

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

Yoko Ando new installation

"Reacting Space for Dividual Behavior" (commissioned by YCAM)

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

Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM] Foyer Admission Free

Dancer Yoko Ando's interactive installation co-developed with YCAM

**Creating new awareness of the human body in an experimental environment
with a focus on body mechanics**

The Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM] hosts an exhibition of "Reacting Space for Dividual Behavior", an interactive installation co-developed by YCAM and dancer Yoko Ando, a central member of The Forsythe Company.

In this work, Ando focuses on methods of intellection, perception and communication in the realm of physical expression that she has cultivated during her career to date, and illustrates these subjects by means of an installation to be experienced by every visitor to the Center. Through their interaction with the virtual environment that is part of the installation, visitors can discover movements, memories and motifs that lie dormant in their own bodies.

Applying the structure of various installations shown at YCAM in the past to the realm of body expression, the piece encourages visitors to perceive aspects of space, body and movement in an entirely new way. During the exhibition period, the potentials of this work as an experimental environment for rediscovering one's body will be widely showcased also in a workshop and demonstration with/by the artist herself, using the actual display at YCAM.



The William Forsythe "Heterotopia" (Dancer: Yoko Ando)
photo: Sylvio Dittrich



The Forsythe Company "Theatrical Arsenal II"
(Dancer: Yoko Ando, Yasutake Shimaji) photo: Dominik Mentzos

Concurrent Event

YCAM Work-in-residence / Exhibition

Noritoshi Hirakawa new installation
"Beyond the sunbeam through trees"

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

10:00 - 19:00 Admission free

Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM] Studio B

INQUIRY

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山口情報芸術センター
Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media

Yoko Ando's own body language showcased as a methodology of dance

Implementing aspects of intellection, perception and communication in physical expression

Yoko Ando has been operating in the front line of the international contemporary dance scene as a central member of The Forsythe Company. Working with the Company since 2001, under William Forsythe she developed her very own body language, intuition and philosophy of dance, which have been reflected also in the projects and solo performances Ando has been engaging in lately.

By addressing issues related to the human body and the sensibility of a dancer that she has cultivated during her career to date, Ando aims to generate an experimental environment for us to rediscover our perception of the human body and the surrounding space, as well as the various unconscious movements, memories and motifs that lie dormant in our bodies. Incorporating technologies and suggestions provided by the YCAM InterLab team of experts specializing in the creation of media art, this "intellection, perception and communication in physical expression" themed new installation examines the relationships between body mechanics, surrounding environments, and our perception of these, with the aim to sublimate these aspects into an innovative methodology through effective use of media technology.

The experience of this installation will be an opportunity for visitors to discover and exploit a professional dancer's perception of the body, while at the same time encountering new possibilities of their own bodies' innate movements and imaginations.



photo: Dominik Mentzos



photo: Hirohiko Ikeda



photo: Dominik Mentzos

Artist Profile



Yoko Ando

Dancer

www.yokoando.com

Ando embarked on a career as a dancer after meeting Kuniko Kasaki in 1989, and appeared in numerous dance performances choreographed by Akira Kasai and Kota Yamazaki among others. While choreographing and performing her own solo pieces since 1997, Ando also starred in Hideki Noda's pieces with Noda Map, an opera with Robert Lepage and conductor Seiji Ozawa, and Ryuichi Sakamoto's opera "LIFE". In 2001, she was discovered by William Forsythe and joined the Ballett Frankfurt. Having performed 33 different pieces with the company, Ando now enjoys a worldwide reputation as a leading dancer and central member of The Forsythe Company. In Japan, she continues to work on her own projects while collaborating with other dance companies as a guest performer or choreographer.

New installation based on joint research and development in physical expression

Discovering the body's hidden movements by way of contact with virtual objects

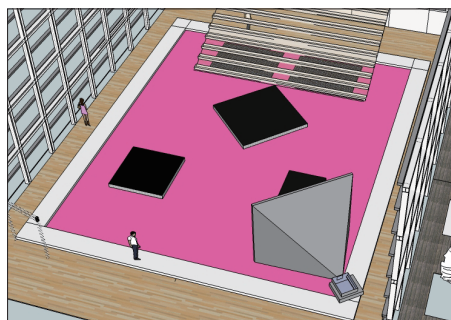
The installation "Reacting Space for Dividual Behavior" functions as a mechanism that temporarily dismantles the continuity of the visitors' movements and body images, in order to encourage them to explore a variety of perspectives of the body, and rediscover their own features and physical reactions.

Several invisible (virtual) objects are distributed across the exhibition space, to be perceived by the visitor via sounds and images triggered by interaction of the physically present body with the virtual environment that contains these objects. In a setting where real and virtual overlap, unpredictable physical reactions and new perspectives on the body refresh the visitor's perception of space, the human body, and its movements.

Yoko Ando "Reacting Space for Dividual Behavior"

audiovisual installation / 2011 (commissioned by YCAM)

This latest work of Yoko Ando is designed to function as a mechanism that temporarily dismantles the continuity of the participants' movements and body images, in order to encourage them to explore a variety of perspectives of the body, and rediscover their own features and physical reactions. Installed in the exhibition space is a system that synthesizes in real-time images of the participant and virtual objects distributed across the room, whereas the participant perceives that virtual environment by way of sounds and monitors placed on three separate stages inside the venue. These monitors show images of the participant together with motion and position information; pictures of the invisible objects synthesized in real-time; footage of the broad "stage" area from various angles; and images of the participant filmed only seconds earlier. The participant on the stages senses how various actions are triggered by the relationship with the virtual space, while feeding back the information of his/her body's unpredictable reactions and multiple-perspective video images into his/her own perception. Through the experience of this work, along with new discoveries related to space, body and movement, the participant can witness the very moment the body's cerebration process begins.



sketch drawing

1. Dismantling uniform body images

Every contact of a visitor on the stage with one of the virtual objects triggers a sound. From the various different sounds that reverberate in the exhibition space, visitors can sense the presence of invisible objects, and imagine their positions in the virtual environment that surrounds their own physically present bodies. The awareness of the real, physical body, together with that of its positions in the virtual environment, results in a chasm of sorts in the visitor's uniform body image, which at the same time cuts off the continuity of his movements. This new relationship between the body and its surrounding space generates in the visitor a quite unusual body sensation and perception.

2. Gaining new perspectives of the body and its spatial environment

Monitor displays allow visitors to grasp from an objective point of view their own position in the virtual environment, and their body's physical presence in the real exhibition space (stage). By moving on the stage in a trial-and-error fashion while picking up various information surrounding the body that one is normally not aware of, the visitor triggers one (re)action after another.

Through the process of spatially grasping the surrounding environment and his own position therein by way of movement, the visitor gains a new sensation of his own body and the space around it.

Event data

Yoko Ando new installation "Reacting Space for Dividual Behavior"

(commissioned by YCAM)

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

***Closed Tuesdays / Admission free**

Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM] Foyer

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

*On May 28th, the works will be on display until 20:30. Please also note that due to concurrent events at the Center, entry (interaction) to Reacting Space for Dividual Behavior will not be possible on May 28, 18:00-19:40, and on August 20, 12:30-19:00.

Related Events

Demonstration performance

Performer: Yoko Ando (Dancer / The Forsythe Company)

May 28 (Sat) 19:00 - 19:40

Venue: Foyer Admission free

Artist Yoko Ando will give a demonstration of her new installation piece using the actual display at YCAM.

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 Noritoshi Hirakawa's new installation.

* English-speaking participants are welcome to the Gallery Tour.
e-mail workshop11@ycam.jp for more information.

'Reacting Space for Dividual Behavior' Workshop

Lecturer: Yoko Ando

Guests: Amancio Gonzalez, Yasutake Shimaji

August 20 (Sat) 13:00 - 17:00

Venue: Foyer Admission: ¥1,000

Yoko Ando hosts a body expression-themed workshop based around her new installation. Guest instructors will be dancers Amancio Gonzalez and Yasutake Shimaji, both members of The Forsythe Company.

Target group: High school-age students and older, experienced in dance, theatre, music, martial arts or other form of physical expression/activity (any genre).

* English-speaking participants are welcome to the workshop.
e-mail workshop11@ycam.jp for more information.

Organized by: Yamaguchi City Foundation for Cultural Promotion
In association with: Yamaguchi City, Yamaguchi City Board of Education
Co-developed with: YCAM InterLab
Produced by: Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM]
Sound design: Masashi Heirakuji
Visual programming: Satoru Higa
Curator: Kazunao Abe (YCAM)

Concurrent Event

YCAM Work-in-residence / Exhibition

**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), 2011

10:00 -19:00 Admission free

Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM]
Studio B



Yoko Ando