

## Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Program

YCAM / Yuda Onsen / Central Shopping District



Opened in November 2003 as a hub for information and culture, the Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media (YCAM) celebrates its fifth anniversary this year. The varied program of events held throughout 2008 to commemorate this occasion includes artist residencies aiming to develop new works in the realms of art and theatre, as well as several special exhibitions, workshops with citizens of Yamaguchi, and symposia. In addition, an exclusive publication will document the first half century in the Center's history. All of these activities are designed to verify the Center's contributions in the Yamaguchi region and achievements on an international level during the past five years, and

continually explore the possibilities of art in/for the "city". By stepping out of the institution and into such places as the nearby Yuda Onsen (Yuda Hot Spring) and the city's central shopping district for cultural collaborations with various people of Yamaguchi, we hope to cut out a new path for YCAM to pursue in the future.

It is our aim to establish a model case of fruitful encounters between Yamaguchi's own assets and attractions, in order to create a set of new values beyond the respective existing frameworks, which will ultimately boost the "power of the city" as an energy source behind the area and its inhabitants.

### 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Program Schedule

2008	May -	Workshop 1	meet the artist 2008 [Presentation of works: December 5-7]
	July 5 (Sat.) - October 13 (Mon.)	Exhibition 1	OTOMO YOSHIHIDE / ENSEMBLES
	September 25 (Thu.) - 28 (Sun.)	Workshop 2	InterLab Camp vol.1
	November 1 (Sat.)	5 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Catalogue	
	November 1 (Sat.) - 3 (mon.)	5 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Memorial Symposium Series	
	November 1 (Sat.) - February 8 (Sun.)	Exhibition 2	Minimum Interface
	November 21(Fri)- December 27(Sat)	Exhibition 3	Yuda Art Project (Yuda Onsen area)
	December 20 (Sat.) - 21 (Sun.)	Theater piece 1	Performance "Op.∞"
2009	February 28 (Sat.) - March 1 (Sun.)	Theater piece 2	Strange Kinoko Dance Company + plaplaX: New dance piece

### INQUIRY



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May - March  
**Workshop 1**

## meet the artist 2008

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**Period: year-round (May-)**

**[presentation of works: December 5(Fri.), 6 (Sat.) & 7 (Sun.)]**

Venue: Central Shopping District

Artist: Akira Takayama (Port B / director),  
Koji Seto (artist unit "flow", media artist, creator)

YCAM's annual "Meets the Artist" long-term workshops have been occasions for artists and citizens to meet and work something out together over a longer period of time (8-12 months). The artists invited this year are Akira Takayama from "Port B", an up-and-coming company who have been touring the country with dramatic, city-specific performances in recent years, and Koji Seto, a member of the "flow" group of audio-visual creators responsible for a number of stunning works of media art. Both artists are currently developing a unique project combining media/ tools as different as performance and the Internet, to be staged in the streets of Yamaguchi. It will be a creative happening that incorporates ideas from participants from the general public.

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September  
**Workshop 2**

## InterLab Camp vol.1

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**Period: September 25 (Thu.) - 28 (Sun.)**

Venue: Studio B

Admission: Lectures and showcases are free of charge,  
but there will be a fee for workshops (reservation required)

Lecturers: Zach Lieberman (media artist, developer of openFrameworks),  
Theodore Watson (media artist, developer of openFrameworks), Others

YCAM's technical staff (InterLab) invited a number of leading technology experts and researchers for a string of lectures, workshops and showcase exhibitions introducing cutting-edge technologies, tools and environments as implemented in works of media art. The first installment focuses on openFrameworks, a production environment that has been in the headlines in active media art circles, in a workshop with the developers. More than offering simple technical training, these events are designed to explore possible new methods and platforms for the establishment and diffusion of creative working environments.

\*Details concerning these events and participation in workshops will be announced in a separate press release in late July.

July - October

Exhibition 1: (Works-in-residence)

## OTOMO YOSHIHIDE / ENSEMBLES



Renowned for his pioneering work in such varied genres as free jazz, noise, improvised and contemporary classical music, computer-based sound art and film music, Otomo presents at YCAM a spatial installation that showcases his vast audio-visual universe in a multifaceted media mix.

The exhibition is based on a concept of multiple ensembles, each made up of multiple human individuals. Concretely speaking, these are collaborations between citizens of Yamaguchi, and musicians and other artists from around the world, presented in a way that involves visitors and creates unprecedented sceneries of people gathering and interchanging.

### 〈Live Concert Series〉

#### LIVE-1: ENSEMBLES opening live "Songs"

July 5 (Sat.) 19:30

Venue: Studio A

Performers: Otomo Yoshihide + Kahimi Karie + Hamada Mariko + Yamamoto Seiichi + Jim O'Rourke + Ichiraku Yoshimitsu + Ichiraku Madoka + Sachiko M + Aoyama Yasutomo + Benedict Drew

#### LIVE-2: orchestras opening live "Musics"

August 23 (Sat.) 14:00 / 18:30

Venue: various places in YCAM and Studio A

Performers: ONJO[Otomo Yoshihide + Kahimi Karie + Okura Masahiko + Aoki Taisei + Ishikawa Ko + Sachiko M + Unami Taku + Takara Kumiko + Mizutani Hiroaki + Yoshigaki Yasuhiro + Kondoh Yoshiaki] + Ameya Norimizu + Takamine Tadasu + rewall + Oto-asobi-no-kai + sound workshop participants + many others

#### LIVE-3: ENSEMBLES closing live "Networks"

October 11 (Sat.) 19:30

Venue: Studio A

Performers: FEN[Otomo Yoshihide(Tokyo) + Yuen Chee Wai(Singapore) + Ryu Hankil(Seoul) + Yan Jun(Beijing)] + Yamamoto Seiichi(Kyoto) + Choi Joon-Yong(Seoul) + Hong Chulki(Seoul) + Jin Sangtae (Seoul)

Exhibition period: **July 5 (Sat.) - October 13 (Mon.)**

Part A: July 5 (Sat.) - September 15 (Mon.)

Part B: August 23 (Sat.) - October 13 (Mon.)

Venue: Studio A, Studio B, 2F Foyer, Courtyard, etc

### Installation 1: **quartets**

Part A Venue: Studio B

### Installation 2: **orchestras**

Part B Venue: Studio A

### Installation 3: **without records**

Part A & Part B Venue: Studio A

### Installation 4: **filaments**

Part A & Part B

Venue: Yamaguchi City Central Library in YCAM

Collaborators: Aoyama Yasutomo, Ichiraku Yoshimitsu, Ishikawa Ko, Jim O'Rourke, Kahimi Karie, Kimura Yuki, Sachiko M, Takamine Tadasu, Axel Dörner, Benedict Drew, Hirakawa Norimichi, Martin Brandlmayr, many professional/ amateur musicians from Japan and abroad, volunteer staffs

### 〈Related Events〉

#### Otomo Yoshihide x Takamine Tadasu: Talking Session

June 1 (Sun.) 14:00-15:30

Venue: Foyer

#### The Production of 'without records' - Briefing for inviting volunteers and collecting equipment

June 1 (Sun.) 15:30-17:00

Venue: Foyer

#### Improvised orchestra workshop for children

August 17 (Sun.) 14:00

Venue: Yuda elementary school

#### Screening of movies in which Otomo Yoshihide participated in music

July 11 (Fri.) - 13 (Sun.),

August 1 (Fri.) - 3 (Sun.),

September 12 (Fri.) - 14 (Sun.)

Venue: Studio C

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November

## 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Memorial Symposium Series

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**Period: November 1 (Sat.) - 3 (mon.)**

Venue: Studio A

Admission: free (no reservation required)

YCAM will host three differently themed discussion rounds to commemorate its 5th anniversary. While reviewing the fruits of the Center's work in those five years, the participants will discuss further possibilities of art and information media.

### **Session 1: YCAM's commissioned work in the past and in the future** **"From Yamaguchi around the world" (tentative title)**

YCAM is an institution that has been focusing on the "here-and-now" creation and presentation of works that couldn't have been realized anywhere else. The results of artist residencies, produced in cooperation between artists and the YCAM (InterLab) team, have been exhibited/performed at places around the world, and are constantly being updated and refined. The respective artists will look back on the past five years at YCAM and in the art scene in general, and illustrate the exhibition processes and various local reactions to their own works. In addition, they will talk about the future of art and information media, and debate the significance of sending out signals to the international culture scene from a rural town.

Moderator: Miki Fukuda (YCAM InterLab, manager)

Panelists: (to be determined)

### **Session 2: Media art and new production** **"Production communities and their potentials" (tentative title)**

This symposium explores possibilities and prospects in the relationship between new forms of production such as peer production (coordinating the creative energy of large numbers of people on a scale beyond Open Source or Wikipedia), creativity generated from free licensing, sharing and modification, and personal (individual) fabrication, and the "community" that nurtures and popularizes these. While referring to previous collaborations with an international array of artists and engineers, YCAM's InterLab proposes a new platform model for the creation of media art.

Moderator: Akihiro Kubota (artist, professor at Tama Art University)

Panelists: (to be determined)

### **Session 3: Discovering ways of generating ideas** **"The alternative education of an art center" (tentative title)**

YCAM strives to develop new forms of media education beyond the existing educational frameworks of schools and museums. Suggesting media as a third type of environment next to the natural and social ones, we pursue a constructive aesthesis in the media environment that is equivalent with the senses of form, time and originality. Furthermore, we reconsider the relationship between the media environment and the aspect of locality in nature and society, in order to gain a new perspective on the definition of the nature of creative environments.

Moderator: Akiko Takeshita (YCAM performing arts / producer)

Panelists: (to be determined)

\* Details will be announced in a separate press release in early September.

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November - February

**Exhibition 2: (Works-in-residence)**

## "Minimum Interface"

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"reactable" photo: Xavier Sivecas

**Period: November 1 (Sat.) - February 8 (Sun.)**

Venue: Studio C, Foyer, Patios, Others

Admission: free

Exhibits: Daan Roosegaarde <new work> (Holland), SHINCHIKA <new work> (Japan), Chris Sugrue "delicate boundaries" (USA), Shunsuke Takao <revised version> (Japan), Sergi Jordà, Martin Kaltenbrunner, Günter Geiger, Marcos Alonso Music Technology Group, Universitat Pompeu Fabra "reacTable" (Spain), Akihiro Kubota <new work> (Japan), Zachary Lieberman <new work> (USA)

This exhibition focuses on new possibilities of the "interface" as a basic component of information culture.

The computer keyboard, for example, is commonly used as a writing interface in daily life. This exhibition, however, aims to convey a new sensation of "fun of being connected through media" by introducing an optical, acoustic and tactile interface conceived with an art/design sort of mindset to appeal directly to physical sensation, rather than relying on ready-made design tools. This fun aspect is perhaps especially accessible to children and their intuitive approach, so it is also an exhibition in which adults can learn a lot of things from children.

A number of works dealing with all kinds of interfaces that focus on YCAM's specially developed field of "art + physical expression" will be displayed at various places across the YCAM campus, divided into several different categories. Artists were chosen from different areas in Japan and other countries, and the experience of their works will be for the visitor an opportunity to learn about the creative and imaginative powers behind media technology, and realize the importance and the possibilities of interfaces.

We invite you to visit the exhibition with your friends or families, experience the displays with the whole of your body, and leave the venue asking yourself what exactly an "interface" is.

\* The exhibition title refers to the notion of interfaces as appearances that trigger intuitive physical perception through verbal guidance.

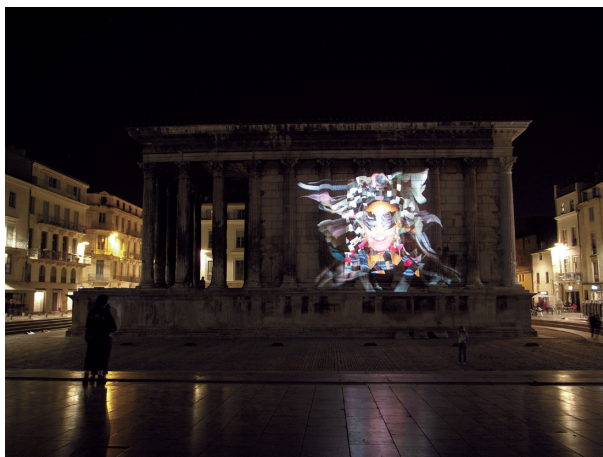


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November - December  
**Exhibition 3 (External event)**

## **Yuda Art Project**

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exonemo\*Terminal for Pilgrimage\*

**Period: November 21(Fri) - December 27(Sat)**

Venue: Yuda Onsen and surroundings

Admission: free

Artists: exonemo (Japan), United Visuar Artists (UK), SHINCHIKA (Japan)

This YCAM-produced public art exhibition on the theme of "light and interaction" takes place in the public space of the Yuda Onsen area in Yamaguchi.

[Related Events]

**Talk sessions with artists, etc.**

Details to be announced

\*Details concerning the exhibition and related events will be announced in a separate press release in early September.

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## **5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Catalogue**

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The activities of YCAM up to the present will be compiled in a special catalogue that features among others an overview of the Center's work, records of events since its opening, detailed descriptions of artist residencies and their respective results, and comments and other contributions from involved artists and participants, along with a rich selection of photographs illustrating each article.

**Publication: November 1 (Sat.) (planned)**

Language: Japanese/English

Circulation: 3,000 copies (planned)



"Op.∞"

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December

## Theatre Piece 1: Performance + workshop

### "Op.∞"

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**Date: December 20 (Sat.) - 21 (Sun.)**

Venue: Studio A

A piece realized in collaboration between Frédéric Bevilacqua (member of the realtime musical interaction team and the performing arts technology research team at the French Institute for music/acoustic research and coordination IRCAM), Eric-Maria Couturier (solo cellist for the contemporary classical music group "L'Ensemble Intercontemporain"), Richard Siegal (New York and Paris-based dancer, associate artist of the Forsythe Company, and founder of The Bakery) as well as Paris-based composer Satoru Ito, will be staged. Dance is utilized here as a means for exploring the relationship between the self and the other, and for a scientific and artistic investigation into the connection between sound and movement, and possible ways of interposing media technology and the human body.

\*Details concerning the event will be announced in a separate press release in October.

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February - March

## Theatre Piece 2: Work-in-residence

### Strange Kinoko Dance Company + plaplax: New dance piece

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**Date: February 28 (Sat.) - March 1 (Sun.), 2009**

Venue: Studio A

Direction, Choreography: Chie Ito (Strange Kinoko Dance Company)

Dance: Strange Kinoko Dance Company

Visualsmedia/technology: plaplax

Technical Support: YCAM InterLab

Following a year of exchange and experimentation between Strange Kinoko Dance Company and plaplax, a group of media artists who have been working extensively in the realm of interactive art, a new dance piece is being created in a month-long artist residency at YCAM. Although both groups work in different genres, they both share a cute kind of pop sensibility. This novel combination promises to uncover new possibilities between media technology and performing arts, visualized in an experimental yet somewhat stylish dance piece revolving around interaction of body movement and imagery.



"not quite right" photo:Yohta Kataoka



**山口情報芸術センター**  
Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media

Hours: 10:00-22:00

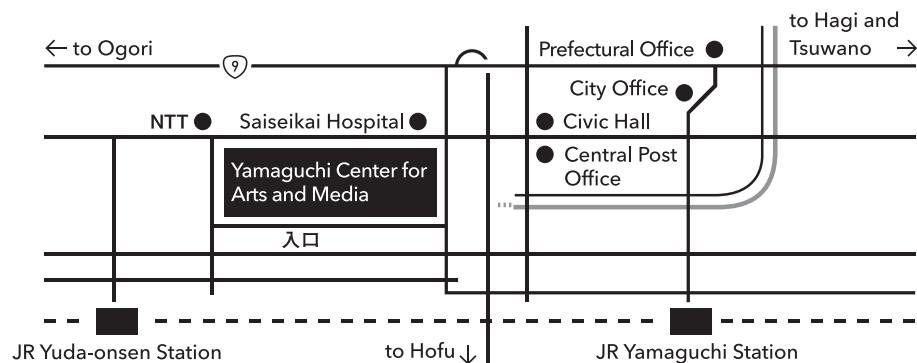
Closed: Tuesday (If Tuesday is a holiday, then Wednesday),  
Winter holiday season (December 29 - January 3)

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information@ycam.jp



**by airplane:**

- 1 hour 30 minutes from Haneda Airport (Tokyo) to Yamaguchi Ube Airport
- 30 minutes from Yamaguchi Ube Airport to Shin-Yamaguchi station by shuttle bus
- by Shinkansen Line (train) • from Tokyo to Shin-Yamaguchi; 4 hours 28 minutes
- from Shin-Osaka to Shin-Yamaguchi; 1 hours 57 minutes
- from Hiroshima to Shin-Yamaguchi; 33 minutes
- from Hakata to Shin-Yamaguchi; 37 minutes

**from Shin-Yamaguchi station to YCAM:**

- by Taxi;  
about 30 minutes (about ¥3,000)
- by JR Yamaguchi line;  
18 minutes to Yuda Onsen station and 20 minutes walk  
20 minutes to Yamaguchi station and 20 minutes walk or 5 minutes by taxi
- by JR Yamaguchi line (Yamaguchi liner);  
10 minutes to Yuda Onsen station and 20 minutes walk  
13 minutes to Yamaguchi station and 20 minutes walk or 5 minutes by taxi

**tourist / hotel information**

Yamaguchi City Tourist Association

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