

## YCAM residency video production & screening

### Tsuyoshi Shirai + YCAM video dance project "Choreography filmed: 5 days of movement"

August, 2010 - January, 2011

Filming & Internet live streaming: August 24 (tue) - 28 (sat) Screening of a new video piece: January 23 (sun)

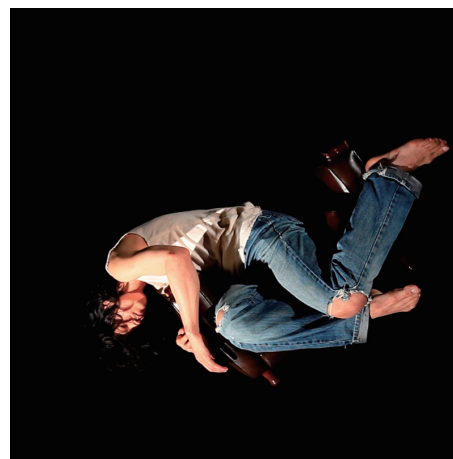
Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM]

## Original video piece co-produced by YCAM

Exploring relevant possibilities of "video and the human body" through live Internet streaming

Continuing our pursuit of new forms of artistic expression focusing on body expression and current film culture, the Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM] is currently producing the second video (dance) piece since the Center's opening.

Based on the idea behind one of choreographer/dancer Tsuyoshi Shirai's most well-known dance pieces, "mass, slide, & ." (first staged in 2004), this project is an attempt to reconstruct the piece into a video in a collaborative process with the YCAM staff and the artist. The half-year-long project includes five days of filming and Internet streaming of all footage, and will culminate in a screening event with the artist, scheduled for January 2011. The idea is to pursue new forms of dance/video expression that emerge in the process from production to presentation from video images of the body, and from the choreographic component in the visual composition. In addition, the project's outline embraces technical aspects of filming and editing, as well as audio-visual environments including issues of distribution and access, with the aim to examine the relationship between video and dance in the present age.



Tsuyoshi Shirai + YCAM video dance project  
"Choreography filmed: 5 days of movement" test shooting (2010)

\* The progression of the entire project can be followed via a special website (<http://c-filmed.ycam.jp/>) that is now open.

■ **Filming & Internet live streaming**  
August 24 (tue) - 28 (sat) 13:00-20:00

■ **Screening of a new video piece**  
January 23 (sun)

## INQUIRY

Yamaguchi Center for Art and Media [YCAM]

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## Dance emerging out of images as the body is captured by the video camera.

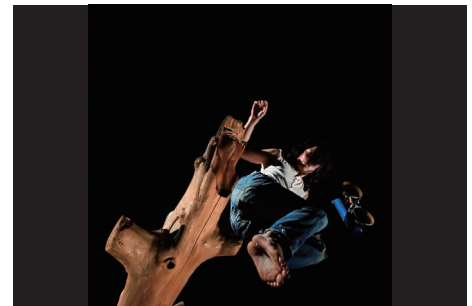
Welcome to a new form of body expression established through filming, editing, screening and presenting, and developed in a project designed to carve out a new vocabulary of dance with a focus on an increasingly diverse image culture.

The dance piece *mass, slide, & .* (2004; composed, directed, choreographed and performed by Tsuyoshi Shirai) that served as a foundation for this project, is an impressive work characterized by a sort of dance that comes to life as the dancer's body encounters a variety of things (such as cube sugar, bowling balls, etc.) scattered about the stage. The performer's actions that are determined through the contacts of the body's own "mass" with "objects" are of a flinging and aggressive nature, yet at once there is an ubiquitous sense of delicacy in the movements tracing the contours of the myriad still objects on stage.

Like a conventional dance piece, this project focuses on the existence of "mass" that crystallizes through the relationship between the human body and inanimate objects, whereas here it is vividly illustrated through the medium of film. The dancing body and moving objects are photographed from various angles, which results in images that convey a mixture of dynamic and a peculiar sense of floating. At the same time, the work incorporates by way of editing and processing the possibilities of choreography in dance. In this unusual presentation of dance, the video images lend the body's subtle movements, the touch, temperature and gravity of things a particular "live" feeling that doesn't come across in a stage performance, while the viewer is given the feeling of sharing the dancer's body from a subjective position.



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



Tsuyoshi Shirai + YCAM video dance project  
"Choreography filmed: 5 days of movement" test shooting (2010)

### Profile



photo: Ryo Shirai

### Tsuyoshi Shirai

#### Choreographer, dancer

Appeared in performances by Kim Itoh + the Glorious Future in 1996-2000. Helped establish "Study of Live works baneto" in 1998, and received the Prix d'Auteur de Conseil Générale de la Seine-Saint-Denis in 2000. In 2004, unveiled *mass, slide, & .*, which won a first prize at the Toyota Choreography Award in 2006. As a dancer, Shirai appeared in *Devil's Story* choreographed by Yuri Ng (2004-05), and *Kin-Jiki (Forbidden Colors)* choreographed by Kim Itoh (2005). In 2006, launched the company "AbsT", and produced the pieces *Shihani - subsoil* and *THECO-zako*, to be performed with seven contemporary musicians, in 2007. Won the first Japan Dance Forum Award in the same year. Since 2006, he has been collaborating with the famous Arditti String Quartet on John Cage's *Apartment House 1776*, touring around ten major Japanese cities. In 2007, he was involved in *true/本当のこと*, a collaborative work by ten artists conceived in-residence and first performed at YCAM before embarking on an ongoing tour around Europe and Brazil among others. In 2009 and '10 he made *Blue Lion* and *Still Life* respectively, both of which were produced and premiered in Kyoto. Also conducted the *Surround Garden* workshop themed around sound and physical expression at YCAM in August 2010.

## Body and dance; editing and choreographing; user and viewer; access and experience...

### Identifying dance with contemporary imagery and viewing/production environments.

While depicting dance by the means of video, this project focuses on aspects of dance from a broader perspective defined by the viewing and production environments of contemporary image culture.

All footage produced will be streamed live via the Internet, to highlight the human body as a subject and object of dance, and showcase the unique expression style of Tsuyoshi Shirai based on accidental and extemporaneous choreographic elements. After the presentation of the finished new video piece, the work itself and all other footage will be made accessible via the Internet, in order to propagate a new experience of performing arts putting a video piece created from the position of a choreographer/dancer side by side with images documenting the birth of dance from within images.



work-in-residence in YCAM (2010)

### The filmed body

#### 35 hours' worth of footage live via the Internet

The entire amount of filmed material - produced in seven hours each over five consecutive days - is made available in the form of Internet live streaming.

Against the backdrop of an increasingly diverse image culture, the project aims to evaluate the possibilities of video and dance, and the meaning of watching dance in times of immediate distribution and access, with a focus on the user's experience of a dancer's body facing an unspecified number of spectators via the video camera.

### Choreographed imagery

#### Footage edited/processed by the artist himself is shown in its entirety

The artist himself edits/processes video images with the aim to find out what kind of choreographed/filmed dance can be created out of movements accumulated over time in the form of recorded data. After the screening of the edited video, it can be viewed online along with all other unedited footage and a timeline of the process. The total sum of filmed and documentary material is going to illustrate the diversity and the creative process of dance spawned through imagery.

### "Choreography filmed: 5days of movement" Project progression

#### Filming + Internet streaming

August 24 (tue) - 28 (sat) 13:00-20:00  
<http://c-filmed.ycam.jp/>

#### Editing

(Image processing/editing by the artist)

#### Screening

(Public presentation of new video piece)

January 23 (sun), 2011 14:00 start

Venue: Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM] Studio C  
Guests: Tsuyoshi Shirai, etc.

Online (All filmed material made accessible via the Internet)

Website will be opened in late January, 2011

<http://c-filmed.ycam.jp/>

### Event data

Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM] residency video production & screening

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Project website <http://c-filmed.ycam.jp/>

Organized by: Yamaguchi City Foundation for Cultural Promotion  
In association with: Yamaguchi City,  
Yamaguchi City Board of Education  
Cooperation: HiWood  
Produced by: Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM]