

Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM] Exhibition / Work-in-residence

**Noritoshi Hirakawa** new installation

**"Beyond the sunbeam through trees"** (commissioned by YCAM)

May 28 (Sat) - August 21 (Sun), 2011 10:00 - 19:00

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

**A new artistic hybrid of installation and performance - internationally renowned artists from different genres present the fruits of their collaboration**

The Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM] is hosting an exhibition of contemporary artist Noritoshi Hirakawa's new installation - a fusion of imagery, sound and body expression conceived with the aim to explore new horizons in artistic expression.

The installation integrates elements of light, imagery and sound that together contain the manifestation of spiritual energy and human awareness. The visitor generates through his activate participation various interaction between the elements of light (sunbeams falling through trees), music and video footage inspired by a single woman's subtle feelings and behavior.

Composer/musician Michael Rother and dancer Yoko Ando took charge of the creation of visuals and sounds that, in concert with the dynamics of light, define the piece's distinctive flavor. Their residence at YCAM was for the three artists a period of mutual inspiration and stimulation, and we are now proud to present the much anticipated result of these internationally renowned creators' first ever collaboration.



**Concurrent Event**

YCAM Work-in-residence / Exhibition

**Yoko Ando** new installation  
**"Reacting Space for Dividual Behavior"**

May 28 (Sat) - August 21 (Sun), 2011

10:00 - 19:00 Admission free

Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM]  
Foyer

**INQUIRY**

Yamaguchi Center for Art and Media [YCAM]

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## Movement and spiritual energy generated through light, imagery of body expression and sound

Contemporary artist Noritoshi Hirakawa has been examining individual interpretations of free will to live utilizing a wide range of styles and rather propositional artistic language since the 1980s. This exhibition introducing his long-awaited new work is an experimental attempt to enhance the methodology of past audiovisual installations produced and presented at YCAM, by adding a performance element to the basic installation incorporating light, imagery and sound.

In this work, the emotions and movements born out of a single woman's struggle are expressed through various technology-based interaction between light, imagery and sound. The audience participation-based system behind this work is designed to channel the spectator's consciousness and energy into a cyclic mechanism that stimulates the female protagonist's consciousness and thus animates the work itself. While experiencing a gradually transforming space-time, visitors will be able to perceive the existence of their own energy.



### Artist Profile



#### Noritoshi Hirakawa

##### Contemporary artist

Born 1960 in Japan. Active as an artist since 1988, moved to New York in 1993. His work encompassing such varied formats as photography, video, dance, installation and performance has been showcased in over 300 exhibitions worldwide at venues including Centre Pompidou, Museum Of Modern Art Frankfurt, PS1, and Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo. Through his works challenging individual perception, Hirakawa addresses such topics as physicality, gender, sexuality, and art itself while focusing on restrictions and taboos brought along by social systems. He produced two films for director Lawrence Weiner in 2008-2010.

[Light]

Noritoshi Hirakawa "Insearch of a Purple Heart" (2005, Salon94New York)

[Left]

Noritoshi Hirakawa "NH Heimweh nach der Heimat" (1996, Theater Am Turm, Frankfurt)

## Internationally operating musicians and dancers collaborate

In charge of the project's musical part is Michael Rother, a founding member of the German legendary band NEU! and Harmonia who is recently experiencing a wave of re-evaluation around the world as a composer and musician. In addition, the piece features projected video footage of dancer Yoko Ando, a central member of William Forsythe's "The Forsythe Company" based in Frankfurt, Germany. In their first ever collaboration, Rother, Ando and Hirakawa - each of them operating in the front lines of their respective fields - explore possibilities of an entirely new artistic format.

#### Michael Rother

##### Composer / Musician

Rother was a member of the original Kraftwerk, and started his own project NEU! in 1971. Today he is an internationally renowned composer and multi-instrumentalist (guitar, keyboards and electronic treatments) who continues to exert massive influence on current forms of electro pop, punk and new wave. Rother formed the band Harmonia in 1973, and has released a total of nine full-length albums as a solo artist since 1976. He has worked and performed with the likes of Brian Eno, John Frusciante and Sonic Youth.

photo: Katja Ruge



## Noritoshi Hirakawa “Beyond the sunbeam through trees”

Collaborating artists: Michael Rother, Yoko Ando

2011 (commissioned by YCAM) | audiovisual installation

### On “Beyond the sunbeam through trees”

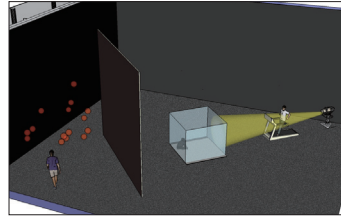
[Text by Noritoshi Hirakawa]

Inspired by the Greek notion of *physis*\*, a primary concept at the foundation of all forms of existence, this work is an installation created by the fine-tuning and influencing of multitudes of human consciences interacting with their respective positive existence.

Amid the darkness, an isolated single human being, a single musician, and an imaginary human being (the audience) aspire for a particular hope for the future, and in turn influence each other and function as a cycle, thus creating this installation.

The exhibition venue is comprised of three spaces, in which contain the transformation for the conscience of a single mediatory being, of the spiritual manifestation and its process. The visual and audio expressions, conceived through internal transformations, are triggered by the interaction of the audience (one of the single figures), and create a variety of interaction within the work. Through the presence of the audience (the other), the darkness becomes illuminated. With the light, the perception of the human being is transformed, and with the transformation, the light brightens. And through the affirmation of one's existence as a catalyst of this installation, the audience understands the human inclination to pursue light, and its conscience conditioned to be led towards primordial energy.

\*Greek origin of such English words as "physics", "physical", etc.



### Forms of interaction

#### 1. Light action:

##### Conversion of the visitor's physical presence into light

When walking on a treadmill installed in the exhibition space, the visitor is illuminated from behind by dazzlingly bright light, resulting in a projection of the person's shadow – together with light – onto a cubic shaped screen-construction placed in the center of the room.

#### 2. Light - imagery:

##### Visualization of the female protagonist's spatial and temporal setting

While illuminated by intense light, the cubic shaped screen-construction is at once projected with images of “one isolated human being”. The transformations of light (sunbeams falling through trees) that penetrates the space are mirrored in gradually changing images on screens on each of the cube's four sides. Yoko Ando's body movements illustrate the stepwise liberation of the female protagonist's body and mind.

#### 3. Light - sound:

##### Chasms in the visitor's perception and recollection

In the third space in the back of the venue, the sound of Michael Rother's electric guitar reverberates in complete darkness. Weak lights appear from the ceiling in the room in concert with the shifting sonic textures, while the sound – coming from multi-channel speakers, and linked to the visual projections on the cube – is gradually dispersed across the entire exhibition space.

## Exhibition opening commemorated with an audiovisual concert

The opening of this exhibition will be celebrated with a special concert as part of the “sound tectonics” series showcasing sound art created using media technology and YCAM's outstanding audiovisual facilities and technologies. In addition to a much-anticipated solo performance by Michael Rother himself, the event features special guests Jim O' Rourke and Y. Sunahara.



Jim O' Rourke

Y. Sunahara

## Event data

## Noritoshi Hirakawa new installation "Beyond the sunbeam through trees"

(commissioned by YCAM)

### Collaborating artists:

**Michael Rother (Musician), Yoko Ando (Dancer)**

**May 28 (Sat) - August 21 (Sun) 10:00-19:00, 2011**

**\*Closed Tuesdays / Admission free**

**Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM] Studio B**

**<http://bstt.ycam.jp/>**

Organized by: Yamaguchi City Foundation for Cultural Promotion  
In association with: Yamaguchi City, Yamaguchi City Board of Education  
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Equipment cooperation: Color Kinetics Japan Incorporated  
Technical support: YCAM InterLab  
Produced by: Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM]  
Curator: Kazunao Abe (YCAM)

### Related Event

#### YCAM Live Concert Series "sound tectonics #9"

**Performers: Michael Rother, Jim O'Rourke, Y.Sunahara**

**May 29 (Sun) 14:30 start / 14:00 open**

**Venue: Studio A**

**Admission (all standing):** [Advanced tickets] ¥3,000 /

"any" members & special discounts ¥2,500 / Under 26 ¥2,300

[Tickets at the door] ¥3,500

#### YCAM ticket information desk:

**Phone: +81-83-920-6111**

(10:00-19:00 / closed on Tuesdays or on Wednesdays in case Tuesday is a public holiday)

**Online: [http://www.ycfcp.or.jp/reserve\\_ticket.php](http://www.ycfcp.or.jp/reserve_ticket.php)**

(open 24 hours, user registration required. Japanese only)

\* Special discount: A special discount is available for seniors over 65, as well as for handicapped persons and one accompanying care person each. Children of preschool age or younger are not admitted.

\* Childcare service: This service is available for children aged six months or older.

Fees: ¥500 for one child; ¥300 per child for two or more children

\* Wheelchairs: Please contact the venue for information

### Gallery tour [16 times during the event period]

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

June 4 (Sat), 5 (Sun), 11 (Sat), 12 (Sun), 25 (Sat), 26 (Sun)

July 2 (Sat), 3 (Sun), 9 (Sat), 10 (Sun), 16 (Sat), 17 (Sun), 30 (Sat), 31 (Sun)

August 6 (Sat), 20 (Sat)

14:00-15:00 Admission free

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

\* Held concurrently with the exhibition of Yoko Ando's new installation.

\* English-speaking participants are welcome to the Gallery Tour.

e-mail [workshop11@ycam.jp](mailto:workshop11@ycam.jp) for more information.

### Related exhibition

**Noritoshi Hirakawa "BRAVO"** (2011),

**"FATMAN"** (2011),

**"Streams By The Wind - Spring Fever - "** (2002),

**"I Am the Mother and I Am the Daughter"** (2002)

### Related Screening (YCAM CINEMA)

#### Director Kaneto Shindo

**July 29 (Fri) - 31 (Sun) Venue: Studio C**

**Admission:** Advanced tickets ¥1,300 /

"any" members, special discounts & Under 26 ¥800

**"Children of Hiroshima"** (1952 / 100 min / Japan),

**"Lucky Dragon No.5"** (1952 / 100 min / Japan),

**"Aru eiga-kantoku no shogai (The Life of a Film Director)"**

(1975 / 150 min / Japan)

#### Director Noritoshi Hirakawa

**August 10 (Wed) - 14 (Sun) Venue: Studio C**

**Admission free**

**"Les temps de rien à Montpellier"** (2001 / 118 min / France, USA

/ Digital) Director / Screenplay: Noritoshi Hirakawa

**"Last Note: A Dialogue between Kaneto Shindo and**

**Benicio del Toro (tentative)"** (2011 / Japan / Digital)

Director / Screenplay: Noritoshi Hirakawa, Toshiyoshi Uratani, Benicio del Toro



Gallery tour