

**YCAM PRESS RELEASE**

**YCAM presents**

**The exhibition of new installation**

**carsten nicolai | syn chron**



Photo: Uwe Walter, Berlin

**Period: 17 December (Sat.) 2005 - 19 February (Sun.) 2006**

(\*Note: Closed Tuesdays and 27 December 2005 - 03 January 2006)

**Time: 12:00 - 20:00**

**Venue: Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media / Studio A**

**Admission: Free**

**<http://synchron.ycam.jp/>**

Organizer: Yamaguchi City Foundation for Cultural Promotion

Support: GOETHE-INSTITUT OSAKA, Deutschland in Japan 2005/2006,

Yamaguchi City, the Board of Education of Yamaguchi City

Co-sponsor: ASAHI BEER ARTS FOUNDATION

Co-production: YCAM InterLab

Produced by Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media

Project Curator: Kazunao Abe (YCAM)

Commissioned and produced by Freunde Guter Musik Berlin e.V.

In collaboration with Neue Nationalgalerie, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin and MaerzMusik / Berliner Festspiele

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With support from JENOPTIK AG, LaserAnimation SOLLINGER GmbH and ELAC Electroacoustic GmbH

Co-produced by Biennale Bern 05

## carsten nicolai | syn chron at YCAM

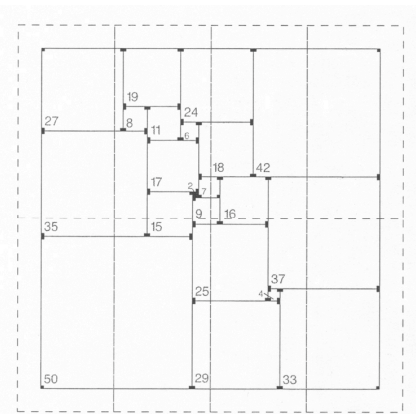
Carsten Nicolai's installation "syn chron" was presented for the first time at New National Gallery (designed by Mies van der Rohe) in Berlin this February 2005. This new work of his stirred a sensation. Its exhibition at YCAM realized in cooperation with the organizers in Berlin is the first showing in Japan and Asia. The idea of this work was conceived two years ago, and then a project, planned together with Nicolai on the assumption that it would be displayed in Berlin and Yamaguchi, was developed as a site-specific collaborative project. On top of that, this new version with the renovated sound/image content is introduced to the public for the first time. The studio A at YCAM for theater use is used specially for the exhibition of this grand work elaborately planned and worked out.

Carsten Nicolai is a Berlin-based artist of worldwide fame as talented in both visual art (contemporary art installation) and sound art (post-techno sound). His activities include participating in international festivals at the forefront such as "Documenta" (Germany) and "Venice Biennale" (Italy), holding solo exhibitions in various parts in Europe, and giving live performances and collaborative projects. In Tokyo, he held innovative exhibitions more than once since mid-'90s, and he has many fans on the art scene in Japan. In addition, he has started to work together with Ryuichi Sakamoto this year, and their European tour of live interactive collaboration of piano and electronic sounds, which is called "insen", has won the highest praise wherever they tour.

### syn chron ; art as a crystal-symbiosis of light, sound, and architecture

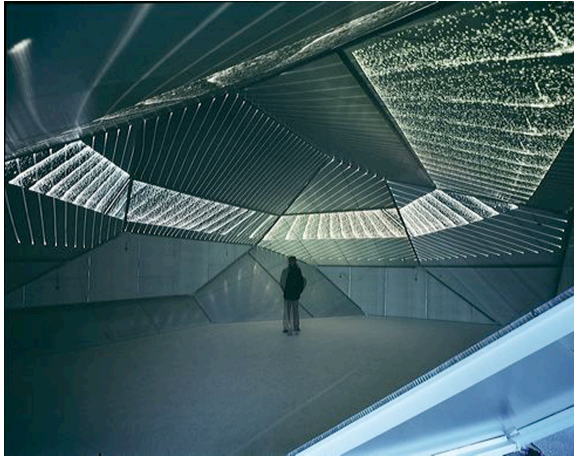
This work is Nicolai's major work showing his real ability, in which he forms a unique structure is generated from crossover ideas of visual art and sound art. He calls it "Symbiosis of light, sound, and architecture". In this sound installation, a large 14m-wide and 4m-high polyhedron made possible by analyzing a physical crystal system is covered with a new material that has a special honeycomb structure to permeate through image projection, and on its surface are fixed many small special speakers. Particle-like images (on six white-laser projectors) synchronize and change with the composition of abstract electronic sounds that frequently use Nicolai's original sign-waves and pulse sounds. Thus visitors can experience freely this work and resonance moving about inside and outside the installation.

In the sounds of "syn chron" connecting vision, auditory sense, and space is uniquely used a system inferred from the visual, formative system. When the inside of a square is divided by squares of each different size, a combination of twenty-one square parts in minimum can restore the full-sized square. The principle used visually and formatively in his latest piece "perfect square" (2004), a square installation composed of glass blocks, is adopted in "syn chron" in a way that twenty-one squares with each different side length rotate to make a spiral curve one by one around the center, and then they are placed back in a row, which eventually changes into a time axis for a sound diagram. On this time axis are components such as complicatedly composed from the viewpoint of electronic



sign waves and pulse sounds. The particle-like images precisely to each part of the

## “syn chron” text by carsten nicolai



An accessible crystal-shape object is constructed of semi-transparent material and has a hexagonal shape. The exterior skin of the architecture forms the essential interface in the symbiosis of the elements of light and sound. Together, the surfaces of the exterior and interior skin form a space that functions as an acoustical body, resonating space, and a projection surface. The sound comprises of simple acoustical particles as well as sinus sounds reminiscent of test signals. The acoustic signals are produced and merged through the special acoustic of the crystal-shape object. Visually the object can also be

perceived as a sculpture. It was the intention to create a perceptible ordered interior space that maintains an optical and acoustical neutrality. Through the use of sound and synchronized laser projections, the dimension of the space is constantly re-defined. “syn chron” tries to evoke a symbiosis of light, sound and architecture, and to connect them with aspects such as time, frequency and space.

### artist profile

Carsten Nicolai

is an artist and sound musician. He was born in Karl-Marx- Stadt, former East Germany (present Chemnitz) in 1965. He is currently based in Berlin and Chemnitz. He uses electronic sound and visual art as a kind of hybrid- tool to create his own microscopic view of creative processes. His world looks more like a laboratory- constantly morphing in space and time, influenced by the impulses of this media world, sound- the message as a code- becomes, the primary theme via visualised sound performance. With his work going across a variety of areas, not only post-technology sounds but also contemporary art and media art, he has established his distinctive position, and gained internationally a high reputation. As a sound musician, he uses double names, noto and alva noto, to function effectively on the music scene, depending on his approach or concept. He is also positively collaborating with different artists such as Pan Sonic and OPIETE. His unit with Ryoji Ikeda, “cyclo.,” is well-known. In autumn 2005, he successfully toured with Ryuichi Sakamoto in Europe in their collaboration.

### Group Exhibitions (selection)

- 2003 Venice Biennale, Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennial
- 2001 Venice Biennale, Istanbul Biennial, Istanbul
- 1999 Liverpool Biennial, Liverpool, England
- 1997 Documenta X, Kassel, Germany

### Solo Exhibitions (selection)

- 2005 “carsten nicolai – anti reflex“ (Schirn Kunsthalle, Frankfurt/Main), “syn chron“( Neue Nationalgalerie, Berlin)
- 2002 WATARI-UM (Watarai Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo)
- 2000 “polar” Canon Artlab 10 (in collaboration with Marko Peljan, Tokyo, Japan)
- 1998 “polyfoto,” Galerie fuer Zeitgenoessische Kunst, Leipzig, Germany

### Discography (selection)

2005 live alva noto aka carsten nicolai, ryuichi sakamoto, insen tour  
1999 rastermusic and noton.archiv fuer ton und nichtton merged.  
1994 Founded noton.archiv fuer ton und nichtton.

#### Prizes

2001 prize ars electronica, golden nica, for interactive art for the "polar".  
2000 f6- philip morris, graphic prize, Dresden, Germany, prize ars electronica, golden nica, for digital music for the 20 'to 2000 project.  
1990 Jürgen Ponto prize, Frankfurt/Main.

#### CREDITS

syn chron – team

Carsten Nicolai: concept, composition

Finn Geipel & Giulia Andi, LIN: architecture

Werner Sobek: supporting structure

David Letellier: artistic/architectural assistance

Ingrid Buschmann, Gabriele Knapstein: curators in Berlin

JENOPTIK AG: laser sources

LaserAnimation SOLLINGER GmbH: laser technology, programming

ELAC Electroacoustic GmbH: audio technology

Nibo: sound programming

Rob Feigel: technical production

Carsten Koppe, Knut Kruppa: production team

#### EVENTS

##### ■ OPENING DJ EVENT

Date/Time : 17 December (Sat.) 2005 18:00 -

Venue : Foyer Admission : Free

Performance : carsten nicolai + olaf bender and more

##### ■ LIVE PERFORMANCE "raster-noton.ycam+koss"

Date/Time : 18 December (Sun.) 2005 19:00 - 22:00 (OPEN18:30)

Venue : Studio B (Limited 100 people/All Standing)

Admission : 1,500yen

Performance :

[raster-noton] alva noto (carsten nicolai), byetone (olaf bender), signal (carsten nicolai+olaf bender), kangding ray

[guest]

koss (kuniyuki takahashi)

#### <INQUIRY>

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