic bags with a child on an attached seat? Yes, that is *Mama Chari*.

Now are you much more interested in cycling? How about riding in an autumn breeze? You will get a chance to see a different kind of scenery than what you are used to seeing, and you will feel refreshed. Don't forget the following traffic safety rules and guidelines before you get on the road.

<Information provided by Tokyo Metropolitan Government>

- PDF -



Pamphlet on how to ride a bicycle safely

- YouTube -



The proper way to wear a helmet

How to ride a bicycle safely



Road hazards



Riding restrictions

Illegal parking prohibited



Adrian also recommends wearing a helmet, even if we are not required to do so.

In Japan, helmets are mandatory for school children only. Adrian believes riding with a helmet is the same as driving a car with a seatbelt. It is also best to always ride on the left-hand side of the road to protect ourselves.

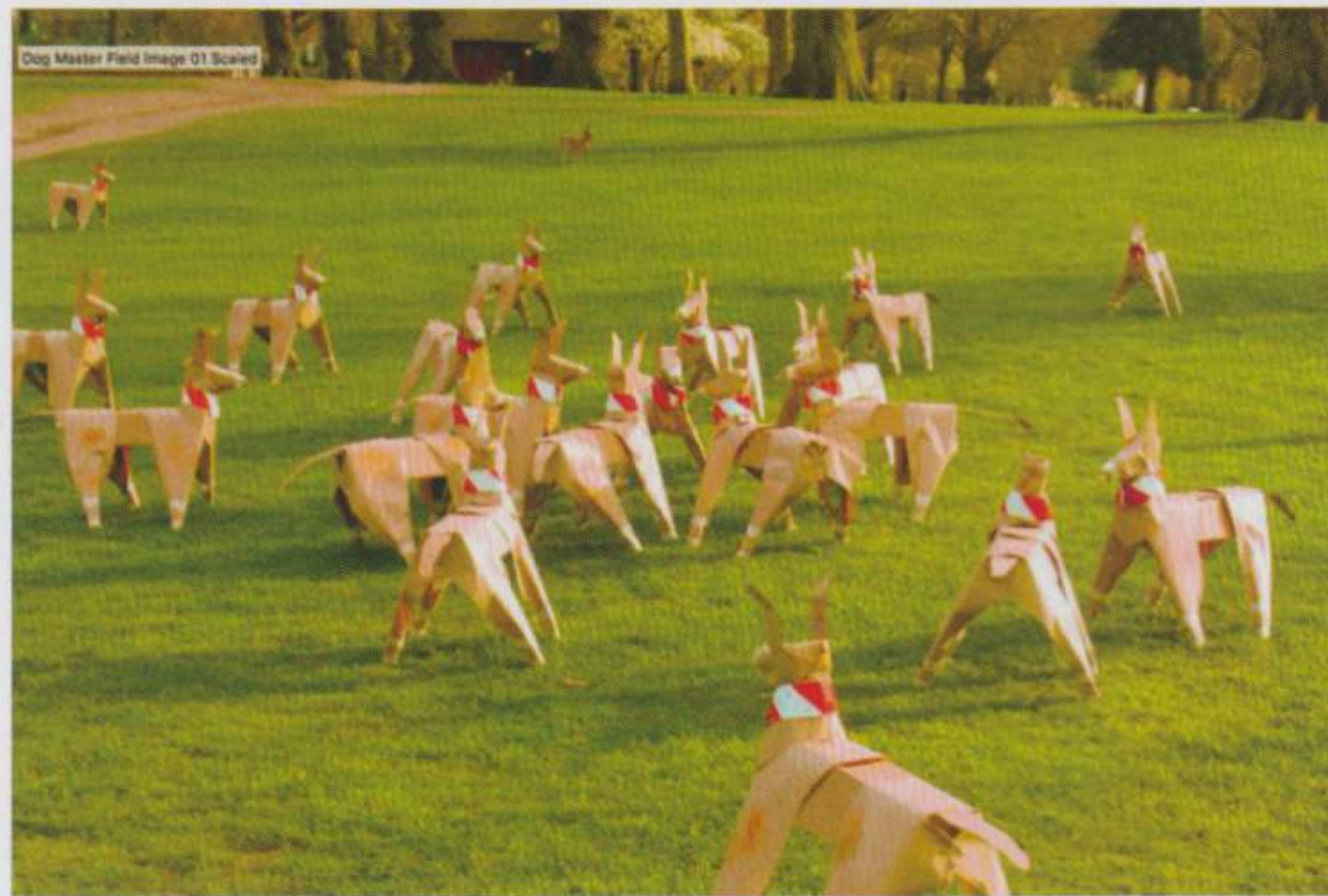


## DOGTokyo2017

**Date:** Sat October 21st & Sun 22nd, 2017

**Time:** 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

**Location:** Ueno Park



Akane Takayama was brought up in Meguro. She left aged 20 to become a contemporary artist. Studying in London, she built a career of awards and exhibitions in the UK. She is now bringing home her art with her award winning DOG sculpture.

An exciting sculpture which questions how we place values on objects backed by Meguro City, Meguro Aoiro Shinkokukai, Asahi Shimbun Foundation and the British Council.

Takayama seeks to make art accessible to the whole community. In this respect a cross cultural educational exchange has been mounted between primary schools in Meguro and the UK.

At the end of each day the DOG sculptures will be given away for free. Volunteers working with the 400 DOG installation on the day would be welcome.

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