

Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM] 5th Anniversary: EXHIBITION

# YUDA ART PROJECT

November 21 (fri)–December 27 (sat), 2008 Admission Free

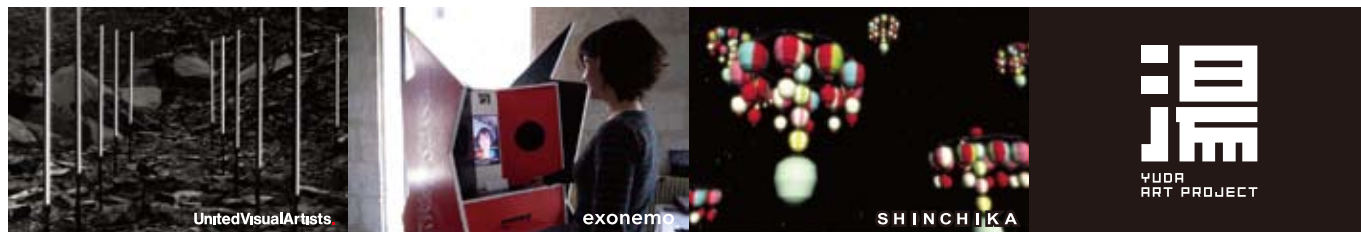
10:00–22:00 (Hours vary by exhibit) Venue: Yuda Onsen and Surroundings



## Public art is presented on the theme of light and interaction in the setting of Yuda onsen.

Media art produced by YCAM invites visitors to participate at various places in the onsen town.

To celebrate its 5th anniversary, Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM] opens “YUDA ART PROJECT,” an exhibition composed of varied media art in the setting of Yuda onsen in the city of Yamaguchi. Three units of artists, both domestic and foreign, transform different places in Yuda onsen into original exhibition halls, on the theme of light and interaction. This exhibition is planned not only to provide the public with an opportunity to enjoy media art, but also to raise a question of possibility of linking image and sound to interaction and networking in terms of technological expression in public art. Its aim is to promote the local cultural development and maturity by helping “people” and “town” meet each other in an unusual setting where a fresh idea of communication is put forward.



In order to provide opportunities for tourists and citizens to enjoy media art in an onsen town alive with many people, this exhibition presents a work in which LEDs change the whole space beautifully responding to the movements of visitors, as well as a project in which participating visitors complete their works through networking fragmental inputs while strolling in Yuda town, and a work with the combination of image and light at the scene of footbath. Visitors are to be familiar with the cutting edge of media art while visiting noted places such as Nakahara Chuya Memorial Museum and Yuda onsen. By grasping “the whole town” as a medium of expression, we can make discoveries in our daily scenes of our town, and bring out the local attractiveness and interests. This art project has been produced in cooperation between Yuda Onsen and YCAM.



[Artists]

United Visual Artists [UK]

exonemo [JP]

SHINCHIKA [JP]



■ Opening event November 21, 2008 17:30–  
 (“Array” get lighted up all at once in the Lighting-up ceremony.)

■ Website : <http://yudaart.ycam.jp/>

Organizer: Yamaguchi City, Yamaguchi City Foundation for Cultural Promotion / Support: Yamaguchi City Board of Education, UK-JAPAN2008  
 Co-sponsor: Agency for Cultural Affairs / Special Support: British Council / Sponsorship: SHIMADA CORPORATION  
 Cooperation: Yuda support committee / Produced by Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM]

〈INQUIRY〉

Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM]  
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In “YUDA ART PROJECT,” YCAM and each artist shared ideas to produce new works suitable for the main sights of Yuda Onsen.

At the planning stage, each artist visited the Yuda Onsen area to see where and how their works would be displayed and decided on the sites of exhibition. Therefore, their works have brought out the best of the onsen town to make this site-specific exhibition special to Yuda Onsen, Yamaguchi.

**[Yuda Onsen]**

The hot springs of Yuda have about an eight hundred year old history. A legend holds that a white fox cured his insured paws by soaking them in the hot springs. It is called “bihada no Yu” because of its alkaline spring.

**Interactive Art Work**

**United Visual Artists**

new work (commissioned by YCAM)

**Array**

Venue: Chuya Nakahara Memorial Museum



Chuya Nakahara Memorial Museum

**The latest work of British artists using the whole outer garden of Chuya Nakahara Memorial Museum**

London-based United Visual Artists (UVA), enthusiastic artists who are actively working worldwide, produce their new installation for this exhibition. The whole outer garden of Chuya Nakahara Memorial Museum located in the central part of Yuda Onsen is the setting for the exhibition. The installation is an interactive work making the most use of LED lights and sound that respond to the movements of visitors.

UVA have attracted attention by their unique image expression and formative design for live performances of musicians such as U2 and visual design of music videos. They presented their work at Roppongi Hills in January this year. Their works that reflect changes in the audience and the surrounding environments show such a high degree of perfection that they are talked about a lot all over the world.

They have always given innovative trials to challenge the established concepts. This time, there is every reason to expect that they will successfully meet our expectations with their installation in a public space of Chuya Nakahara Memorial Museum.

**United Visual Artists**

United Visual Artists is a group of 15 artists with a variety of specialties; software design, animation, interactive design, graphic design, etc. Since their formation in 2003, they have attracted attention by their innovative expressions using lights and technologies such as their visual design for stages of U2 and Massive Attack. So far they presented their works, which are primarily architectural installations, live performances and interactive installations, at Victoria and Albert Museum in London, Tate Modern, The British Library, Roppongi Hills, etc. They are also involved in collaborations with different artists and organizations, including “Volume,” a promotional work for Sony PlayStation 3.

<http://www.uva.co.uk/>



United Visual Artists “Volume”  
(Victoria & Albert Museum, London 2006)  
Photo: John Adrian -United Visual Artists

## Interactive Art Work

### exonemo

new version for YCAM  
The Terminal for Pilgrimage

Venue: Yuda Onsen area



exonemo "The Terminal for Pilgrimage"  
(L'EXPERIENCE JAPONAISE, Nîmes 2007)

## A stroll around Yuda Onsen looking for art works

While making their original portraits by using the special photographing and printing terminals (photo booths) installed at several places in Yuda Onsen, participants can enjoy this work strolling around the town of Yuda. Citizens as well as tourists of Yuda Onsen can make their unique souvenir photos by using this work. At each terminal, participants can photograph only photos of fragments of the faces and background scenery. When they go through all terminals taking a photo on the same paper each time, all fragments are connected so as to complete their original portraits. In addition, those portraits are transmitted to the Internet server, and consequently they become "new faces of the town," going beyond each participant's specific character, to be shown on a huge screen set in downtown Yuda Onsen during the exhibition period every night. (It is scheduled that portraits can be downloaded to mobile phones and screen savers.) Participants can experience via this work the encounters between people and the town as well as people and people at crossovers of space and time.



exonemo

"exonemo" is an art unit of Kensuke Sembo and Yae Akaawa. Since 1996, they have dealt with many experimental projects that can be seen only on the web. In 2000, their installation was first introduced in a special section at Rotterdam Film Festival. After that, featuring their unique style of connecting the web and the real space, "exonemo" participated in many exhibitions both at home and abroad such as Istanbul Biennale, Roppongi Crossing, and ARS Electronica (Austria). They are currently expanding the sphere of their activities; live performance at Pompidou Center in Paris by using musical instruments of their own making, and managing the Tokyo chapter of "dorkbot," a worldwide community "doing strange things with electricity." They won the grand prize of the Net Section of ARS Electronica in 2006. In 2008 "UN-DEAD-LINK" was held in Basel, Switzerland as their first solo exhibition abroad. Their activities are based in Tokyo and <http://exonemo.com/>

## Film Installation Work

### SHINCHIKA

new work (commissioned by YCAM)  
Tour of ☆ FOOT-SPA Timer

Venue: Yuda Onsen foot spa



Yuda Onsen foot spa

## By up-and-coming artist units, foot spa project

The Yuda Onsen foot spa where many tourists and local residents come and relax. What is proposed in this work is a new space for communication through image expressions by using monitors and projections. In this film appears an original animation character to "YUDA ART PROJECT" produced by SHINCHIKA. The theme is the relation between "town" and "individual," and the character develops a fictional story navigating the original promotional movie. This animation of a new style blending different types of expression from two-dimensional illustrations to three-dimensional computer graphics will renovate the foot spa.



SHINCHIKA

"SHINCHIKA" is an entertainment unit to produce works through mixing graphics, image, lyrics and composition. In 2002, five members, Tsuyoshi Hisakado, Yosuke Fujino, Rinshiro Fujiki, Shimpei Yoshikawa and Toki Katsumura, found inspiration in the Shinsekai Kokusai Theater in Shinsekai amusement area in Osaka, and organized the unit. They gather fragments of imagery taken from their everyday life, their recollections and places where they live, and edit them to make their works. The story reflects the current state of SHINCHIKA in a fantasy. In 2008, they held their solo exhibition at Ota Fine Arts in Tokyo. <http://www.eonet.ne.jp/~shinchika/>



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

Hours: 10:00-22:00

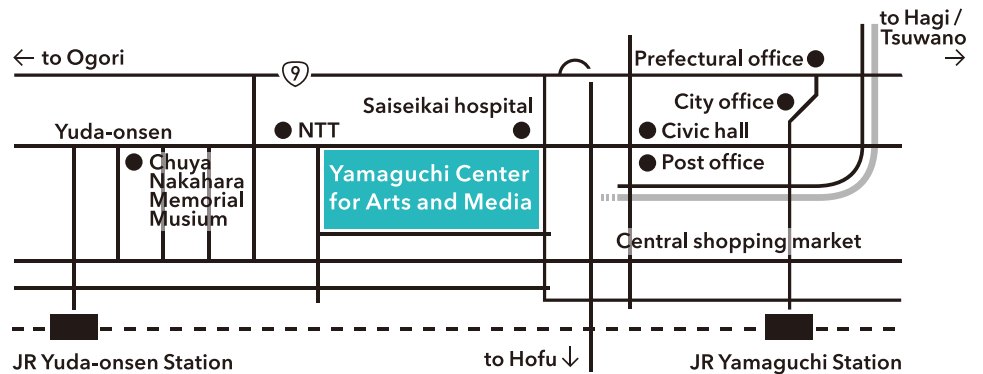
Closed: Tuesday (If Tuesday is a holiday, then Wednesday),  
Winter holiday season (December 29 - January 3)

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<http://www.ycam.jp/>

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

Yamaguchi Station (second floor)

2-1 Sodayu-cho, Yamaguchi-city 7530042 JAPAN

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