

Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM] Exhibition

LabACT vol.2 We connect to the world through our eyes- Eye-Tracking study
"Eye-Tracking Informatics"

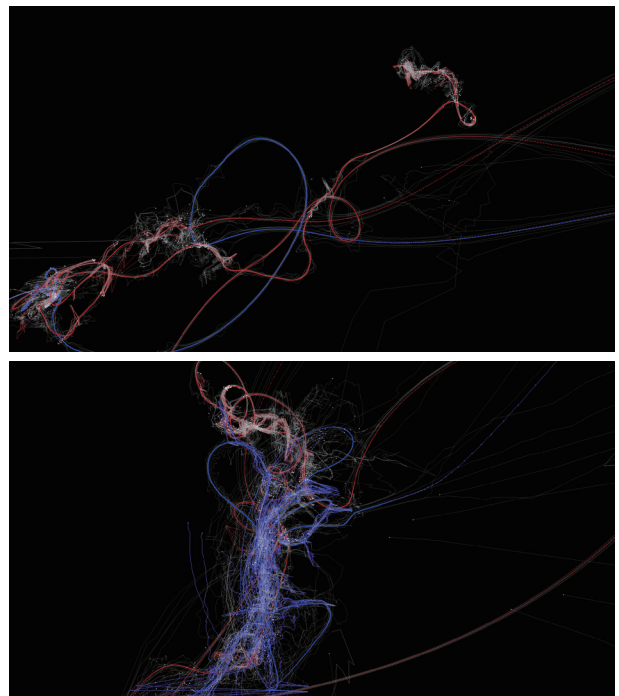
December 4 (Sun), 2011 - March 25 (Sun), 2012 10:00-20:00

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

Masterworks of media art reincarnated through joint development at YCAM
The visualized line of sight stimulates interactive communication with the virtual world.

The Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM] has launched the "LabACT" series of exhibitions showcasing from a broad point of view creative and social values generated through a dialogue between science and art. Following the currently showing "The EyeWriter", in the upcoming second installment artist Seiko Mikami is going to unveil her new installation titled "Eye-Tracking Informatics".

This piece is a remake of one of Mikami's most representative works from the 1990s, in which two participants communicate and navigate within a three-dimensional virtual space through movements of their own visualized lines of sight, updated and enhanced at YCAM by reflecting the latest technological trends. This rather exquisite yet at once dynamic reincarnation in terms of imagery, sound, hardware and other aspects, presents an opportunity for visitors to enjoy a totally new form of spatial sculpting by means of eye-based communication and visualized traces of the eyes' movements.



Seiko Mikami "Eye-Tracking Informatics" (2011)

Press Preview

December 4 (Sun) 15:00-16:30

INQUIRY

Yamaguchi Center for Art and Media [YCAM]
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YCAM New Exhibition Series "LabACT"

Showcasing the creative powers of art in pursuit of technology, and art enabled by technology.

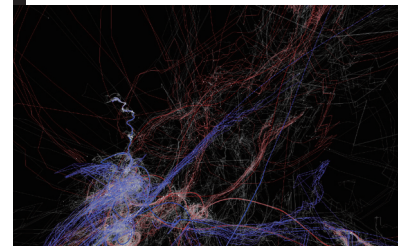
"LabACT" is a new exhibition series at the Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM] focusing on the technical aspects of media art, launched with the goal of introducing creative work inspired by a dialogue between art and science.

Technical explorations in media art based on informatics and media technology help shape social and public nature with regard to next-generation communication. Developed and amassed, they pave the way for new forms of artistic expression. This project is designed to explore by practical research and development further possibilities in media art based on the philosophy of sharing technology, and social aspects such as welfare, while benefiting from the YCAM staff's experience gathered while producing and exhibiting a large number of works in collaboration with artists.

LabACT vol.2

"Eye-Tracking Informatics"

December 4 - March 25, 2012



LabACT vol.1

"The EyeWriter"

October 1 - December 25, 2011



The keyword for 2011 is "eye tracking technology"

Showcasing the creative powers of art in pursuit of technology, and art enabled by technology.

Themed around "eye tracking technology" based on sensing programs that detect changes in the line of sight caused by movements of the pupils, the program for 2011 - divided into two parts - introduces projects by media artists and other socially active creators, as well as artworks involving visual communication. Both parts are characterized by collaborative work reflecting the methods and ideas of engineers, with YCAM's own "InterLab" research and development team being involved in development and updating.

The first installment of "LabACT" is dedicated to

The EyeWriter, a project launched with the aim of developing a device for drawing using the eyes. The exhibition outlines the project at large, and introduces two specific works that are at once applications of open-source software. In volume two of the series, Seiko Mikami unveils her new work *Eye-Tracking Informatics*, an installation piece exploring the concept of "observing the act of observation." In this upgraded version of Mikami's previous work *Molecular Informatics* (1996), two participants engage in an almost "haptic" dialogue via imagery visualizing their respective lines of vision in a shared virtual space. By technically updating one of the world's most prominent works of media art, the installation aims to explore the expanse of artistic expression facilitated by technology.

An experience of haptic communication as generated by the visualized line of sight

In her artistic work, Seiko Mikami is consistently pursuing the connection between information society and the human body as a central theme. In "Molecular Informatics", one of her most well-known works made in 1996, the eye movements of participants wearing eye control devices are visualized as sequences of molecules in a virtual space, resulting in three-dimensional shapes drawn "with the eyes". At a time when eye control technology itself was still new and uncommon, this attempt to introduce such technology into the realm of art had a major impact on the international art scene as soon as it was unveiled, and was subsequently showcased around the world in repeatedly upgraded versions. However, as it was not developed to correspond with the rapidly advancing information technology, the work as such was not publicly exhibited for several years.

This exhibition presents "Eye-Tracking Informatics", a technically updated and enhanced remake of this distinguished work of media art.



Seiko Mikami "Molecular Informatics Ver 3.0" (1998)
Maison des Arts CRETEIL&Le Manège Maubeuge France
photo:Miwa Koizumi

Seiko Mikami "Eye-Tracking Informatics"

Comissioned by YCAM | 2011 | Installation

Based on the ideas of "observing the act of observation" and "consciously and unconsciously established lines of vision", this installation generates traces of two participants' respective lines of sight. The participants experience an almost "haptic" kind of communication based on their own visualized lines of sight in a three-dimensional virtual space. In this process, their respective lines of vision enact a complex, organic architectural construct that could be considered as "bioarchitecture".

In this remake, the implementation of the open-source project "The EyeWriter ver 2.0" made it possible to utilize eye control technology without wearing any device, and to navigate unrestrictedly within the naked eye's broad field of view. Thanks to the contributions of such noted artists as evala and Norimichi Hirakawa (collaborating as guest programmers), elements of imagery, sound and interactivity of the original work were updated to such an extent that this new version can be regarded as a completely new piece of art.

Seiko Mikami

Artist, Professor of Tama Art University

Since the 1980s, has been showing large-scale installations themed on information society and the human body. In 1990s, most of works are interactive media art installations incorporating human perception, eye tracking project molecular Informatics, about acoustic sense and the living body sound World Membrane, gravicells on the theme of the gravity called the 6th consciousness and Desire of Codes focus in coded individual at information society.

Her Art works were show at Miro Museum, Musee des Beaux Arts de Nantes, Kuenstlerhaus Vienna, Kulturhuset Stockholm and Canon ARTLAB. Also show at the number of international Media Art Festival such as transmediale Berlin, DEAF Rotterdam, SHARE Torin, Ars Electronica Linz, MoiMulti Quebec, TESLA Berlin, Velocity UK, Dortmund Center for Art and Creativity and ISEA and theother. Solo exhibition Desire of Codes held at Yamaguchi Center for Art and Media [YCAM], InterCommunicationCenter[ICC]and from 2012, will travel to around the world. Published Seiko Mikami Artworks at Diputacion Provincial De Malaga Spain.

Related event

YCAM Gallery tour [16 times during the event period]

[2011]

December 10 (Sat), 17 (Sat), 18 (Sun)

[2012]

January 7 日 (Sat), 8 (Sun), 14 (Sat), 15 (Sun)

February 11 (Sat), 12 (Sun), 18 (Sat), 19 日 (Sun), 25 (Sat), 26 (Sun)

March 17 (Sat), 18 (Sun), 25 (Sun)

14:00-15:00 Admission free

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

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



Gallery Tour

the current exhibition

LabACT vol.1 "The EyeWriter"

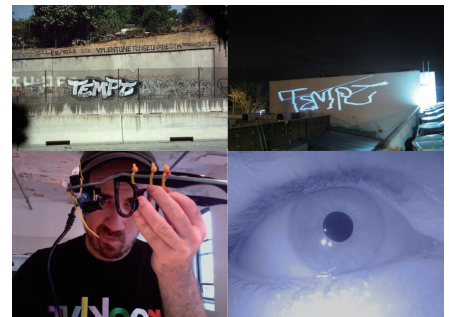
October 1 (Sat)- December 25 Sun) 10:00 - 20:00

[Hands-on time: 11:00-17:00]

Venue: Foyer Admission free

Created by: Zach Lieberman, Evan Roth, James Powderly, Theo Watson, Chris Sugrue, Tempt1

An extensive introduction to "The EyeWriter", an open-source project aiming to develop devices for drawing by just moving the eyes that was also incorporated in the work "Eye-Tracking Informatics", the event includes an exhibition of exonemo's "eyeWalker" and Semitra's "eyeFont", both of which are based on the same technology.



© Tempt1, Evan Roth, Chris Sugrue,
Zach Lieberman, Theo Watson and James Powderly

Event data

LabACT vol.2 We connect to the world through our eyes- Eye-Tracking study "Eye-Tracking Informatics"

December 4 (Sun) - March 25 (Sun), 2012 11:00-17:00

Venue : Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM] StudioB

Admission free

[Visitors are admitted in pairs in the order of reception.]

Organized by: Yamaguchi City Foundation for Cultural Promotion

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

Cooperation: Tama Art University Media Art Lab., NTT InterCommunication Center [ICC]

Corporate sponsors: Color Kinetics Japan Incorporated

Co-developed with: YCAM InterLab

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

Sound Programming: evala

Visual Programming: Norimichi Hirakawa

Curator: Kazunao Abe (YCAM)

Technical director: Takayuki Ito (YCAM InterLab)