

## YCAM Fifth Anniversary Project

# OTOMO YOSHIHIDE / ENSEMBLES

It is a great pleasure to announce that Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media will hold “Otomo Yoshihide / ENSEMBLES” exhibition in the entire building of YCAM from July as an event of its 5th anniversary project.

Otomo Yoshihide is an artist who is always pursuing sound on an experimental basis in varied areas of music, such as free jazz, improvisation, noise music, contemporary music, electronic music, and film music. Performing the mediamix of space and image in the comprehensive world of sound in a multifaceted way, Otomo presents four new installations as YCAM-commissioned work.

The concept of this event is that “ensembles” composed of many people are brought together in further plurality. Musicians, sound creators and visual artists in and outside Japan produce various collaborations together with citizens to resonate with all the audience. Please come and enjoy a new landscape that will be open to the view when people come together and mingle.

<Exhibition Official Site> <http://otomo.ycam.jp/>

Organizer: Yamaguchi City Foundation for Cultural Promotion  
Support: Yamaguchi City Yamaguchi City Board of Education UK-JAPAN2008  
Co-sponsor: Asahi Beer Arts Foundation, The Kao Foundation for Arts and Sciences,  
Cooperation: sendai mediatheque, CALLITHUMP,  
Special Thanks: NHK ENTERPRISES, OFFICE SHIROUS  
Sponsorship: Acoustic Technical Laboratory, Meyer Sound Laboratories Inc.  
Produced by: Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM]  
Technical Support: YCAM InterLab  
Project Curator: Kazunao Abe [YCAM]

### Notice on a private viewing for the press:

A private viewing of “Otomo Yoshihide / ENSEMBLES” exhibition is held on the following schedule.  
Please contact us if you wish to cover the exhibition.

Part A: July 4 (Fri.), 13:00  
Part B: August 22 (Fri.), 13:00  
Venue: Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media

### Exhibition period:

**July 5 (Sat.) – October 13 (Mon.), 2008**

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

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

Separated into two periods with two parts according to the work composition. Visitors can appreciate all the works August 23 (Sat.) to September 15 (Mon.)

Open hours: 10:00–20:00

Studios A and B: 12:00–19:00

Gallery 2F, and Courtyard: 10:00–20:00

Exhibition at library: 19:00–20:00

Venue: Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media

### Exhibits

Installation 1 **quartets** Part A Studio B

Installation 2 **orchestras** Part B Studio A

Installation 3 **without records** Part A · Part B

Foyer, Gallery 2F, and Courtyard

Installation 4 **filaments** Part A · Part B

Yamaguchi City Central Library in YCAM

### Live Series

**LIVE-1** July 5 (Sat.) 19:30

ENSEMBLES opening live “Songs” Studio A

**LIVE-2** August 23 (Sat.) 14:00 / 18:30

orchestras opening live “Musics”,  
various places in YCAM and Studio A

**LIVE-3** October 11 (Sat.) 19:30

ENSEMBLES closing live “Networks”, Studio A

### Related Events

**Otomo Yoshihide × 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

**“Impromptu orchestra workshop for children”**

August 17 (Sun.), 14:00, Venue: Production/Workshop Room

**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

<INQUIRY>



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

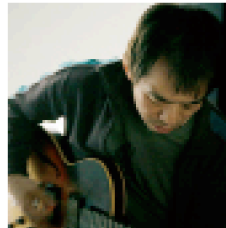
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## Message from Otomo Yoshihide

The theme is “ensembles.” Interactive ensembles produced in various contexts, like mirrors reflecting today’s social situation, probe into both possibilities and impossibilities in the relationship between person and person, person and object, and person and machine, to provide an exciting, positive and future-oriented show. It is not a one-way exhibition. It is visitors of the exhibition who can make the most use of these materials. Many of the works begin to function as ensembles when they interact with visitors.

### Otomo Yoshihide:

Born in 1959, Otomo is a guitarist, turntable player, composer and producer. He always leads plural bands such as ONJO and Anode, and has participated in many bands such as Filament and Joy Heights. Not only in Japan but also in different parts in the world, he has been active in performing concerts and recording, maintaining his independent stance. In the fields of experimental music, improvisation, and noise music in particular, he is highly appreciated in the West. The style of his music is wide-ranged from roaring sound with abundant noise and feedback, spontaneous works that focus on generation of sound itself, to recent works of jazz, song, and film music.



#### Installation1 quartets

##### Kahimi Karie

Born in 1968. After she made her debut as a vocalist in 1991, she released many works in and outside Japan. She released the best album in the United States in 1998 and 99. She became a member of ONJO, Otomo Yoshihide's orchestra, and took part in its tour in Europe. She released DVD “kochab” in 2006, and album “NUNKI” that she jointly produced with Otomo Yoshihide, Jim O'Rourke and Yann Tomita. Her other activities include working as FM radio personality and writing serial columns and movie reviews.

##### Kimura Yuki

Born in Kyoto City, Japan 1971. Artist.  
[Main Individual Exhibitions] 2007 “picture of a man” Taka Ishii Gallery / Art Basel Miami, 2005 “untitled puzzle” Kodama Gallery, 2003 “new garden” Taka Ishii Gallery,  
[Main Group Exhibitions] 2008 mellowfever Galerie des Galeries, 2006 “Slow Tech!” Taipei MOCA, 2004 “ROPPONGI CROSSING” Mori Art Museum, 1999 6th International Istanbul Biennial.

##### Hirakawa Norimichi

Born in Shimane Prefecture in 1982. In 2007, he completed the master course of Tama Art University. He won an Excellence Award at the 8th Japan Media Arts Festival for his GLOBAL BEARING. He took part in group exhibitions: “Re: search” at sendai mediatheque in 2006, “OPEN SPACE 2007” at NTT InterCommunication Center [ICC], Tokyo in 2007 and “transmediale.08” in Germany in January 2008. His other works include those commissioned by corporations.

##### Benedict Drew

Artist who works in sound and video. For several years he has been involved in promoting concerts in London such as Audit and currently produces concerts for the London Musicians' Collective. In 1999 he began musical partnership with Ivan Seal in the laptop duo Nish. Nish have had many releases and performed in the U.K. numerous times.

#### Installation2 orchestras

##### Tadasu Takamine:

Born in 1968. Artist. He has presented different kinds of works including performance, installation, video and even craft methods since the beginning of the 1990s. He played an active part in international exhibitions such as “Venice Biennale 2003”, “Busan Biennale 2004” and “Yokohama Triennial 2005”. He also collaborated many times for stage, and directed some works as well. Currently he teaches at Kyoto University of Art and Design as a visiting professor.

#### Installation3 without records

##### Yasutomo Aoyama

Born in Asahikawa, Hokkaido, and currently lives in Sendai, Miyagi Prefecture. While making artworks in Sendai, he is involved in music such as giving live performances and DJ. He was in charge of an installation when collaborating with Otomo Yoshihide in “we insist?” project that was held in Sendai in 1995. Later he participated in “MUSIC MERGE FESTIVAL '97” with Otomo as their unit “DJ Tranquilizer”. In 2007, he was responsible for visual composition of Otomo's exhibition “without records” held at sendai mediatheque.

#### Installation4 filaments

##### Filament (Otomo Yoshihide + Sachiko M)

Filament was formed in 1997. This unit was a product of the endless and thorough analyses and examinations of listening and pronunciation as a testing ground of post-electronics music. With Sachiko M's original composition method as a core, it brings about sound experience that is totally different from music made by conventional “composition” or “improvisation”, going beyond the auditory limits ranging from faint to roaring sound. So far, it performed in more than ten countries in the world and often stirred argument.

## quartets (new work)

**Otomo Yoshihide + Yuki Kimura+Benedict Drew + Norimichi Hirakawa + seven musicians**

**Venue: Studio B**

**Part A**

Nearly life-sized silhouettes of musicians are projected on each side of a white cube (3.3m square and 2.5m tall) placed in the center of the hall. On the screen on each wall facing the cube are projected details of objects made of wood, iron, liquid, etc. and those materials vibrate to the sound produced by the musicians who are projected.

Each of four musicians is projected on a side of the cube. Either of two quartets, A or B, starts performing, and as time passes, players in A and B change places or interfere with each other. Consequently, the performances of A and B are blended or combined at random, and each time a totally new quartet comes to exist. Since visitors can look at only one side of the cube at a time, they can listen to the sounds played by all the players but can't see their figures all together simultaneously.

Participating artists:

quartet A: Otomo Yoshihide (JP) + Axel Dörner (GE) + Martin Brandlmayr(AT) + Sachiko M(JP)

quartet B: Kahimi Karie (JP) + Ishikawa Ko(JP) + Ichiraku Yoshimitsu(JP) + Jim O'Rourke (USA)

Kimura Yuki (video-shooting and direction)(JP) + Benedict Drew (UK) (object and image) +

Hirakawa Norimichi(JP) (programming, system)

## orchestras (new work)

**Otomo Yoshihide + Takamine Tadasu + many musicians**

**Venue: Studio A**

**Part B**

This exhibit is a sound installation created in collaboration with Takamine Tadasu, an artist of contemporary art, in which waste wood and beams of light are used. In the space of Studio A are all kinds of waste wood, objects, and speakers of various kinds. Placed in the center is an equipment that reflects light on them with mirrors, and the beams of light fly about in the space. Sounds are emitted from the objects searched by the beams, and while each part resonates, visitors can experience the sound of a compound orchestra. There is an installation that contains many electric guitars on the bottom of the semi-basement, and the feedbacks by the guitars are sometimes heard from there. Visitors can go down to that basement and walk about. In the recording of the sound sources, about a hundred people ranging from professional musicians of different genres to local amateur players participated and performed solos. Visitors can enjoy listening to this orchestration in which various sounds get entwined at random from different speakers hanging in space.

### Installation 3

## without records (new version)

### Otomo Yoshihide + Aoyama Yasutomo

Venue: Foyer-Gallery 2F-Courtyard

Part A Part B

In this installation, there are about a hundred portable record players without records, but equipped with unusual materials such as corrugated paper or iron. In the space of the foyer, turntables scattered everywhere, high and low, right and left, produce noises by the rotating friction, resonating in multilayer. Quiet, low-fi sounds form groups and change the entire image of sounds. When visitors move the position of a player or replace the needle, an additional new world of sound appears. In the gallery on the second floor is a new installation, which disassembles turntable functions and hi-fi sound is output.

These installations provide people with an opportunity to reconsider the meaning, possibilities, and historical significance of sound art composed of records and turntables, which are being consigned to oblivion in the digital age. (This work is a great renewal of the work exhibited in sendai mediatheque in 2007.)

The system has been jointly developed with YCAM InterLab.

### Installation 4

## filaments (new work)

### Filament [Otomo Yoshihide + Sachiko M]

Venue: Yamaguchi City Central Library in YCAM

Part A Part B

Four speakers are set up in the library. The quiet sound of Filament flows for an hour after the library is closed. While small LED lights set on the bookshelves in the library flash repeatedly, the sound fragments intertwine at random, sometimes in the volume hardly noticeable and sometimes within a barely audible frequency range. Listening carefully, you will hear Filament's ensemble in the ambient noise.

Concerts with various projects related to Otomo Yoshihide from orchestra to solo music is to be held three times during the exhibition period.

### Live-1:ENSEMBLES opening live –Songs

The first set is Kahimi Karie's first photo installation concert, and in this session, photos that she took are projected on a large screen. The second set involves Benedict Drew, who is known for the film of Ninja Tune, and DJ Tranquilizer (Aoyama Yasutomo and Otomo Yoshihide). The third set is Otomo Yoshihide's new project "Invisible Songs", centering around vocalists, Kahimi Karie, Hamada Mariko and Yamamoto Seiichi.

Date: July 5 (Sat.), curtain rises at 19:30

Venue: Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media, Studio A

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

Fee: Unreserved seats only

Advance ticket: ¥2,700 (general), ¥2,500 (members of "any" and special discount)

Day ticket: ¥3,000 (Various discounts do not apply to day ticket.)

### Live-2: orchestras opening live –Musics

The first set is a session in which participating musicians perform pieces of music simultaneously in many different places in the building of YCAM. Elementary school children and junior high school students participating in the sound workshop join this performance. In the second set, musicians give competitive performances in an installation of scrap materials in Studio A.

Date: August 23 (Sat.), 1st set: curtain rises at 14:00,

2nd set: curtain rises at 18:30

Venue: 1st set: different places in the building

2nd set: Studio A

Performers: ONJO/Otomo NEW JAZZ ORCHESTRA [Otomo Yoshihide, Kahimi Karie, Okura Masahiko, Aoki Taisei, Ishikawa Ko, Sachiko M, Unami Taku, Takara Kumiko, Mizutani Hiroaki, Yoshigaki Yasuhiro, Kondoh Hiroaki], Takamine Tadasu, and many others, visitors to the venue and sound workshop participants

Fee: Unreserved seats only

Advance ticket: 1st set: Free / 2nd set: ¥2,200 (general), ¥2,000 (members of "any" and special discount)

Day ticket: ¥2,500 (Various discounts do not apply to day ticket.)

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

The first set is a session in which a dream duo of rare guitarist Otomo Yoshihide and Yamamoto Seiichi perform. In the second set, new unit "Far East Network" of Otomo Yoshihide and musicians from Singapore, South Korea and China performs with Seiichi Yamamoto as a guest player.

Date: October 11 (Sat.): curtain rises at 19:30

Venue: Studio A (scheduled)

Performers: Otomo Yoshihide, Yamamoto Seiichi, Yuen Chee Wai (Singapore), Ryu Hankil (Seoul), YanJun (Beijing)

Fee: Unreserved seats only

Advance ticket: ¥1,700 (general), ¥1,500 (members of "any" special discount)

Day ticket: ¥2,000 (Various discounts do not apply to day ticket.)

\* Ticket information: Advance reservation for members of "any" starts on June 1 (Sun), and general sale on June 8 (Sun).

\* A set of tickets for the above three live concerts is sold up until July 5: ¥6,000 (general), ¥5,400 (members of "any")

## Related Projects

### Otomo Yoshihide x Takamine Tadasu: Talking Session

June 1 (Sun.), 2008, 14:00-15:30 Venue: Foyer

Otomo Yoshihide and Takamine Tadasu who collaborate in "orchestras" are invited as guests, and with Ozaki Tetsuya (publisher and chief editor of "ART iT") as moderator, they discuss freely the attractive points in the work and other topics.

### The Production of "without records"

- Briefing for inviting volunteers and collecting equipment

June 20 (Fri.)-29 (Sun.), 2008 Venue: Foyer

Processing, preparation and installation of portable record players to be displayed for "without records" are conducted together with production volunteers.

### Production workshop of "without records":

June 20 (Fri.)-29 (Sun.), 2008

Processing, preparation and installation of portable record players to be displayed for "without records" are conducted together with production volunteers.

### Impromptu orchestra workshop for children:

August 17 (Sun.), 2008, 14:00

Venue: Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media, Production/Workshop Room

The workshop is designed for children from first graders to junior high school third-year students. Workshop participants are advised to also take part in Live 2 on August 23 (Sat.).

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

Venue: Studio C

Beginning with Chinese movie "the Blue Kite", Otomo Yoshihide has been in charge of more than forty soundtracks for films by Somai Shinji, Ando Hiroshi, and NHK dramas. Choicest selections are to be shown as special feature films at weekends during the exhibition period.

Movies scheduled to be screened:

- July 11 (Fri.)-13 (Sun.) "The Blue Kite" (1993 / Tian Zhuangzhuang / China)  
"AH KAM"(1996 / Ann Hui / Hong Kong)
- August 1 (Fri.)-3 (Sun.) "kaza-hana"(2000 / Shinji Somai)  
"Gomen (Sorry)"(2001 / Shin Togashi)
- September 12 (Fri.)-14 (Sun.) "Canary"(2004 / Akihiko Shiota)  
"Blue"(2001 / Hiroshi Ando)  
"Kaze no matasaburo" (Children of the Wind)  
(2003 / Kiyoshi Kurosawa / NHK-BS)



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