Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM] Research and Development

YCAM InterLab + Yoko Ando Joint Research and Development
"Reactor for Awareness in Motion"

Presentation
2013-2-23(Sat) 14:00-16:00   Admission: 1,000 Yen

Workshop
2013-2-23(Sat) 18:00-22:00 + 24 (Sun) 10:00-17:00 *2days
Admission: 2,000 Yen (Includes Admission for the presentation) *Reservation Required

Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM] Studio A

The evolving relationship between body and perception mediated by technology
Introducing the outcome of YCAM's Joint Research Project with Yoko Ando

With the aim of exploring new possibilities in dance and technology, YCAM, together with Yoko Ando, a leading dancer from The Forsythe Company, and software development experts from US and Japan, carried out the "Reactor for Awareness in Motion" project, focusing on the research and development of tools for dance creation. Research participants, including Ando and YCAM InterLab, will present results from the project, inviting Cyril Baldy as a guest demonstrator. A workshop in which participants create a dance piece using the tools developed in the project will take place as well. What would a body express when sensing, the information around it, as mediated by a technological interface. The realm where the body and technology meet has even come to the forefront of the world of entertainment, in both films and games. This event provides you the opportunity to explore and experience cutting edge ideas.

Ando demonstrating in front of the installation, developed as part of RAM

▌ RAM Development Team

- Yoko Ando (Dancer/The Forsythe Company)
- YCAM InterLab
- Satoru Higa (Programmer/Artist)
- Yoshito Onishi (Artist)
- Motoi Shimizu (Programmer)
- Kyle McDonald (Artist)

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

RAM: A machine that expands our notion of body movement.
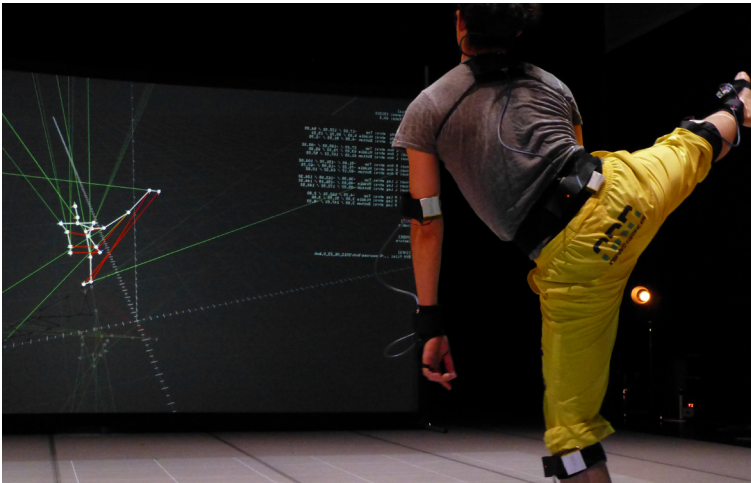
Together with Yoko Ando, YCAM has been working on the "Reactor for Awareness in Motion (RAM)" project, focusing on the research and development of tools for dance creation, since 2011. RAM is based on the idea of perceiving dance as something generated from a dialogue between bodies and the environment, stage space and other dancers, rather than pre-determined choreography. A new scheme of dance accompanying a different perception of the body emerges from this conception. Through this project, a tool has been developed that can apply a virtual environment to a dancer's body. Dancers inherently discover rules and strategies to create new dance with this tool.

RAM Dance Toolkit

The tool currently being developed uses motion capture technology to detect the movements of dancers, then converts the responses from the surrounding environment into images, sounds and vibrations. Since the environment can be programmed by the users, the application's potential is great. Once development is completed, the tool will be packaged as "RAM Dance Toolkit" and made publicly available as open source. An education program utilizing the tool is to in development as well.

▌ Yoko Ando (Dancer)

Ando embarked on a career as a dancer after meeting Kuniko Kisaki 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, and Ryuichi Sakamoto's opera "LIFE". In 2001, she was discovered by William Forsythe and joined the Ballett Frankfurt. 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. In 2011, She exhibited the interactive installation co-developed with YCAM, "Reacting Space for Dividual Behavior".

▌ 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.

Meet the cutting-edge of dance and technology: Presentation and Workshop

At the end of the two-year research project, research participants will present their results. A workshop is currently being developed in which participants will create a dance piece using the tool.

Presentation (2/23)

Sharing the philosophy of body and dance behind RAM, we will reflect on the process of shaping these ideas into a tool. In addition to explaining the technical aspects of the technology either motion capture, sensors and software, Cyril Baldy from The Forsythe Company will demonstrate the tool.

Workshop (2/23+2/24)

Using the tool, dancers, choreographers and programmers will create a production in 2 days. Research participants Yoko Ando, YCAM InterLab, Yoshito Onishi, Satoru Higa, Motoi Shimizu, Kyle McDonald and Cyril Baldy will demonstrate how to use the tool, describe its technical details and conduct an interactive exercise. By building mutual understanding, participants will create a dance piece as a group. It is hoped that this workshop, where cutting edge dancers and programmers gather, facilitates collaboration between dance and technology and expands the boundaries of what art can accomplish.

Satoru Higa (Programmer / Artist)

b. 1983. Currently works for Rhizomatiks co.,ltd. Higa programs digital visual system and writes edits software. He also creates improvisational performances, installations and live performances.

Yoshito Onishi (Artist)

b. 1986. Applying programming to the creative process, Onishi creates refined paintings and sculptures with electronic circuits and living organisms. He has participated in various other artists' projects as video artist, designer, software and hardware developer.

Motoi Shimizu (Programmer)

After working as a web engineer, Shimizu studied at the Institute of Advanced Media Arts and Sciences. He now works as a freelance programmer, focusing on the concepts of "Real world orientation", "Interactivity", and "Networking".

Kyle McDonald (Artist)

a media artist who works with code, from interactive installations to tactical performance. He regularly contributes to open source arts-engineering initiatives such as openFrameworks, with an emphasis on interaction and computer vision. He advocates critical openness, and tries to push the limits of sharing in his daily practice.

Cyril Baldy (Dancer)

b. 1980 in Woippy, France. Studied at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Paris. He received a State Diploma in dance history, anatomy, music, and dance.
His joined NDT II and NDT I where he worked with William Forsythe, Jiri Kylian Ohad Naharin, Paul Lightfoot, Johan Inger, Hans van Manen and more. Since 2002 he has join Ballet Frankfurt and than The Forsythe Company.

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Outline

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"Reactor for Awareness in Motion"

Presentation

2013-2-23(Sat) 14:00–16:00

@ Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media - Studio A
Presenters: YCAM InterLab, Yoko Ando, Yoshito Onishi, Satoru Higa
Demonstrator: Cyril Baldy
Admission: 1,000 Yen

*6 years-old and up

YCAM InterLab **+** Yoko Ando Joint Research and Development
"Reactor for Awareness in Motion"

Workshop

2013-2-23(Sat) 18:00-22:00 + 24 (Sun) 10:00-17:00 *2days

@ Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media - Studio A
Instructors: Yoko Ando, YCAM InterLab, Yoshito Onishi, Satoru Higa, Motoi Shimizu, Kyle McDonald, Cyril Baldy, Atsushi Tadokoro
Admission: 2,000 Yen (Includes Admission for the presentation)
*Reservation Required
For dancers, choreographers and programmers who are interested in creativity based on dance and technology. Programmers are suggested to be familiar with openFrameworks.
Items to bring: Laptop computer (recommended minimum specs= CPU: Core2Duo, 2.33 GHZ / Memory: 2 GB / OS: Windows 7 or Mac OS X 10.6 / have openFrameworks 0073 installed), work-out clothes and shoes
UP to 30 participants

*All participants are encouraged to join the presentation on the 23rd.

Organized by: Yamaguchi City Foundation for Cultural Promotion
In association with: Yamaguchi City, Yamaguchi City Board of Education
Supported by the Agency for Cultural Affairs, Government of Japan in the fiscal 2012
Special support: Goethe Institut
Equipment cooperation: NAC Image Technology, Motion Analysis Corporation, Color Kinetics Japan Incorporated
Produced by: Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM]

▌ Ticket Information

* Available from 1/12 (Sat)

Admission: 1,000 Yen [general seating]

TEL:
Yamaguchi City Foundation for Cultural Promotion Ticket Information

083-920-6111

10:00 - 19:00
*Closed on Tuesday (or Wednesday in case Tuesday is public holiday)

WEB:

www.ycfcp.or.jp

*Pre-registration required.

▌ How to apply

Email or FAX the items below

- Name, Address, Male / Female, Date of Birth
- TEL or Email Address
- Dancer / Choreographer / Programmer
(Be specific if not above)
-Previous experience in dance,
 programming or other relevant activities.

to

workshop@ycam.jp

or

083-901-2216

Accepted from 1/12 (Sat)

Childcare service (only "Presentation")

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 16th via the information desk.

Wheelchairs

Please contact the venue for information.