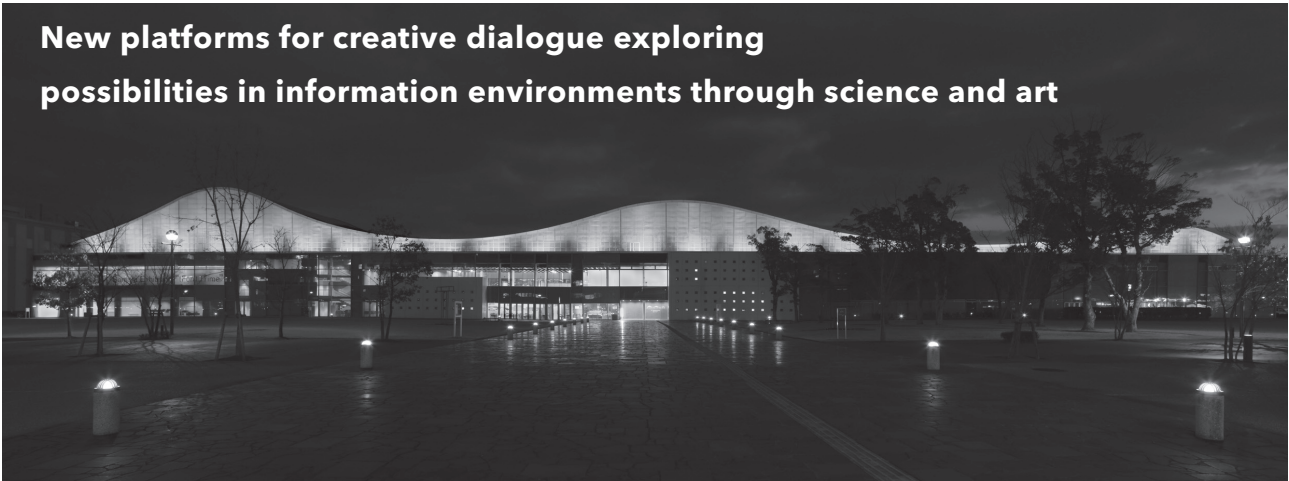


Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM]

**YCAM Event Schedule**

**April 2010 - March 2011**

**New platforms for creative dialogue exploring possibilities in information environments through science and art**



Since its opening in November 2003, the Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM] has been pursuing new forms of artistic expression revolving around media technology and the human body. As a creative environment for production, collaboration and presentation, YCAM is hosting media art exhibitions, performances, sound-related events, workshops, film screenings, and other events with a particular emphasis on original production. Media art sharpens human sensibility and physical perception by scrutinizing the transformations in society and culture brought along by the developments in media technology. We at YCAM aim to implement new forms of art that explore such possibilities from an area defined by the axis of "art - performing arts - education", and keep

pursuing ways of forging a fresh new relationship between art and society.

In 2010, we will continue to examine various perspectives on the world that surrounds us as individual parts of computerized society, and evaluate the possibilities of new platforms in the present and future. Through the conception of original artworks, we explore the creative nature of art as highlighted by information environments, and experiment with the cultural/social possibilities of an art center. Eager to share these values, our work is informed by the desire to function as a central hub for a new type of media art that connects the local region with the rest of the world

---

**<INQUIRY>**

Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM]

Public Relations: Fumi Hirota

7-7 Nakazono-cho Yamaguchi-city 7530075 JAPAN

tel: +81-83-901-2222 fax: 81-83-901-2216 e-mail: [information@ycam.jp](mailto:information@ycam.jp) <http://www.ycam.jp/>

## ART

Pursuing interdisciplinary creative work encompassing art, science and information technology, we focus on the production and presentation of new, mainly commissioned original works in the realm of new art encompassing duplication and media technology. In addition to visual forms of expression, YCAM places emphasis also on sound art and software art, hosting high-quality sound art and live concerts that are only feasible with the Center's cutting-edge acoustic and visual equipment.

This year we will show again a variety of large-scale exhibitions focusing primarily on original works created in-residence at YCAM, with themes including human perception, informational ecosystems, and environments in information society. Along with seeking to establish new platforms by exploring art from our immediate environments, we aim to work out future-oriented ideas related to perception and creativity through innovative practices based on the latest achievements in art and science.

## Seiko Mikami new installation "Desire of Codes"

**March 20, 2010 - June 6 10:00-19:00**

**Desires generated by surveillance technology and network society:  
A large-scale exhibition combining two related new works created in-residence at YCAM**

Having pursued artistic activities on the theme of "information society and the human body" since the 1980s, it was in the '90s that Seiko Mikami found her own original form of artistic expression in the interaction between communication technology and informational ecosystems. Her newest work combines robotic search arms and a wall structure made up of a number of "wriggling" devices responding to the presence of visitors, connected to a large compound eye type screen fed with various footage from a database of surveillance images. The piece attempts to pin down the newly emerging desires of the contemporary human in a world of computerized environments and perception.

Furthermore, Takashi Ikegami unveils a new installation through which he approaches the exhibition's general "surveillance society and human desires" theme from the realms of brain science and complex systems science. In addition, the event also includes a revised version of *gravicells - gravity and resistance* by Seiko Mikami + Sota Ichikawa, a work that has toured a total of twelve locations in eight countries around the world after it was first shown at YCAM in 2004. The separate works together make up an exhibition that offers the visitor a comprehensive experience of temporal/spatial modifications triggered by interaction with cutting-edge information technology.

- Exhibited work

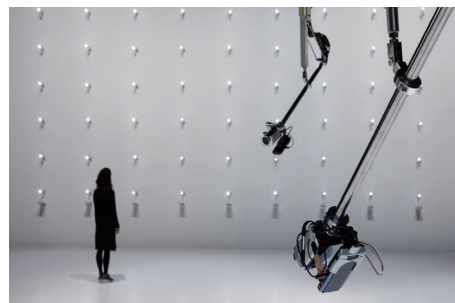
Seiko Mikami "Desire of Codes" (new work / commissioned by YCAM)

- Related works

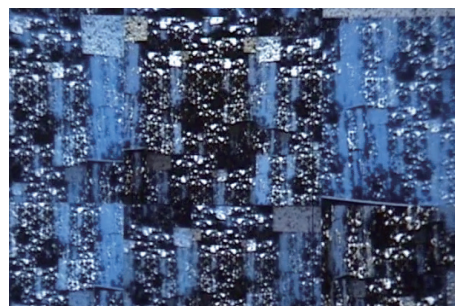
Takashi Ikegami "MTM [Mind Time Machine]" (new work / commissioned by YCAM)

Seiko Mikami + Sota Ichikawa "gravicells - gravity and resistance"

(revised version / commissioned by YCAM)



Seiko Mikami "Desire of Codes"



Takashi Ikegami "MTM [Mind Time Machine]"

## Keiichiro Shibuya + evala new sound installation "for maria installation version"

October 1, 2009 - June 6 10:00-20:00

**Reverberating sound installed in YCAM's patios**

**Enjoy piano soundscapes you will not experienced elsewhere**

The next work to be introduced in the "sound tectonics installation" series of media technology-based sound art taking place at YCAM's patios is a new sound installation made from piano recordings.

A unique piece of sound art that makes use of computers to charge music with aspects of spatial expansion and translocation, this brand new work based on high-grade piano recordings is introduced to visitors in the familiar setting of YCAM's own recreation oases. Come and explore the fascination of sound art in an exhibition that showcases the multifarious ways of spatial representation of the piano's timbre.

This sound installation piece is based on data taken from the latest piano solo album "ATAK015 for maria", composed and performed by musician Keiichiro Shibuya. Sound data of all pieces included in the CD were repeatedly processed, decomposed and reconfigured with a computer program, introducing new layers in order to redefine the relationships between the single tracks, and ultimately create a body of sound that is completely different from the CD's contents.



photo: Kenshu Shintsubo

## Fujiko Nakaya + Shiro Takatani new project "INTER-ENVIRONMENT" [tentative]

August 7, 2010 - October 17 10:00-19:00

**Proposals for new environmental creation in a dialogue of art, science and information technology**

Forty years after the Expo '70 in Osaka, we are witnessing a transition toward a world culture/society that capitalizes information as opposed to material productivity. This exhibition reconsiders and reevaluates in an information society-focused dialogue between art and science the American E.A.T. (Experiments in Art and Technology) collective's work at the Osaka Expo's Pepsi pavilion, and the farsighted ideas and translations of their projects. The large-scale collaborative new production realized in-residence in YCAM's distinctive architectural setting comprises E.A.T. member Fujiko Nakaya's *Fog Sculpture*, Shiro Takatani's light installation, and softpad's soundscapes. Making extensive use of environment sensing technology, the work operates as one entity incorporating transformations in the natural environment in and around the Center with the help of network technology. The new approaches to future-oriented environmental creation these artists propose can be interpreted as challenging attempts of the post-Expo generation in response to E.A.T.'s advanced experimentation with art and science exploring the nature of art in environments. With an eye on the limitations of information society, the exhibiting artists formulate ideas toward a new future revolving around a type of sensibility and creativity that arises from the combination of material and immaterial elements such as data and information.

(In-residence production period: late July - early August)



Fujiko Nakaya "Fog Sculpture" #47773 Pavillion" (1970)



Fujiko Nakaya + Shiro Takatani "IRIS" (2001)

## Carsten Nicolai + Marko Peljhan new installation "polar II" [tentative]

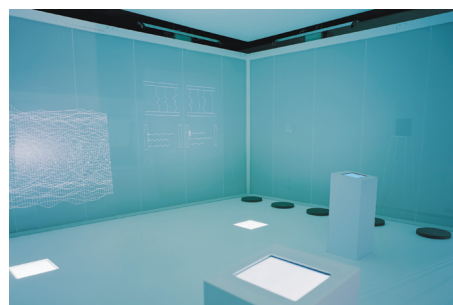
November 13, 2010 - February 6, 2011 10:00-19:00

### Decennial environmental observations in art focusing on a global informational network's polar areas

The "polar" project centers on fixed-point observations of the earth's natural and informational environment from an artist's position. The previous *polar I*, presented in Tokyo in 2000, introduced a network-based original search engine, developed in order to observe the earth as an environment based on a variety of information. The updating process was translated into images and sounds exhibited in an audio-visual installation.

The following ten years have seen significant developments in information technology, which have in turn triggered repeated massive changes in human sensibility and perception. While considering unreachable places on the earth as more or less non-existent, we are directly confronted with an extensive invisible world of information and other data. The aim of this second installment is to establish an original platform for investigations into the diverse environments that surround us in the year 2010. By searching specific information, visitors can proactively explore uncharted polar areas, and discover their meanings. Two of the world's leading artists get together again to highlight current natural and informational environments, and propose methods for us to apply for their research.

(In-residence production period: late October - early November)



"polar I" (2000)

## PERFORMING ARTS

In addition to theatre and dance performances, YCAM's performing arts programs introduce a broad range of contemporary forms of physical expression transcending existing fields and genres. Making effective use of the facility's equipment and staff specializing in media technology encompassing film, sound, lighting, and computer programs to control these elements, we are striving to realize top quality performing arts shows as they can only be experienced at YCAM.

With a special focus on "visuals" this year, we are set to scrutinize the human body by means

of film, and examine further possibilities between body expression and video in special film screenings and video dance productions. This year's central project, a new piece produced in-residence at YCAM, will introduce Hiroaki Umeda, an artist who takes charge of everything from choreography to set design. The marriage of YCAM's technology and Umeda's concept will hopefully result in a novel, "mobile" type of performance that can be staged at any place in the world.

## "A Tribute to Pina Bausch - The World of Dance in Word and Image"

**April 17, 2010 - June 6 13:30-16:40**

**Talk guests: Matthias Schmiegelt (the former managing director of Tanztheater Wuppertal Pina Bausch)**

**Special event illustrating the history and fascination of dance in conversations and rare footage of Pina Bausch**

This special program consists of three documentary films and a talk event recapitulating the achievements of the world-renowned choreographer who suddenly passed away in June 2009. In various rare footage, and a conversation with her former manager and supporter for 16 years, the event portrays a unique artist whose continuous impact exceeded by far the boundaries of dance, theatre and art, since the 1970s, and even after her death. While looking back on the transition of performing arts from modern to contemporary, visitors will be invited to surrender to the irresistible charm of Pina Bausch as a choreographer and as a person, and explore the possibilities of the human body as captured on video.

Admission: Free seating

【Tickets at the door】¥1,000 / "any" members & special discounts ¥800



Pina Bausch photo: Iijima Atsushi

## faifai "A story of Y o' clock" + Contact Gonzo performance

May 15 19:00 start / May 16 14:00 start

### An introduction to performing arts at YCAM

#### Theatre? Dance? Or something completely new?

This series of performances is designed as a broad introduction to the various new forms of body expression that keep appearing one after another. These casual events offering visitors the fun of experiencing performers at close range can at once serve as appetizers for newcomers to the unique world of performing arts at YCAM. This fifth installment features "faifai", a theatre company that captures the general mood of today's young generation, and filters it through a unique mixture of media with a distinct pop sensibility, ranging from theatre to dance, video, and even catering. The piece they present here uses an "after-school care" setting to illustrate the colorful world of children with elements of puppet theatre enhanced with lots of fantastic mechanisms.

Prior to faifai's performance, YCAM will be haunted by Contact Gonzo, a group that has become notorious for their truly unique type of physical communication, staged in the form of impromptu performances at museums and galleries. Witness an impressive spectacle as it unfolds from this odd combination of dance and martial arts.

\* After the main performance, visitors can drop by at the temporary "After Hour Café". Further planned are special events such as a laptop live performance by Shuta Hasunuma, who composed the music for *A story of Y o' clock*, on 5/15 (Sat), and on 5/16, faifai members invite visitors to examine their piece's set and stage props in an event titled "Let's play with faifai!"

\* The Contact Gonzo performance starts 30 minutes prior to the main program

Admission: Free seating

【Advanced tickets】¥2,000

"any" members & special discounts ¥1,700 / Under 26 ¥1,500

【Tickets at the door】¥2,500



faifai "A Story of Y O' Clock" (2010, Tokyo) photo: Kazuya Kato



contact Gonzo photo: Toda Yoichi

## Hofesh Shechter "Political Mother"

June 20 14:00 start

### Up-and-coming UK company visits Japan to show a captivating mix of energetic dance and reverberating percussion

This performance series was installed with the aim to showcase next-generation performing arts as represented by specially invited budding young artists from all corners of the globe. This year, we are happy to introduce Hofesh Shechter, a choreographer who relocated to the UK after working with Israel's own Batsheva Dance Company, and in recent years has won high acclaim as an internationally awarded choreographer and creator of pieces commissioned by leading theatres around the world. Also outside the realm of dance, Shechter has been attracting attention for his choreographies for popular TV plays among other things. On his visit to Japan, Shechter will unveil his latest production that is set to define a new set of values in contemporary dance through a compelling mixture of amazing high-tension dance and groovy live percussion.

\* The performance will be followed by a talk session, in which the artist will reveal more details about the piece, and answer questions from the public.

Admission: Free seating

【Advanced tickets】¥2,800

"any" members & special discounts ¥2,500 / Under 26 ¥2,000

【Tickets at the door】¥3,300



Hofesh Shechter "Political Mother" ©Tom Medwall

## 2010 Theatre & Dance Family Program

### “Naso Rosso”

July 31 14:00 start

#### An opportunity to encounter performing arts for children aged 2 and up

This dance/theatre program is designed for children at pre-school age and their parents. Instead of difficult lines telling a complex story, the piece created in Italy immediately communicates the fun of performing arts through music, dance, and various gimmicks that appear as the story unfolds. Built with elements of contemporary dance and theatre, and a little box that keeps spitting out all kinds of colorful gadgets, this performance is sure to fascinate young and old alike.



“Naso Rosso”

### “Dallae’ s Story”

August 1 14:00 start

#### Precious moments to focus on family ties and human love

Based on the story of the Korean War in the 1950s, this piece is not directly about the war itself, but illustrates the earnest attempts of a family to overcome all kinds of hardships. Korean traditional music, glamorous sets, and a uniquely vivid combination of human performers and puppets make for an exciting performance that appeals to both children and their parents. Look forward to a topical piece that graphically conveys the magnificence and importance of love between human individuals and family members.

Admission: Free seating

【Advanced tickets】 ¥2,000,

“any” members & special discounts ¥1,700 / Under 19 ¥1,000

【Tickets at the door】 ¥2,500

【Set ticket】 ¥3,500, Under 19 ¥1,500



“Dallae’ s Story”

## Megumi Nakamura & Yasuyuki Shuto dance performance

October 3 14:00 start

#### Artistically and technically distinguished dancers from Japan and abroad provide hints for defining contemporary dance and its fascination

This performance focuses on the technically advanced and artistically diverse skills of physical expression of dancer/choreographer Megumi Nakamura and dancer Yasuyuki Shuto. Building their careers on a solid foundation of Classical ballet under such internationally renowned masters of choreographers as Jiri Kylián and Maurice Béjart respectively, both Nakamura and Shuto have vaulted their acquired techniques into spheres of truly unique art. Their works highlight the beauty of dance itself while hinting at the diversity and potential of artistic expression, inviting the viewer to explore the creative nature of studying and experiencing dance and other forms of body expression, and ponder the meaning of originality, stringency and reality in the realm of dance. Here are two artists who have come to make something as seemingly unintelligible as contemporary dance accessible to a broad audience.

\* A talk session with the performers is planned as related event.



Megumi Nakamura

Yasuyuki Shuto ©MITSUO

Admission: Free seating

【Advanced tickets】 ¥3,000

“any” members & special discounts ¥2,700 /

Under 26 ¥2,000 【Tickets at the door】 ¥3,500

## Hiroaki Umeda performance (new piece)

February 19, 2011 19:00 start / February 20 14:00 start

### Production and presentation of a new dance piece at YCAM

#### Designing a stage by means of dance and technology

Featured this time in our performing arts program is Hiroaki Umeda, a choreographer/artist who takes charge of everything from sound to lighting and imagery used in the pieces he performs. Together with YCAM's technical staff, he takes an experimental approach to the process of choreography encompassing the development of ideas and direction, to ultimately complete and unveil a brand new work. Modeled around the style of Europe-based Umeda's worldwide activities, the piece is going to test the mobility of a stage production, and explore the creative potential and portability through media of performances that change with the environment. While basically belonging to the category of performing arts, it will be a comprehensive work that integrates elements of installation and video, and focuses at once on spatial construction and the human body. The result is expected to offer a variety of innovative possibilities for the positions of choreographers, dancers and engineers alike. (In-residence production period: starting in September 2010)

\* In a post-performance talk session on 9/19 (Sat), the artists will talk about the new piece's main points of appeal. On 9/20 (Sun), the "After Hour Cafe" will provide a casual setting for a drink, exchange of opinions, and meeting with the artist after the performance.

#### Related event: Back Stage Tour

This regularly organized backstage tour enjoys great popularity as an on-the-scene showcase of current resident creators' work at YCAM. Participants can witness the realization process of a new production, and learn about the mechanisms of lighting and sound behind the scenes.

#### Related event: Workshop

This workshop is designed as an experience of body expression utilizing technologies that artists experiment with during their residencies at the Center. The practice of pieces that are similar in contents to newly conceived stage productions helps participants familiarize with YCAM's technology development, and gain a better understanding of the purposes and concepts behind artists' works.



Hiroaki Umeda "1. centrifugai" (2009) photo: Shin Yamagata



Hiroaki Umeda "Haptic" (2008) photo: Shin Yamagata

Admission: Free seating

【Advanced tickets】¥2,800

"any" members & special discounts ¥2,500 /

Under 26 ¥2,000 【Tickets at the door】¥3,300

## New video dance by Tsuyoshi Shirai

January 22 / January 23

### Focusing on dance and other forms of body expression by way of video

#### Volume two in YCAM's original video dance production & screening series

In this second installment, choreographer/dancer Tsuyoshi Shirai will make use of YCAM's technology and creative environment to realize a new video dance piece. Through a filmed version of one of his most well-known works, "mass, slide, &." (2004), Shirai redefines dance from a viewpoint that differs from a conventional stage production, while exploring the refined and dynamic movements of the human body. In addition to this new work, the program of this screening event will also include a video dance piece by Hiroaki Umeda, whose performance is scheduled for February, as well as Saburo Teshigawara's video dance piece Friction of Time - Perspective Study vol.2, which was produced at YCAM back in 2008.



Tsuyoshi Shirai "mass, slide, &." (2004) photo: Toshihiro Shimizu



## Chelfitsch performance (new piece)

**March 13 14:00 start**

**The company presents their newest piece at YCAM**

### Beyond the "real" connection between language and body

Having received among others the Kishida Kunio Drama Award for "Five Days in March", a theatre piece that was staged at YCAM in 2007, Toshiki Okada keeps exerting an immeasurable influence on the current performing arts scene as a playwright and stage director. His pieces combining dialogues symbolic of today's youth culture with somewhat noisy physical exaggerations of daily routine are highly regarded in theatre circles and various other fields. With the performance of this long-awaited new piece, Okada considers a further development beyond the "real" kind of artistic expression he has established as a means to examine the contemporary relationship between body and language.

\* After the performance, the artist will appear in a talk session introducing the piece's main points of appeal.

\* In conjunction with the performance, a workshop with playwright and director Toshiki Okada is scheduled for 3/6 (Sun).

Admission: Free seating

【Advanced tickets】 ¥2,800

"any" members & special discounts ¥2,500 / Under 26 ¥2,000

【Tickets at the door】 ¥3,300



Chelfitsch

"Hot Pepper, Air Conditioner, and the Farewell Speech"  
(Hebbel Am Ufer, 2009) ©Dieter Hartwig

## EDUCATION

YCAM's educational department hosts a variety of programs designed to enhance the experience of visitors who "never had to do with" but "wish to know more about" new forms of artistic expression utilizing media technology. In addition to events related to visual and performing arts, we conduct original workshops revolving around such keywords as "media", "society" and "body", as well as other events that communicate the value and creativeness of YCAM. This year, the "meet the artist" long-term workshop series will be complemented with a new series of lectures that discuss the broad subjects of media art from a grassroots

point of view. Furthermore, the workshops also provide opportunities to introduce original tools developed at YCAM, and showcase the fruits of collaborations with artists.

The Education section is primarily responsible for helping visitors gain a deeper understanding of YCAM's activities. Additionally, original workshops and educational tools have been developed to enhance the visitor's experience of YCAM's displays while investigating into such topics as media, society, and the human body.

### meet the artist 2010 "Create your own media"

April, 2010 - March, 2011

#### Yearlong workshop to set up a visual-based civic network in Yamaguchi

In the "meet the artist" workshop series, co-called "collaborators" - artists and citizens selected from applications from the general public - work together on the realization of one specific project for the period of one year. Through such long-term collaboration, participants and artists share a creative process, and together formulate profound concepts that emerge from the various ideas and backgrounds involved in the course of their collective work. Instructor for this year's fifth installment is Hikaru Fujii, an artist who has been confronting people's thoughts on social discrepancies and political issues through the medium of film. "Filmic expression" will at once be the central theme that participants in this workshop are going to approach by the methods of documentary. The popularization of personal computers, digital cameras, cell phones and other electronic devices has made video a familiar and casually usable tool for us today. Both citizens and artists will take advantage of this long-term workshop project, to explore the possibilities in the realm of film that these conditions have made accessible.

\* Initial project members are recruited between April 1st and May 1st, however applications for later participation will still be accepted after this period.

#### Artist lecture "Make Your Own Media"

Workshop leader Hikaru Fujii will hold a lecture to introduce his previous activities, and explain the purpose and planned schedule of this workshop, with the ultimate aim to encourage visitors to apply for participation.

#### Final presentation

This workshop is designed as an experience of body expression utilizing technologies that artists experiment with during their residencies at the Center. The practice of pieces that are similar in contents to newly conceived stage productions helps participants familiarize with YCAM's technology development, and gain a better understanding of the purposes and concepts behind artists' works.



meet the artist 2010 Lecturer: Hikaru Fujii

## “YCAM media kitchen - annual lecture series”

**June 5, October 23, January 22, 2011 15:30-17:00**

**A host of experts from various fields gathering at YCAM!**

**Lecture series locating the position of media (art) in daily life**

Experts from various fields hold lectures on the connection between our daily routine and media art. While discussing the topics included in YCAM’s own mission of “charting new territories in art, media and physical expression” on a level of everyday issues, they will explore the possibilities and prospects of media art. This particular kitchen cooks with media that connect YCAM with its visitors, and serves menus of innovative ideas. A total of three lectures will inspire visitors to discover how to double the fun one can have with the artworks on display here. Understanding of the purposes and concepts behind artists’ works.



## “YCAM Summer Exploration Tour”

**August 13, August 14 14:00-15:30**

**Focusing on dance and other forms of body expression by way of video**

**Volume two in YCAM’s original video dance production & screening series**

In this second installment, choreographer/dancer Tsuyoshi Shirai will make use of YCAM’s technology and creative environment to realize a new video dance piece. Through a filmed version of one of his most well-known works, “mass, slide, &.” (2004), Shirai redefines dance from a viewpoint that differs from a conventional stage production, while exploring the refined and dynamic movements of the human body. In addition to this new work, the program of this screening event will also include a video dance piece by Hiroaki Umeda, whose performance is scheduled for February, as well as Saburo Teshigawara’s video dance piece Friction of Time - Perspective Study vol.2, which was produced at YCAM back in 2008.



## “Surround Garden - Body and Sound in Resonance”

**August 21 14:00-17:00, August 22 14:00-7:30**

**Lend your ear and bend your body: A sound and dance workshop with Tsuyoshi Shirai**

Part of the “Walking around surround” series of workshops conceived and conducted at YCAM, this event is designed as an opportunity to experience forms of body expression with choreographer/dancer Tsuyoshi Shirai. Participants will be invited to try and move their bodies according to their own image of sound and how it spreads before it reaches the human body. Tsuyoshi Shirai, an internationally renowned dancer many children in Japan know from NHK’s educational TV program, hosts this special summer holiday program with the aim to explore the relationship between sound and body expression based on an understanding of the mechanisms of sound, and how it is translated into movements and transformations of the body.

\* The workshop closes on 8/22 (Sun) with a demonstration by Tsuyoshi Shirai, and a presentation of participants’ works. This event is open to the general public (17:00-17:50).

