

YCAM Research and Development / Symposium

Symposium "Forsythe Dance Study Exchange"

March 3 (Sat), 2012 13:30-16:30

Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM] Studio A

Admission: Free / Advance application required (Application period: Jan 4 - Feb 25)

Born from the ideas of choreographer William Forsythe

A long-term project exploring the potentials of dance and media technology

The Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM] is carrying out the "Reactor for Awareness in Motion" project focusing on the research and development of tools for dance production built upon the ideas of William Forsythe, a choreographer who has had a profound impact on the realm of contemporary physical expression, as a basic concept, with the aim to explore new possibilities in dance.

Coming up next is a symposium with guest speakers that serves at once as an occasion for an interim report, and an opportunity to introduce study cases of the Ohio State University's research and development team, dealing with common themes surrounding William Forsythe, dance, and technology.

The project is designed to investigate ways of technically understanding the act of dance through observations of the body and how it receives and processes environmental information, as well as working out possible future approaches from the creative side. This event will showcase the present state of physical expression, while interpreting the endeavors of research and development teams from Japan and the USA in comparison with historical examples related to the combination of dance and technology; all from the viewpoint of dance defined by the mechanisms and perception systems of the human body.



Research at YCAM (2011)

Symposium "Forsythe Dance Study Exchange"

Presenters

- Benjamin Schroeder
(Researcher in computer science / The Ohio State University)
- YCAM InterLab + Yoko Ando (Dancer / The Forsythe Company)
- Riley Watts (Dancer / The Forsythe Company)

Guest Speakers

- Takashi Ikegami
(Researcher in complex systems / University of Tokyo, Japan)
- Johannes Birringer
(Media choreographer / Brunel University, UK)

INQUIRY

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Expanding the definition of dance, and reconsidering the creative process

New dance tools co-developed with internationally active dancer Yoko Ando

YCAM and dancer Yoko Ando, a core member of The Forsythe Company, have been engaged since 2011 in a two-year project dedicated to the development of tools for dance production utilizing media technology.

The project's concept is based on the ideas, methods and body consciousness cultivated by William Forsythe, a choreographer who has had a profound impact on the realm of contemporary physical expression even beyond the framework of dance. Rather than requiring dancers to master predefined choreographic settings, these tools are designed to stimulate the establishment of "rules" for spontaneous movement by emphasizing communication among dancers, and expanding the conception of dance as the ability to adapt to the stage environment. The ultimate goal is to develop versatile tools that not only provide stimulation for the creative work of professional dancers, but that are helpful also for general users without any experience in the field of dance, serving as tools for reacquiring bodily sensations that are increasingly diluted in contemporary society.

About the system that is currently under development

YCAM and dancer Yoko Ando, a core member of The Forsythe Company, have been engaging since 2011 in a two-year project dedicated to the development of tools for dance production utilizing media technology.

The project's concept is based on the ideas, methods and body consciousness cultivated by William Forsythe, a choreographer who has been exerting a profound impact on the realm of contemporary physical expression also beyond the framework of dance. Accordingly, these tools are designed to stimulate the establishment of "rules" for spontaneous movement by emphasizing the communication among dancers, and expanding the conception of dance to the ability to adapt to the stage environment, rather than requiring from dancers to master predefined choreographic settings. The ultimate goal is to develop versatile tools that not only provide stimulation for the creative work of professional dancers, but that are helpful also for general users without any experience in the field of dance, serving as tools for reacquiring bodily sensations that are increasingly diluted in the contemporary human.

Project Contents

2011

Symposium

(Cross-national exchange of study results)

2012

Development of dance production tools

Demonstration performance

2013

Development of educational tools

Workshop



Yoko Ando "Reacting Space for Dividual Behavior" (2011)

Artists and researchers from Japan and abroad exchange the latest case examples

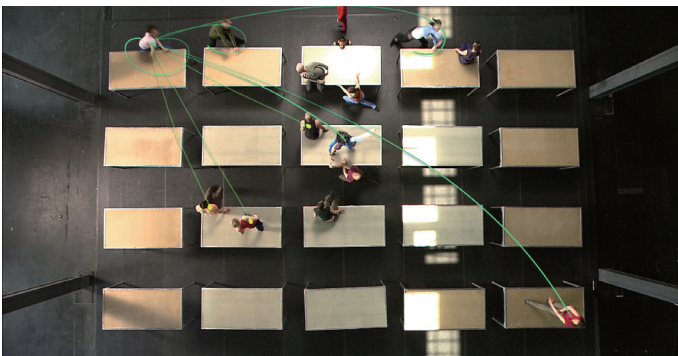
Exploring the possibilities of body expression based on the keywords "Forsythe", "dance" and "technology"

The upcoming "Forsythe Dance Study Exchange" symposium will be an occasion for an interim report, interspersed with demonstrations by Yoko Ando. The program further includes a presentation of the "Synchronous Objects" research project by the Ohio State University's ACCAD; inspired, like YCAM's own research, by the ideas of William Forsythe. The program also includes a discussion with invited researchers from Japan and abroad. Against the backdrop of advanced motion capture, gesture analysis and other technologies for acquiring environmental information surrounding our bodies, the symposium will be an opportunity to debate in depth and from a critical viewpoint ways of perceiving the act of dance, and possible future approaches from the creative side.

Ohio State University ACCAD "Synchronous Objects" (2009)

"One Flat Thing, Reproduced", a dance piece choreographed by William Forsythe for an ensemble of 17 dancers, was first performed in 2000. This work was made based on the approach of examining and reconfiguring the classical choreography rule known as "counterpoint".

"Synchronous Objects", developed by Forsythe together with the Ohio State University's ACCAD, combines analyses of performance footage shot from two different angles (frontal and aerial view), and interviews with the featured dancers, resulting in a visual document that illustrates by means of computer graphics how dancers interpret fixed choreographic patterns as themes during the performance; how they observe each other; and how they collectively determine the flow of the dance.



Ohio State University ACCAD "Synchronous Objects" (2009)

Time Schedule

13:30-14:20

Presentation 1 Ohio State University ACCAD

Synchronous Objects

Developer Benjamin Schroeder will give a presentation introducing "Synchronous Objects", a joint research project by William Forsythe and the Ohio State University's ACCAD aimed exploring various methods for visualizing dance.

14:35-15:25

Presentation 2 YCAM InterLab + Yoko Ando

Reactor for Awareness in Motion

Following an introduction and explanation of the concept and technical aspects involved in the system that is currently being developed by the YCAM InterLab team and Yoko Ando, the artist herself will give a demonstration together with dancer Riley Watts.

15:35-16:30

Discussion

Discussion with guest speakers, exchanging views on their respective projects.

Guest speaker: Takashi Ikegami, Johannes Birringer

Takashi Ikegami

received his doctorate in physics from the University of Tokyo in 1989. Currently, he is a professor at the University of Tokyo (at the Department of General System Studies). His research is centered on complex systems and artificial life, a field which aims to build a theory of life using dynamical systems perspectives. In 1998 his research interests shifted to embodied cognition and evolutionary robotics. Recently he has been working in a collaboration focused on chemical experiments involving self-moving oil droplets, and also on using autonomous robots to understand new concepts of biological robustness. Some of these results have been published in "Life Emerges in Motion" from Seido Book Publishers in 2007.

Johannes Birringer

is a choreographer and artistic director of AlienNation Co, and co-founder of a telematic performance collective (ADaPT). He has directed numerous multimedia theatre, dance, and digital performances in Europe, the Americas, and China; collaborated on site-specific installations, and exhibited work at film and video festivals. Author of Theatre, Theory, Postmodernism (1991), Media and Performance (1998), Performance on the Edge (2000), Performance, Technology and Science (2009). Founder of Interaktionslabor, and co-director of DAP-Lab, Brunel University, where he is Professor of Performance Technologies.

Presenters

Yoko Ando

embarked on a career as a dancer after meeting Kuniko Kisanuki in 1989. While choreographing and performing her own solo pieces since 1997. 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.

Benjamin Schroeder

is a researcher, artist, and engineer. His interests span several different time-based media including animation, sound, and physical interaction.

Working on the Synchronous Objects project, Benjamin designed and developed the creative and pedagogical Counterpoint Tool. More recently Benjamin produced an immersive Counterpoint Tool using cameras and projection for the installation work "Synchronous Objects, reproduced" in 2010.

Benjamin is presently a Ph.D. candidate in computer science at The Ohio State University. He works as a software engineer for Google.

Riley Watts

Born in Bangor, Maine, USA. Studied at the Thomas School of Dance, the Walnut Hill School for the Arts and The Juilliard School. Danced previously with Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet, Bern:Ballett and Netherlands Dance Theater II. Recipient of a Princess Grace Award for Modern Dance in 2006. Member of The Forsythe Company since 2010.

YCAM InterLab

produces art and theater works within YCAM's commission works, as well as producing technological aspects of educational programs at YCAM, and acting as technical support for invited exhibitions and performances. YCAM Interlab not only collaborates with visiting artists and outside engineers, but also collaborate with other cultural facilities and research institutions, and pursue their own independent research and development projects.

Event data

Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM] Research and Development Symposium "Forsythe Dance Study Exchange"

Presenters: Benjamin Schroeder, YCAM InterLab + Yoko Ando, Riley Watts

Guest Speakers: Takashi Ikegami, Johannes Birringer

March 3(sat) 13:30-16:30 (Venue opens 30 minutes prior to the start)

Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM] Studio A

Admission: Free / Advance application required (Application period: Jan 4 - Feb 25)

*English interpretation available

*Children of preschool age or younger are not admitted

Childcare service

This service is available for children aged six months or older.

Times: From 30 minutes prior to the symposium until 30 minutes after the event

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

Application: Applications must be made until February 25th via the information desk.

Wheelchairs

Please contact the venue for information.

Organized by: Yamaguchi City Foundation for Cultural Promotion

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Cooperation: Goethe-Institut

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

How to apply

Apply by postcard, fax, e-mail or phone to:

Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media, "Forsythe Dance Study Exchange"

7-7 Nakazono-cho, Yamaguchi, 7530075 JAPAN TEL: +81-83-901-2222 FAX: +81-83-901-2216 e-mail:fdse@ycam.jp

Please indicate your name, address, sex, age and contact information such as phone number or e-mail address.