



 **MANGA**

**BAR
CEL
ONA**

PRESS KIT

MANGA BARCELONA IS BACK: THE RENOWNED EVENT THAT CELEBRATES MANGA AND ANIME IS RETURNING FOR ITS 32ND EDITION

This year's poster has been designed by the popular horror master Junji Ito, who will be one of the star guests at the 32nd edition of the event, taking place from 5–8 December 2026 at Fira Barcelona Gran Via.

For more than 30 years, Manga Barcelona has been the leading event for manga, anime and Japanese culture enthusiasts, thanks to the quality of its programme, the prominence of its guests, and the strong support it receives from both the Japanese and local industries. Manga Barcelona has earned this reputation by consistently putting creators and their works at the heart of the event while placing its attendees at the centre of the experience. Its main mission is to promote reading and showcase the many worlds that surround and enrich otaku culture.

The 32nd edition will take place from 5 to 8 December 2026 at Fira Barcelona Gran Via and features some particularly noteworthy news: **the return of Junji Ito**, one of the most influential figures in contemporary horror manga. Ito is returning ten years after his first visit, now established as one of the most popular manga authors.

Ito has chosen to showcase his talent at Manga Barcelona by designing the **official poster** in his unmistakable style. His characteristic unsettling atmospheres are transported to an iconic Barcelona landmark, Park Güell, offering a much more colorful take than we are used to seeing in the mangaka's work. This image, brimming with personality, has become one of this year's defining visual symbols. As expected, the renowned Japanese mangaka will be joining us at the convention, in a highly anticipated visit following more than a decade's absence.

The event will also feature a prominent lineup of Japanese artists. Leading the way is **Shoji Kawamori**, a key figure in the anime industry and the creator of the *Macross* universe. He is renowned for his career as a director, screenwriter and mechanical designer on internationally significant projects. Also connected to this universe is **Risa Ebata**, an animator and character designer whose elegant and expressive style has contributed to various productions in this iconic science fiction saga. Both Kawamori and Ebata will present their most recent work, the film ***Labyrinth***, at the Auditori Manga.

Also joining this line-up is **Oswaldo Kato**, the internationally acclaimed Brazilian illustrator known for his work on the *Pokémon Trading Card Game* as well as his contributions to anime, film and video game projects. Manga Barcelona will also welcome **Yaya Han**, one of the most influential figures in the international cosplay scene. Rounding out this first preview is **Konata**, a returning author who is gaining prominence in Japan thanks to her fresh and contemporary talent.

This year, Manga Barcelona's music line-up brings together some of the most distinctive voices in the Japanese scene. **ALI**, the band behind anime music hits such as "Lost in Paradise" (*Jujutsu Kaisen*) and "Wild Side" (*Beastars*), will bring their energy to the main stage. Also performing is **Reol**, one of the most influential and genre-defying artists in Japanese music, fusing electronic, rock, and pop into a sound all her own. Completing the line-up is **Lotus Juice**, the rapper behind the iconic Persona video game soundtracks, with collaborations across anime titles like *Noragami*, *Soul Eater*, and *JoJo's Bizarre Adventure*.

Alongside the convention's now iconic areas, such as Nihon Ryori, Cool Japan, Takeshita Barcelona St. and the cosplay parades, the aforementioned Auditori Manga Barcelona is also returning. It continues to establish itself as a key destination for fans of Japanese animation, with a growing number of attendees. One of this year's major premieres will be **AGITO: Psychic War**, the new film set in the Kamen Rider universe. There will also be a celebration of the 20th anniversary of Paprika, the final film by the late Satoshi Kon.

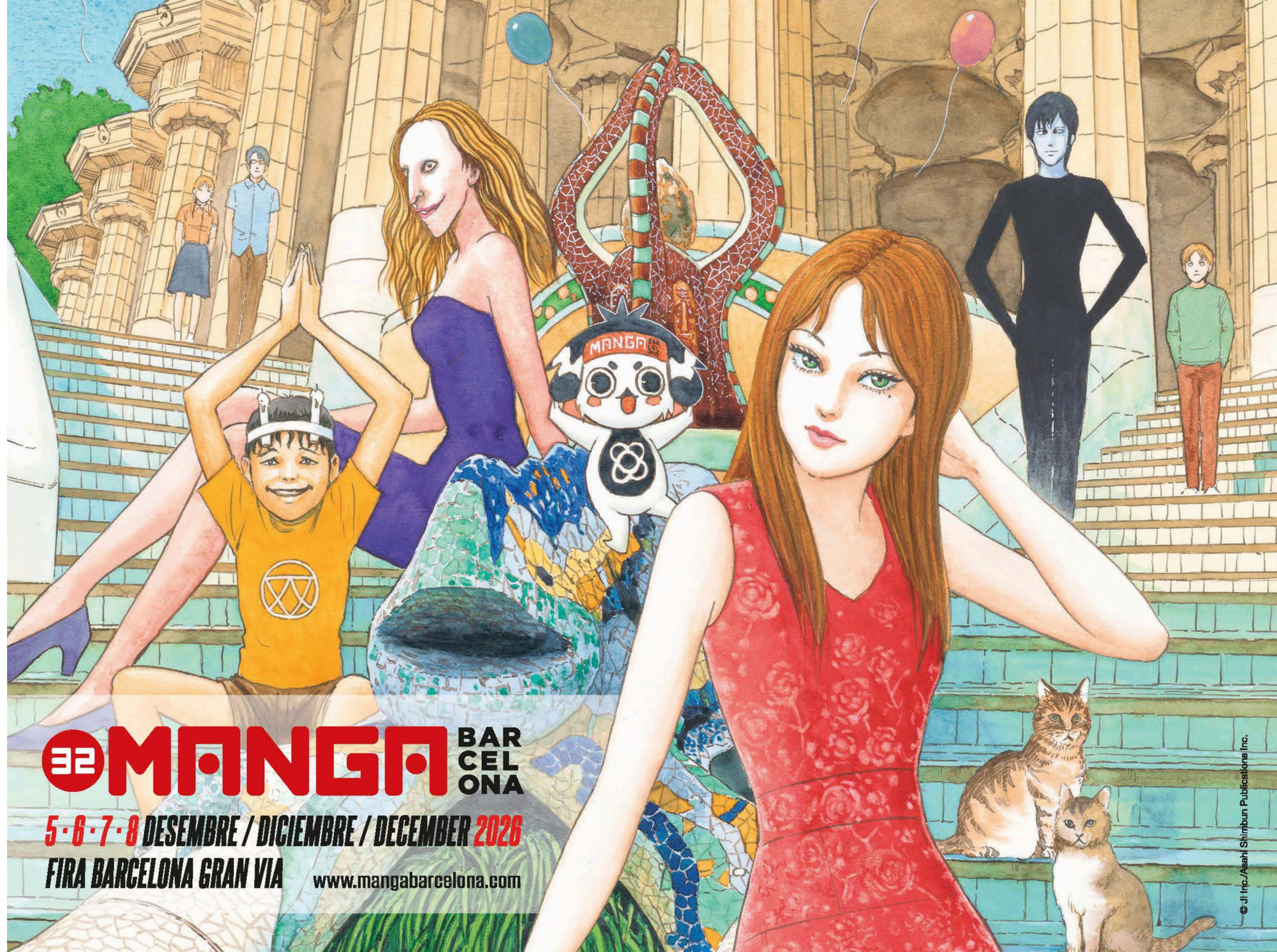
Doctors Without Borders is returning to the event with a very special collaborative project featuring the *One Piece* universe starring Tony Tony Chopper. Visitors will be able to learn about the organization's medical and humanitarian work through informative content and interactive experiences.

Many more guests and new features are still to be announced, but we can reveal that this 32nd edition will once again be a memorable celebration and gathering place for fans, creators and the manga and anime industry. Follow us on social media and watch out for upcoming press releases so you don't miss any new and spectacular announcements.

Ticket sales will begin in late July. We look forward to seeing you from 5 to 8 December 2026 at Fira de Barcelona Gran Via.

32 MANGA BAR
CEL
ONA
POSTER
...





32 MANGA BARCELONA

5·6·7·8 DESEMBRE / DICIEMBRE / DECEMBER 2026

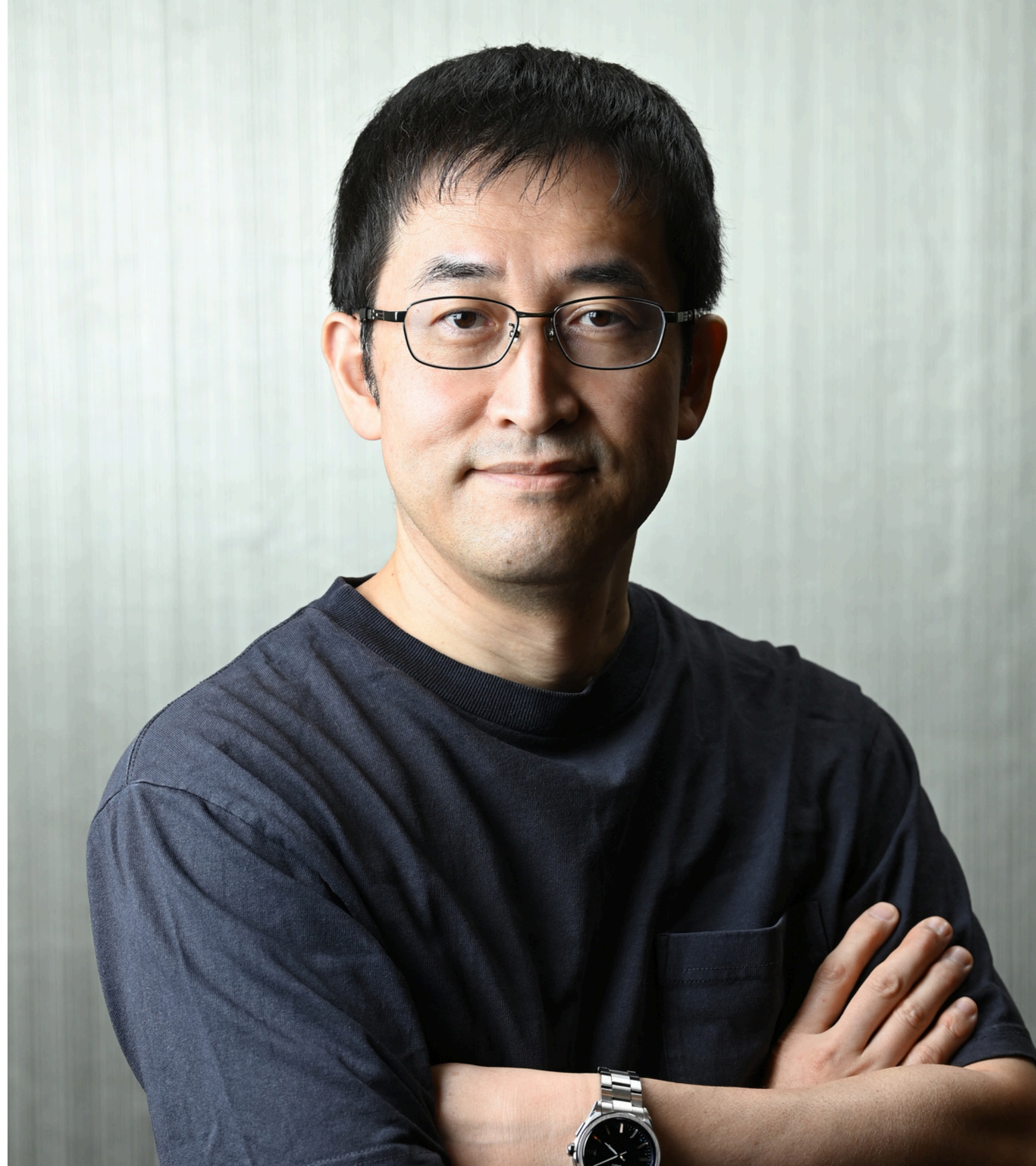
FIRA BARCELONA GRAN VIA

www.mangabarcelona.com

Poster author

JUNJI ITO

MANGA BARCELONA



32 MANGA BAR
CEL
ONA
GUESTS
...

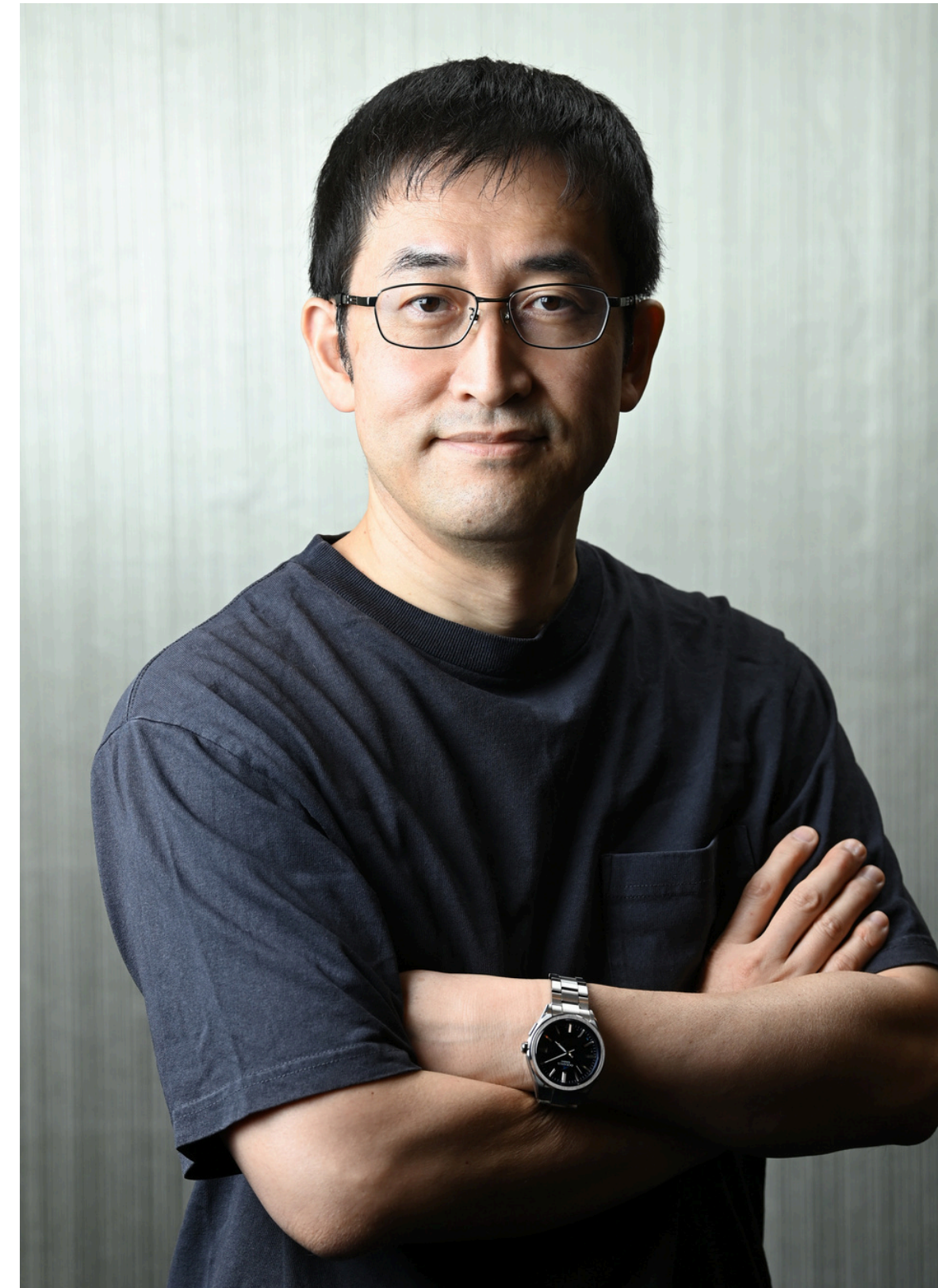


JUNJI ITO

He was born on 31 July 1963 in Nakatsugawa, Gifu Prefecture. After graduating from high school, he enrolled in a dental prosthetics school and began working as a dental technician. However, after the Umezu Award was created, a prize for new authors from the magazine Monthly Halloween (Asahi Sonorama), he decided to submit an original work hoping that Kazuo Umezu would read it.

As a result, his work *Tomie* received an honourable mention in the contest and became both his debut work and his most representative piece. Three years later, he quit his job as a dental technician to devote himself entirely to manga. From then on, he immersed himself in creating masterpieces such as *The Town Without Streets*, *The Hanging Balloons*, the *Sôichi* series, and *Lovesickness*. In 1998, he began serialising ***Uzumaki*** in the weekly magazine Weekly Big Comic Spirits (Shogakukan). He continued to publish unique works such as *Gyo* and *Kaidan*, achieving enormous popularity in Japan and abroad.

His international recognition was further cemented when he received the Honorary Award at the Angoulême International Comics Festival in France and the Inkpot Award at San Diego Comic-Con in the United States in 2023. In 2025, he was inducted into the Eisner Awards Hall of Fame.



SHOJI KAWAMORI

Animation Director. Mecha Designer. Vision Creator. Thematic Producer for EXPO 2025 Osaka Kansai. Chairman of the Anime Tourism Association.

Best known as one of the original creators of *SUPER DIMENSION FORTRESS MACROSS*, **Shoji Kawamori** has been involved with the franchise ever since the original television series in 1982. In 1984 he made his directorial debut with *SUPER DIMENSION FORTRESS MACROSS: DO YOU REMEMBER LOVE?* at the age of 23. *MACROSS* would go on to have a profound and lasting impact, with its influence being felt around the world.

Apart from *MACROSS*, Shoji Kawamori has also created various original anime, including *GENESIS OF AQUARION*, *SPRING AND CHAOS*, *EARTH GIRL ARJUNA*, *THE VISION OF ESCAFLOWNE* and more. The latest project is the original animated feature film “labyrinth”, scheduled for theatrical release in January 2026.



RISA EBATA

Risa Ebata is an animator, character designer, key animator, and illustrator affiliated with Vector Vision Inc.

She has contributed to numerous works, including the *MACROSS F* series, *AKB0048 series*, *LAST HOPE*, *MACROSS DELTA*, and *XENOBLADE 2*. Most recently, she serves as Character Designer and Visual Supervisor for the original animated feature film "labyrinth." She also created illustrations for figure skaters Alysa Liu and Amber Glenn as part of Crunchyroll's "Ani-May" project.



Reol

Reol is a Japanese internet-born artist who has built a world of her own as a singer, songwriter, producer, and rapper. Blending electronic music, rock, and Japanese pop into a constantly evolving sound, she has amassed more than 1 billion streams since her debut in 2012, establishing herself as one of the most influential voices of her generation both in Japan and abroad.

In 2019, she made history as the first Japanese female solo artist to surpass one million YouTube subscribers. A year later, she was selected as the face of YouTube's global "Artist on the Rise" campaign. Around the same time, "THE SIXTH SENSE (第六感)" surpassed 100 million streams. In 2023, she returned with "BLACK BOX". That same year, "Sakigake (切っ先)" was chosen as the ending theme for Rurouni Kenshin.

Fresh from her landmark performance at Tokyo's Nippon Budokan, Reol has recently released "Rethorica", a record that further expands her creative universe through new collaborations and sonic explorations, including "DEAD CENTER" with LiSA and "RE RESCUE", the opening theme for Blue Exorcist: Beyond the Snow Saga.



LOTUS JUICE

Lotus Juice is one of the pioneers of rap in Japanese anime and video game music, best known for his iconic contributions to the Persona franchise, including fan-favourite hits such as “Color Your Night”, “It’s Going Down Now” and “Mass Destruction”, created in collaboration with ATLUS composer Shoji Meguro.

Beyond the games, his work can also be heard across the Persona anime adaptations, including *Persona: Trinity Soul*, *Persona 4: The Animation*, *Persona 4 The Golden Animation* and the *Persona 3* movie series.

His extensive anime credits also include songs for acclaimed series such as *JoJo’s Bizarre Adventure*, *Soul Eater*, *Noragami*, *Black Butler*, *Bungo Stray Dogs* and, most recently, *Gachiakuta*. Collaborations with renowned composers including Shoji Meguro and Taku Iwasaki have cemented his reputation as one of Japan’s most influential crossover artists.

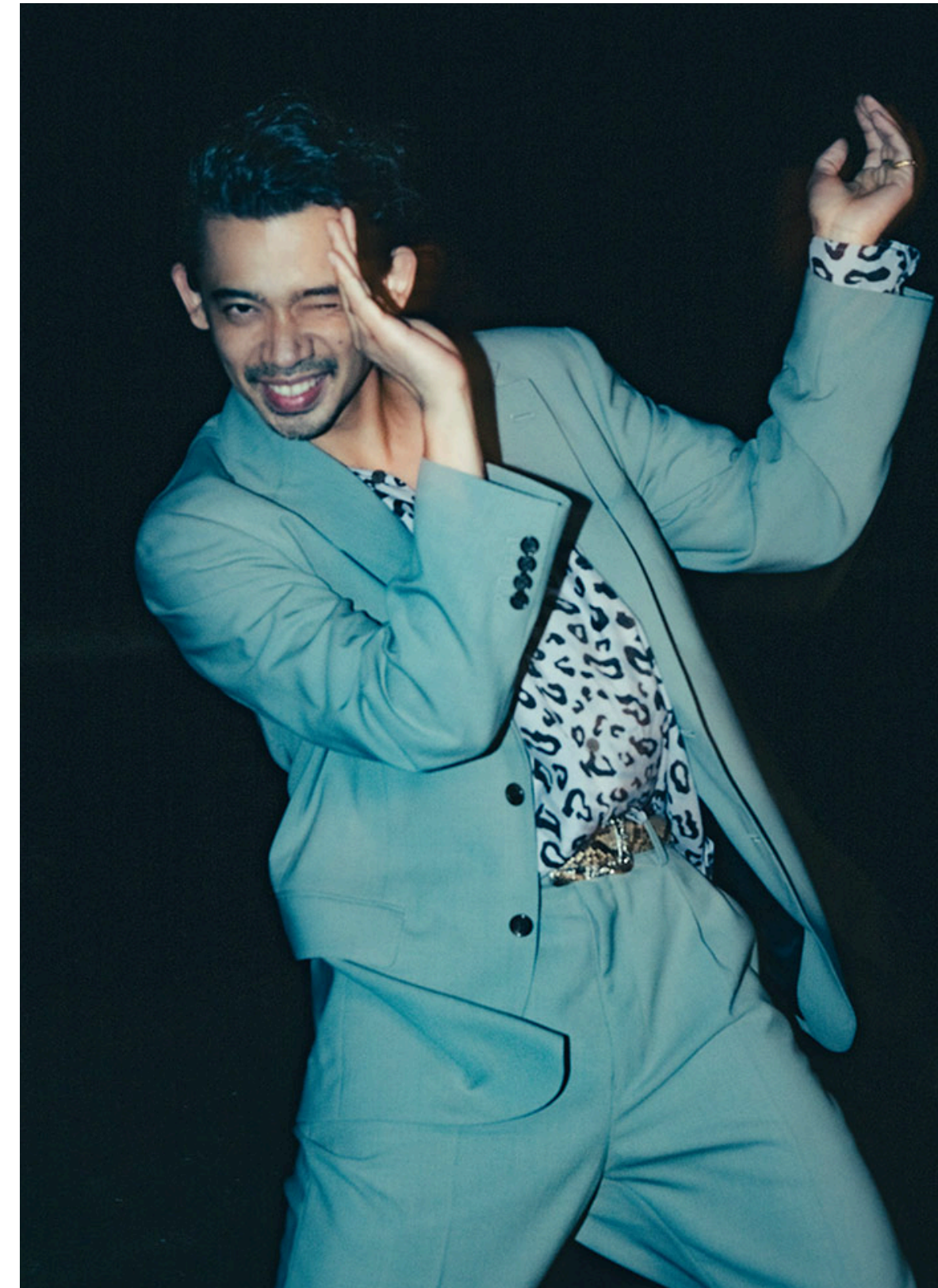


ALI

ALI (ALIEN LIBERTY INTERNATIONAL) is a boundary-pushing project centered around its vocalist LEO, a multicultural artist whose roots span Japan, Spain, the UK, and the Philippines. Based in Shibuya, Tokyo, the group lives by the motto “Long Live Music,” creating a truly genre-crossing sound that is guaranteed to get everyone dancing at Manga Barcelona.

They first made waves with their independently released 2019 single “Wild Side”, which served as the opening theme for the anime *BEASTARS*. Following this release, they skyrocketed to mainstream success with their first major-label track “LOST IN PARADISE feat. AKLO”, which was chosen to be the ending theme for the global hit anime *JUJUTSU KAISEN*. MLB star Shohei Ohtani used the song as his walk-up song during his time with the Los Angeles Angels, shining even more light on the band and their work.

With a strong international presence, ALI enjoys strong international popularity, having performed across the U.S., Argentina, Brazil, and successfully completed an Asia Tour in 2025.



OSWALDO KATO

Oswaldo Kato is an illustrator born in São Paulo, Brazil. Among his most notable works are his wonderful illustrations for the *Pokémon Trading Card Game*, bringing iconic Pokémon such as Charizard and Palkia to life.

He has also contributed to numerous film, video game and anime productions, including the concept art for the film *Shin Chan: Battle of Supernatural Powers* and the opening sequence for *The Legend of Zelda: Link's Awakening* on Nintendo Switch.

His color script work includes the openings of *Detective Conan: The Shining Payload* and *Patlabor EZY*, as well as all episodes of *Maebashi Witches*. He is also the author of the book *How to Make Your Illustrations Tell a Story* (Shoeisha).



KONATA

Konata's passion for art has been evident since childhood, and her artistic talents have been apparent from a very young age. She studied for an intermediate degree in graphic design and was a finalist in several competitions, but she found that design did not fulfil her. Her passion for comics, and more specifically manga, had been with her since childhood, so she began studying manga at Escola Joso at the weekends.

She soon realized that this was the path she wanted to follow, so she enrolled on the Graphic Art course. During her time there, she won first prize in the international Clip Studio Paint comic and manga competition with her work, ¡Ánimo papá! (Come on, Dad!). She currently works for the Planeta publishing house on the bimonthly magazine Planeta Manga and the European magazine Manga Issho. She is the author of Kohva and the illustrator of Nebesta.



YAYA HAN

Yaya Han is a cosplayer, designer and author. After discovering cosplay in 1999, Yaya quickly absorbed the heart and soul of costume design/creation. To this day, she has created over 400 personal costumes spanning every fandom genre as well as her own original designs. Her long-standing dedication to craftsmanship, creativity, and authenticity has made her a beloved competition judge and a respected voice in the cosplay community.

Yaya has played a pivotal role in introducing cosplay to the mainstream audience and shaping it into a commercial industry. In the past decade, Yaya has focused on creating tools and materials that empower fellow makers through partnerships with leading global brands. In 2020, Sterling Books published Yaya's self-written book *Yaya Han's World of Cosplay*



82 MANGA BAR
CEL
ONA
SPACES
...



New!

MSF X TONY TONY CHOPPER

Médecins Sans Frontières returns to the event with an exciting new development: its new collaboration with the world of One Piece.

As part of this partnership, the iconic character Tony Tony Chopper has been named an official collaborator of the organization, helping to raise awareness of the medical and humanitarian work that MSF carries out in more than 70 countries around the world.

This initiative brings together the values embodied by the Straw Hat Pirates' beloved doctor and the real-life commitment of MSF, introducing visitors to stories of solidarity and humanitarian action through one of the most influential cultural phenomena in manga and anime.

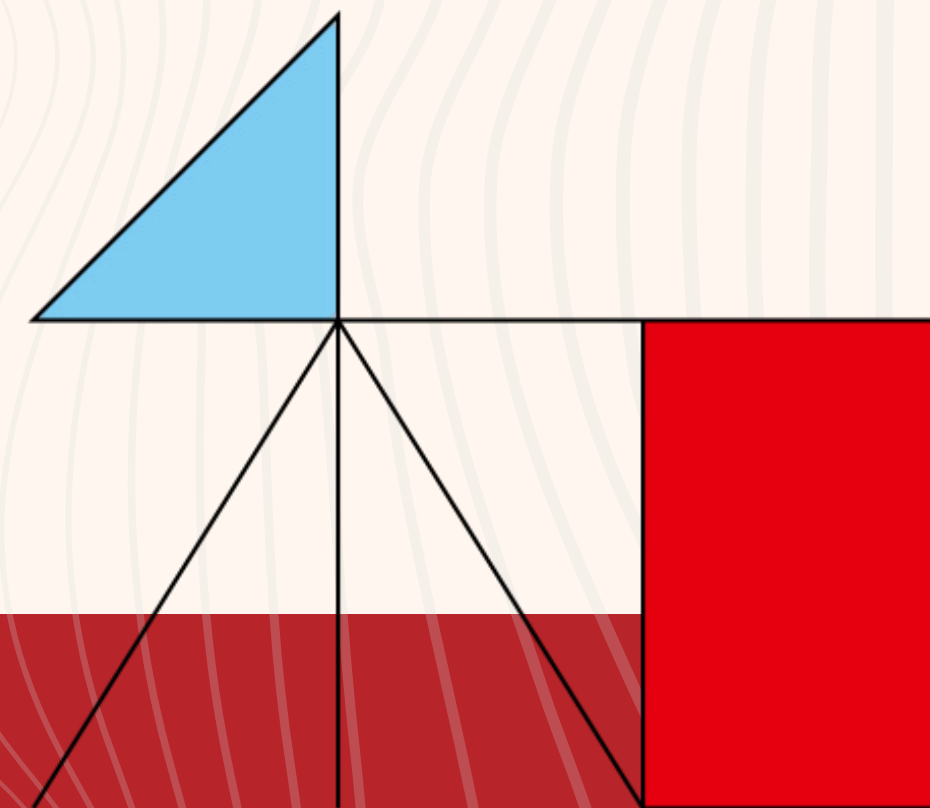


NAGOMI AREA

This year, the **Nagomi Area** returns, and with a bigger presence than ever before!

A space that quickly won over lovers of Japanese craftsmanship, the Nagomi Area offers visitors the chance to discover unique handmade pieces, accessories, and high-quality everyday products created by a carefully curated selection of Japanese artists.

In collaboration with **Japan Promotion**.



Espacio de Encuentro con Artesanos Japoneses

TAKESHITA BARCELONA ST.

Experience the atmosphere of Tokyo's Harajuku district without leaving the convention through the recreation of the iconic Takeshita Street. Once again, Manga Barcelona presents its own interpretation: **"Takeshita Manga Barcelona St."**

This special street will bring together brands and exhibitors connected to Japanese fashion and kawaii culture.

A must-visit destination for discovering the latest trends and an essential stop for fans of Japanese youth fashion, returning once again to the 32nd Manga Barcelona.



ONACHAN'S CASTLE

Between giant inflatables and challenging tests, there is no time to get bored here. Here, the real heroes don't have capes.... they have comfortable sneakers! Test your agility in all the tests.



MANGA BARCELONA
EXHIBITIONS
...



ONACHAN'S ROOM

We once again welcome a very special space that will help us get to know our favorite mascot, Onachan, a little better!

Dive into her world with the successful exhibition “Onachan’s Room”, where you can explore the most personal corner of the Manga Barcelona protagonist. Fully decorated, it is filled with everything a true otaku should have.



MANGA KIDS ACADEMY EXPO

Manga Kids Academy is back at Manga Barcelona! A space for kids to create, explore, and dive into everything that makes Japan so unique. This year, we're leveling up the exhibition area with a new feature all about Japanese food. Because in Japan, food isn't just something you eat—it's an experience deeply tied to nature and the changing seasons.

What do people eat in Japan when summer hits? What about when the cold rolls in? What are the must-try seasonal ingredients everyone looks forward to? Discover how the Japanese choose, prepare, and enjoy their food throughout the year—and why every season comes with its own signature flavors and favorite dishes. Get ready... this will make you hungry!



JAPAN INTERNATIONAL MANGA AWARDS

This exhibition once again brings together the works of Spanish authors who have been awarded throughout the history of the Japan International Manga Awards.

Among them are notable figures such as Ana C. Sánchez, Ana Oncina, and Emma Ríos, along with other recognized creators who have positioned Spanish manga on the international stage.



32 MANGA BARCELONA
ACTIVITIES
...



MANGA KIDS

In recent years, Manga Barcelona's audience has become noticeably younger. While the event is often associated with a teenage demographic, attendance by children has grown significantly, to the point where several generations of otaku fans now enjoy the convention together as a family. For this reason, we continue to expand and strengthen our offerings for younger visitors and their companions, with activities taking place throughout all four days of the event, as well as a Japanese culture exhibition specially designed for children.



MANGA DIY

Draw and create your own badge of your favorite anime characters.



PINTACARAS

Come and dress up as your favorite characters in our face painting area.



MANGATECA

A library, but of manga!
Here you can drown yourself in comics and manga whenever you want.



MANGA KIDS ACADEMY

A space with the aim of highlighting the lessons learned through manga and anime.

NIHON RYORI: YOU WILL NOT GO HUNGRY



Manga and Japanese haute cuisine come together at the Nihon Ryori space at 32 Manga Barcelona.

The Nihon Ryori space, dedicated to Japanese cooking workshops and activities, returns to 32 Manga Barcelona with an unprecedented program that brings together award-winning chefs, culinary experts, and participatory activities designed for all audiences.

From December 5 to 8, attendees can enjoy workshops, demonstrations, and tastings that explore the richness and diversity of Japanese cuisine.

WHAT TO DO AT MANGA BARCELONA?

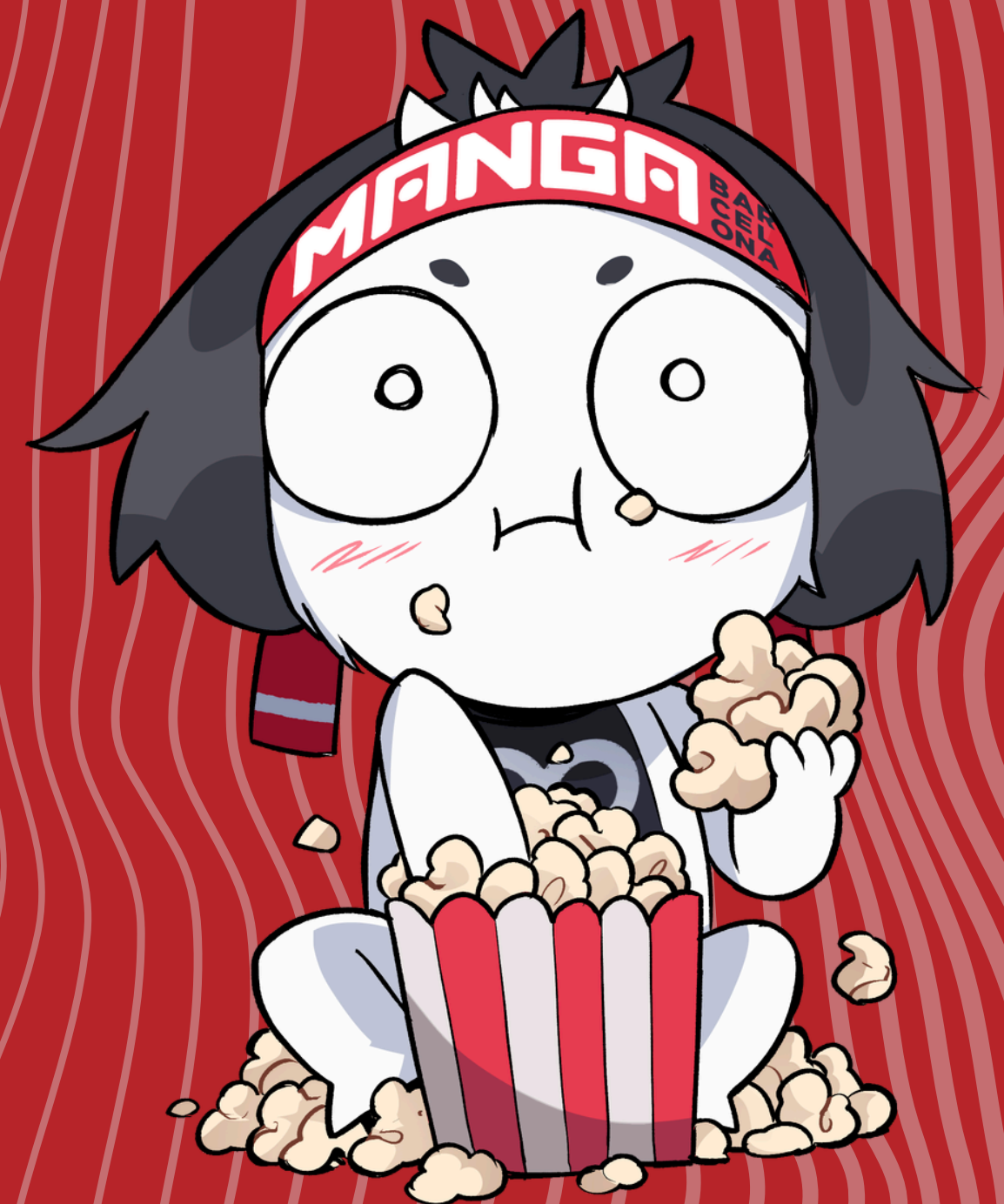
The entrance at MANGA BARCELONA is the entrance to lots of activities, so many that it is almost impossible to participate them all! You will find these activities among different areas:

- The **MANGA ACADEMY** is designed to host conferences, round tables and other talks on our favorite topics.
- The **KITSUNE ROOM** is dedicated to editorial presentations and other activities such as Q&A sessions with some of the guests of Manga Barcelona.
- The **COOL JAPAN** you will be able to delve into the most succulent and interesting secrets of Japanese pop culture.
- The **NIHONGO EXPERIENCE** is the space led by DARUMA that offers workshops and activities to bring us closer to Japanese culture.
- The **MANGA WORKSHOP** is the space dedicated to the creative processes of manga such as the narrative and the creation and design of characters.
- The **ANIME WORKSHOP** is dedicated to the animation processes and is open to the public of all ages.
- At **NIHON RYORI** visitors can learn all about Japanese gastronomy.

WHAT TO DO AT MANGA BARCELONA?

- **MANGA SPORT** offers different sports disciplines. Our visitors will be able to show their athletic qualities and have fun while exercising.
- **MANGA KIDS** is the space for the little ones, where we offer all kinds of activities related to manga and anime for everyone to enjoy.
- The **MATSURI STAGE** will liven things up with choreographies and K-Pop songs.
- The **MEET&GREET ARTISTS** is the meeting place for guests and their fans.
- The **BIG STAGE** is the place where Japanese music will shine, but there will also be space for cosplay, karaoke and idol contests.
- The **AUDITORIUM** concentrates the passion for cinema through the most interesting titles of the anime billboard.
- The **MANGA STREAM** is the space open to the public that will host interviews and activities that will be broadcasted live during the four days.

MANGA BARCELONA
AUDITORIUM
...



TURN OFF YOUR CELL PHONES, THIS IS A MOVIE THEATER!

Sssssh! The room where the revelry of the rest of the area turns to silence and emotion in front of the big screen of the Manga Auditorium. We continue our strong commitment to animation and Japanese cinema. Our Auditorium has already become a meeting point for the otaku film buffs.

Important premieres, some of the biggest hits of the last few months, as well as tributes to some of the most important films and directors are waiting for you.



And remember that the **Manga Barcelona Auditorium Award** is up for grabs, where you can vote for your favorite film!

LABYRINTH

Year: 2025

Director: Shoji Kawamori

Screenplay: Taichi Hashimoto

País: Japan

Genre: Sci-fi

116 min

SYNOPSIS

Shiori is an ordinary high school student who shares the dream of millions of young people: becoming a viral star on social media. Her life takes an unexpected turn when her phone screen breaks and, inexplicably, her identity is replaced by "SHIORI," a digital version of herself that emerges from the world of smartphones.

While her virtual double rises to fame online and becomes a pop and influencer phenomenon, the real Shiori is trapped on the other side of the screen, confined to the digital world. Unable to communicate or reclaim her place, she can only watch helplessly as her false identity lives the life she always dreamed of. Thus begins a story that explores, with humor and science fiction, themes of identity, fame, and the price of popularity in the age of social media.



PAPRIKA

Year: 2006

Director: Satoshi Kon

Screenplay: Yasutaka Tsutsui, Seishi Minakami, Satoshi Kon

Country: Japan

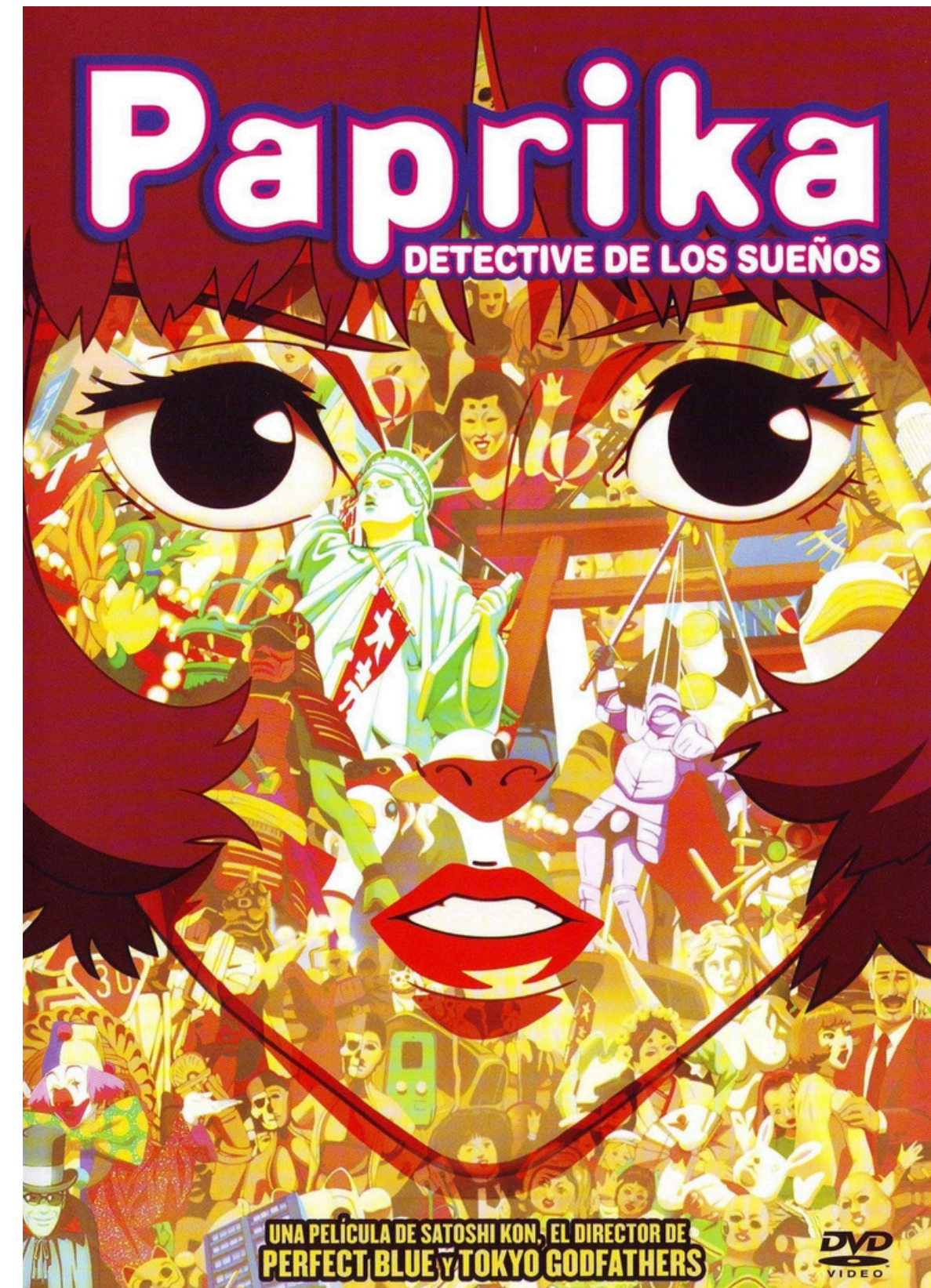
Genre: Drama/Fantasy

90 min

SYNOPSIS

We celebrate the 20th anniversary of one of the cult films of Japanese anime. In Paprika, visionary director Satoshi Kon invites us to cross a boundary as fascinating as it is unsettling: the one that separates dreams from reality.

The story revolves around a revolutionary device capable of entering people's dreams to explore their minds and treat psychological disorders. However, when this technology falls into the wrong hands, the barriers between the dream world and reality begin to collapse, unleashing chaos as nightmares invade everyday life.



AGITO: PSYCHIC WAR

Year: 2026

Director: Ryuta Tasaki

Screenplay: Toshiki Inoue

Country: Japan

Genre: Action/Sci-fi

SYNOPSIS

Celebrating the 25th anniversary of the TV series Kamen Rider Agito, as well as the 55th anniversary of the franchise, Toei releases this film to revisit the universe that marked Kamen Rider's return to popularity after years of decline.

Set in a world where people suddenly develop psychic powers, Agito follows Akira Hikawa, a humble police officer without special abilities but with an unbreakable sense of justice, who chooses to confront the chaos caused by these new psychic criminals.



32 MANGA BARCELONA
CONTESTS
...



CONTESTS: MAY THE BEST WIN!



ECG: EXTREME COSPLAY GATHERING

FICOMIC organizes the Spanish Preliminary of the Extreme Cosplay Gathering, one of the most prestigious cosplay competitions in Europe. The event is held annually during Japan Expo, the largest manga and anime convention on the continent.



WCS: WORLD COSPLAY SUMMIT

FICOMIC organizes the Spanish Preliminary of the World Cosplay Summit (WCS). The winning pair will travel to Japan to represent Spain in the world's most prestigious international cosplay competition.

CONTESTS: MAY THE BEST WIN!

COSPLAY PARADE

The COSPLAY PARADE returns to the stage at Manga Barcelona. No performances are required for this catwalk show, just style when walking the runway. Prizes will be awarded for the best costumes, highlighting the best armor, wigs, and characterizations. *Now sissy that walk!*

COSPLAY PERFORMANCE

Want to participate in cosplay contests without feeling the pressure of an international competition? Not all cosplayers aim to travel to Nagoya or Paris! Participate in Cosplay Performance individually or accompanied by your squad.

COSPLAY PETIT

The new generations of cosplayers are coming on strong and deserve their own Cosplay Parade! Talent has no age! Ficomix hosted again the COSPLAY PETIT in the framework of the 32 Manga Barcelona.

COSPLAY SHOOT

Snap, snap! Cosplay Shoot is back, a great opportunity for cosplayers and photographers to come together and showcase their talent through snapshots that reflect the world of cosplay.

DRAW THIS IN YOUR STYLE

FICOMIC is once again organizing the DRAW IT IN YOUR STYLE contest as part of 32 Manga Barcelona.

MANGA CONTEST 2026

Ficomix and **Shacho Kai** are organizing the 2026 Manga Contest to give a voice to young artists as part of the 32 Manga Barcelona.

CONTESTS: MAY THE BEST WIN!



K-POP DANCE FIGHT FEST

Manga Barcelona and Vice2Dance are once again organizing the Spanish preliminary round of the KPOP DANCE FIGHT FEST. The competition will select the team that will represent Spain in the European final to be held in 2027.



IDOL CONTEST: *Shine bright like an idol*

Aspiring idols will once again shine on our stage in the IDOL CONTEST: *Shine bright like an idol!*



JUST SING! *PLEASE DON'T STOP THE MUSIC*

FICOMIC is organizing a new edition of the karaoke contest Just sing! *Please don't stop the music*, as part of the 32 Manga Barcelona.



Who will be crowned queen or king of Manga Barcelona? Are you the otaqueen or otaking? To be crowned, you must demonstrate extensive knowledge of manga and anime culture, as well as the history of Manga Barcelona itself.

GENERAL INFORMATION

OPENING TIMES

From Saturday, December 5 to Tuesday, December 8: from 10 am to 8 pm.

There are no ticket offices on site. Tickets will be sold exclusively online on our website as capacity is released throughout the day.

The ticket is valid only for the day indicated on it.

The ticket will be a single-access ticket. Once you have left the site you will not be able to re-enter except for accredited people (exhibitors, press, authors, contest participants...).

The organization may make changes in the programming and location of activities within the enclosure it deems necessary for a better functioning of the event.

HERE, OUR SUPPORTERS: DOMO ARIGATO!

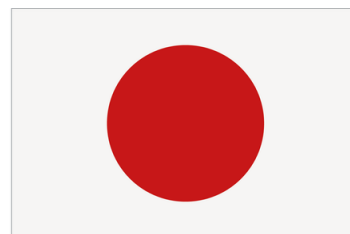


Generalitat de Catalunya
**Departament
de Cultura**

Barcelona 



JNTO
Oficina Nacional
de Turismo de Japón



Consulado General del Japón
en Barcelona

JAPANFOUNDATION 



JETRO
Japan External Trade Organization



escolajoso
CENTRE DE CÒMIC I ARTS VISUALS

COMER
JAPONES·COM



32 MANGA

BARCELONA

DECEMBER 5-8, 2026 · FIRA DE BARCELONA GRAN VIA