

Rasse Land

Rasse Land is a cluster of 22 tent-like hangars, each one 12 by 12 meters in area and 7 meters high, where the figures on top of the Nebuta floats are assembled by the *nebutashi* (Nebuta artisans) and their assistants. The facility is located next to the triangle-shaped ASPAM, a building that houses Aomori's tourist information center. The hangars are set up before May and taken down after the end of the festival; guided tours for the general public, which let you watch the Nebuta being built, are offered from July 1 to August 6. The smaller parts of the figures are built in the Nebuta artisans' studios, but they are moved to Rasse Land for assembly. During the Nebuta Festival, the huts are open and visitors have the opportunity to marvel at the floats up close and take advantage of the photo opportunities during the day.

Nebuta Eve (August 1) festivities also take place at Rasse Land. On Nebuta Eve, the floats are lit up in public for the first time and *hayashi* ensembles perform their festival tunes. Visitors can enjoy the outdoor food stalls and watch the artisans and participants celebrating the completion of the Nebuta floats.