

ON BEHALF OF THIS YEARS LAUREATES,

YOUR IMPERIAL HIGHNESS, PRINCESS HITACHI, EXECUTIVES OF THE JAPAN
ART ASSOCIATION, INTERNATIONAL AND HONORARY ADVISORS,
DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE SELECTION COMMITTEE,
DEAR FRIENDS,

I AM DEEPLY HONORED TO RECEIVE THE 2023 PRAEMIUM IMPERIALE.

WHAT ARTISTS DO IS ONE OF THE FEW THINGS THAT WILL REMAIN IN TIME.

IF WE GO BACK THOUSANDS OF YEARS AND LOOK AT THE CULTURES OF THE
CHINESE, THE GREEKS, THE ROMANS, THE MAYANS, AND THE NATIVE
AMERICANS, WE SEE ARTIFACTS, THE WORK OF ARTISTS.

WHEN OR IF WE GO INTO THE FUTURE THOUSANDS OF YEARS FROM NOW,
WE WILL BE LOOKING AT THE WORKS OF OUR CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS.
ARTISTS ARE THE DIARISTS AND JOURNALISTS OF THE DAYS IN WHICH WE
LIVE.

ALL MY WORK IN THE THEATER IS FIRST STAGED IN SILENCE, WHICH IS A
UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE.

POLITICS AND RELIGION WILL ALWAYS SEPARATE US, BUT ART HAS THE
POSSIBILITY OF BRINGING MAN TOGETHER.

THANK YOU FOR GIVING ME AND MY FELLOW LAUREATES THIS INCREDIBLE
HONOR AND THE CHALLENGE IT OFFERS.

