

Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM]: Exhibition

Seiko Mikami "Desire of Codes" related exhibition

**Seiko Mikami + Sota Ichikawa**  
**"gravicells - gravity and resistance" [revised version]**

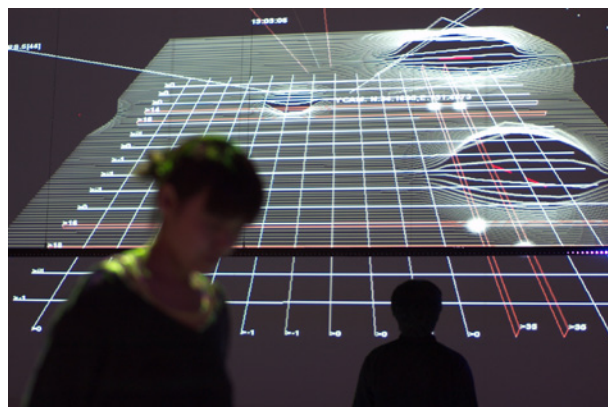
Jan. 24 (Sun) – May 9 (Sun), 2010 10:00 – 19:00

Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM] Studio B Admission Free

**This interactive artwork that was produced and unveiled at YCAM returns to Yamaguchi from a journey around the world**  
**Up-and-coming female artist's extensive solo show**

Seiko Mikami continues to produce works of art that challenge her contemporaries, while critically observing technologies and the ideas behind them with a focus on "information society and the human body" since the 1980s. In connection with the large-scale solo exhibition that opens in March 2010. Also Seiko Mikami and Sota Ichikawa's "gravicells – gravity and resistance" will be shown once again in a revised version.

This work was produced and subsequently unveiled at YCAM in May 2004, from where it embarked on a journey around the world. Celebrated exhibitions at twelve different locations in eight countries, including Tokyo, Berlin and Torino, solidified the piece's reputation as one representative work of media art. This work provides a space with hypothetical dynamics having the opposing forces of gravity and resistance, through special devices and sensors. Walking freely in the site, audiences are able to feel gravity that they are seldom aware of, resistance to it, and the effects caused by other participants. All movements and changes made by participating audiences are transformed into the movements of sound and geometrical images through special sensors, whole space develops or changes in this interactive installation.



"gravicells - gravity and resistance" (2004)

Organized by: Yamaguchi City Foundation for Cultural Promotion  
In association with: Yamaguchi City, Yamaguchi City Board of Education  
Grants from: THE ASAHI SHIMBUN FOUNDATION  
Support: Tama Art University: Media Art Lab.  
Produced by: Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM]  
Co-developed with: YCAM InterLab Curator: Kazunao Abe (YCAM)

**INQUIRY**

Yamaguchi Center for Art and Media [YCAM]  
Public Relations: Fumi Hirota, Aya Tatsumura  
tel: +81-83-901-2222 fax: +81-83-901-2216 e-mail: [information@ycam.jp](mailto:information@ycam.jp)  
7-7 Nakazono-cho Yamaguchi-city 7530075 JAPAN <http://www.ycam.jp>

## New creation of media art through the production, exhibition and circulation of original works

YCAM organize original art works on the theme of "art & science" are being conceived while incorporating information technology, and realized and exhibited with the YCAM InterLab production team's technical developments. Aiming to explore the creative potential of media technology, the numerous works of art that were previously created here highlight at once aspects of the human body and media that we are usually not aware of.

One of these achievements, "gravicells" is certainly an epoch-making interactive work that enables the participating audiences to sense the presence of gravity and its effect on the human body. This artwork that anyone can enjoy without background knowledge in media art and computer, it has been set up in twelve cities in eight countries so far, and continues to fascinate people around the world.

### Explanation

The spatial expression of "gravicells" is rendered consistently by the real time calculation of the dynamics. The on-going dynamic movements are composed of the counter powers around gravity. Gravity is not materialized without the reaction force. In this artwork, it is possible for us to develop a new human sense through feeling gravity differently than usual and having new perception of body. The work provides a space with hypothetical dynamics having the opposing forces of gravity and resistance, through special devices and sensors.

Walking freely in the site, audiences are able to feel gravity that they are seldom aware of, resistance to it, and the effects caused by other participants. All movements and changes made by participating visitors are transformed into the movements of sound and geometrical images through the sensors, so that the whole space develops or changes in this interactive installation. Stand or move around on this unstable flat floor (6m x 6m), and audience are participating in the installation. Each participant becomes "an observation point," and another participant joins to make "plural moving observation points." The number of participants at a time is not limited. On the floor are placed 225 units of 40cm x 40cm cell-like grids, in which specially developed sensors are fixed to detect instantly and continuously the changing position, weight, and speed. Additionally, the position of the exhibition space is simultaneously measured by GPS, and with plural linked GPS satellites as part of the work and the moving direction of GPS is shown as the locus. Then the dynamics of GPS is turned into a simultaneously moving site, and thus the installation space involves the outside environment.

### "gravicells - gravity and resistance" tour schedule

= Premiere =

2004.5.15-6.20

Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM] StudioB

2004.11.9 -11.21

DEAF04 (Rotterdam, Netherlands)

2005.2.4-8

transmediale 2005 (Berlin, Germany)

2005.2.24-3.1

Share Festival (Torino, Italy)

2005.3.10-3.20

VIA 05 (Maubeuge, France)

2005.3.30-4.9

EXIT 05 (Creteil, France)

2005.9.1-19

Ars Electronica 2005 (Linz, Austria)

2005.11.23-12.25

"Possible Futures:" NTT InterCommunication Center [ICC] (Tokyo, Japan)

2006.9.20-10.29

O.O.H 06 festival, Centro de Cultura Antigo Instituto (Gijon, Spain)

2007.2.22-3.7

Mois Multi, salle Multi et le Studio d'essai de la Cooperative Meduse (Montreal, Canada)

2007.4.27-6.27

el medio es la comunicación ElTanque, Espacio Cultural El Tanque (Canarys lands, Spain)

2008.4.19-2009.2.28

"Open Space 2008" NTT InterCommunication Center [ICC] (Tokyo, Japan)

= This exhibition =

2010.1.24-5.9

Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM] StudioB

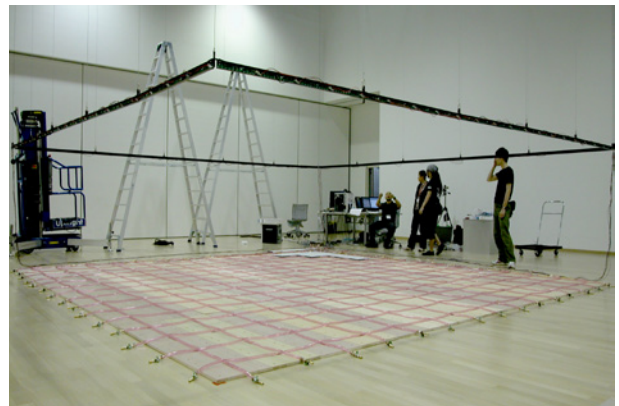
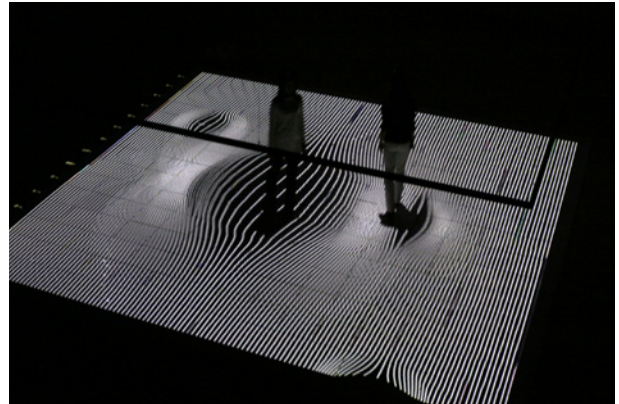


photo : Hiroki Obara

## World premiere of the revised version

### Significant modifications made to enhance the dynamic expression of spatial distortion

The new version of "gravicells" modified and made even more dynamic by the artists with technical support from the YCAM InterLab team. In addition to visuals projected onto the floor, the revised version introduces projections onto four screens that enclose the space. The interlinked visual transformations now take place on a total of five surfaces, resulting in a significantly improved three-dimensional perception from various angles of the spatial deformation caused by the audience's movements and the effect of gravity.



work in-residence at YCAM (2004)

#### Artist Profile

##### Seiko Mikami (Artist)

Seiko Mikami has been showing large-scale installations themed on information society and the human body since the 1980s. In 1990s, most of works are interactive media art installations incorporating human perception, eye tracking project "molecular Informatics" at Canon ARTLAB (96), about acoustic sense and an inner body sound at ICC's permanent correction (97), "gravicells" on the theme of the gravity called the 6th consciousness in YCAM (04). Her works have been exhibited mainly at galleries in Europe and the USA, such as Miro Museum (Spain 99), Musee des Beaux Arts de Nantes (France 2000), Kulturhuset (Sweden 06) and other museums of contemporary art. She also has exhibited works in the field of media art festivals around the world such as DEAF (Rotterdam 95,96,04), transmediale Berlin (Germany 02, 05, 07), SHARE FESTIVAL (Italy 05), Ars Electronica (Austria 05), MoiMulti Quebec (Canada 07), TESLA Berlin (Germany 07), Digital Culture Festival (UK 08). Published "Seiko Mikami Art works" at Diputacion Provincial De Malaga, Spain (04). Professor of Tama Art University.

##### Sota Ichikawa (Architect)

Sota Ichikawa focuses expansion of spatial notation systems in the realm of architecture, and works out program codes in his continuous creation. While experimentation of unique methods and processes of architecture, he engages collaborations with a variety of artists. In 1997 german media artists group Knowbotic Research produced an urban project "10\_DENCIES" in Tokyo, he took part of the local city researching. In 2004, the artist Seiko Mikami and he created "gravicells." On the other side, in 1998 he set an architectural group doubleNegatives Architecture [dNA]. The series of "Corpora Project" was rescaled and shown as an installation "Corpora in Si(gh)te" in Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM] in 2007. This project was chosen as the exhibitor of Hungarian Pavilion at the 11th Venice Architecture Biennale. It's invited and shown in Berlin (Germany) and Linz (Austria). Since 2008, dNA started collaboration project with the artist Fujiko Nakaya, which is interactive fog installation called "MU: Mercurial Unfolding." <http://doubleNegatives.jp>

## Forthcoming exhibition starting in March

# Seiko Mikami, new installation "Desire of Codes"

## The desire of encoding vs. the human body's refusal of being coded

Seiko Mikami creates precise depictions of the gradually transforming relationship between information technology and sensory perception in artworks focusing from unique perspectives on the human body and its forms of existence. This retrospective overview of her activities is a large-scale solo exhibition centering around a new installation piece (commissioned by and created at YCAM), shown here along with two related new works.

The new piece titled "Desire of Codes", exhibited at YCAM's Studio A with 3 different pieces. One consists of a wall installation of objects responding to the movements of audiences (see photo), "laser projector" was equipped with 6 robot arms that follow the movement of the audience from the ceiling and special 3.5m screen that resembles an insect's multifaceted eye.

The entire inorganic apparatus begins to move like a wriggling living being according to the motion detected by built-in small surveillance camera in the exhibition space. The images recorded by these cameras are mixed with footage from surveillance cameras installed at places around the world. Create own database of audience's images the resulting fragmentary recombinations of time and space are projected onto a large insect eyes compound screen.

The central theme of this exhibition is the state of a society in which programming languages, genetic codes, personal information, and even matters of individual interest and taste are being converted into codes. Audience who experience this artwork stands face to face with his or her own observed and encoded existence, the resulting data/codes, and ultimately, the repercussions of "the body as data" and "the desire of codes." By turning the audience's bodies into both the objects of observation and artistic expression, this work aims to redefine our position in a time when all kinds of environments – including those of everyday life – are increasingly being information oriented society.

\*Details will be announced in early February.



Mikami Seiko "Desire of Codes" (2007)  
Art and Digital Culture Berlin "transmediale2007" and Open studio at TESLA 2007

### Mikami Seiko "Desire of Codes"

Mar. 20 (Sat) - Jun. 6 (Sun), 2010

Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media

Admission Free

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

Organized by: Yamaguchi City Foundation for Cultural Promotion

In association with: Yamaguchi City, Yamaguchi City Board of Education

Grants from: THE ASAHI SHIMBUN FOUNDATION

Corporate sponsor: Microvision, Inc.

Support: Tama Art University: Media Art Lab.

The University of Tokyo, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Department of General Systems Studies, Ikegami lab., ATAK, DGN co., Ltd.

Produced by: Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM]

Co-developed with: YCAM InterLab

Curator: Kazunao Abe (YCAM)

## Free gallery tour appreciating works with expert staff

Through the tours, participants will discover together with YCAM educational staff, most attractive features of the exhibition.

\* Application: Please visit YCAM 1F Ticket Information prior to each tour

### "gravicells - gravity and resistance" - gallery Tour

Jan. 24 (Sun), 30 (Sat), 31 (Sun)

Feb. 20 (Sat), 21 (Sun), 27 (Sat), 28 (Sun)

Mar. 13 (Sat), 14 (Sun)

14:00-15:00

### Mikami Seiko "Desire of Codes" - gallery Tour

Mar. 22 (Mon), 27 (Sat), 28 (Sun)

Apr. 10 (Sat), 11 (Sun), 17 (Sat), 18 (Sun)

May 8 (Sat), 9 (Sun), 16 (Sun), 29 (Sat), 30 (Sun)

Jun. 5 (Sat)

14:00-15:00