

## Heiner Goebbels "Stifters Dinge"

July 13 (Sat), 19:00 / July 14 (Sun), 14:00 & 19:00 / July 15 (Mon / National holiday), 14:00  
Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM] Studio A

**Light, sound, voices, fog, wind, water, ice, paintings, and five pianos**  
**A mechanical "nature" filled with the noises of myriad things**

As part of the YCAM 10th anniversary program, leading contemporary composer/stage director Heiner Goebbels's performance/installation piece "Stifters Dinge" is staged for the first time in Japan at the Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM].

Having started his career as a composer, Goebbels has produced a number of so-called "music theater" pieces combining text reading and music since the 1990s. One of them is "Stifters Dinge", conceived as a "theater play without human performers."

Appearing in this piece instead of human performers are various elements that are omnipresent in our direct environments, such as fog, wind, water, ice and sand, as well as five pianos piled up in the center of the stage, playing music accompanied by human voices talking about nature. Connected to one another, all these things keep transforming to produce one spectacular "natural" setting for the performance to unfold.

The piece encourages viewers to rediscover the acts of watching and listening, and provides a deep insight about aspects of "Art / Environment / Life", at once the general theme of the 10th anniversary program. Don't miss this opportunity to experience one of Heiner Goebbels's most outstanding works.



Heiner Goebbels "Stifters Dinge"  
Photo and Copyright: MARIO DEL CURTO

### Related Events

July 13, 2013 (Sat) 15:00 - 17:00

Lecture (lecturer: Morihiko Niino)

July 14, 2013 (Sun) 15:45 - 17:00

YCAM 10th Anniversary Program Opening Talk

Ryuichi Sakamoto + Heiner Goebbels

ART / ENVIRONMENT / LIFE

[INQUIRY]

## Heiner Goebbels, leading composer/director in the contemporary music and theater scene



Heiner Goebbels "ERARITJARITJAKA" (2004)  
Photo and Copyright: MARIO DEL CURTO

The diverse work of Heiner Goebbels extends across various artistic genres. After studying music and sociology, he embarked on his career as a composer in the 1970s, and soon became a central figure in the alternative music scene playing in a duo and the avant-rock trio "Cassiber" with Alfred Harth. At the same time, Goebbels wrote music for theater, film and ballet, and since the mid-'80s, began to stage theater and concert pieces based on his own composition and direction. His works have been widely introduced in the context of contemporary art, at places like Documenta X (1997) and the Pompidou Center (2000) among others.

### Playing text, reading music

Goebbels's works, including so-called "music theater" pieces such as "Stifters Dinge", are characterized by closely associated music and texts. Up to now, Goebbels worked with texts by such distinctive artists as Heiner Müller, Samuel Beckett and Gertrude Stein, whereas his interpretations focus not only on aspects of narrativity and semantics, but also on individual writing styles and text structures.

Also regarding Adalbert Stifter, the figure this particular piece is about, Goebbels does not reconstruct stories on the theater stage, but rather focuses on depictions of the natural environments and objects surrounding the characters appearing in them. "Stifters Dinge" can be considered as a "play" in which Stifter's writing style, combining a sometimes drawn-out sense of time, uniquely repetitive rhythmicity, and depictions of nature as something abstractly aesthetic, is extended to the scale of a stage production.

### Heiner Goebbels



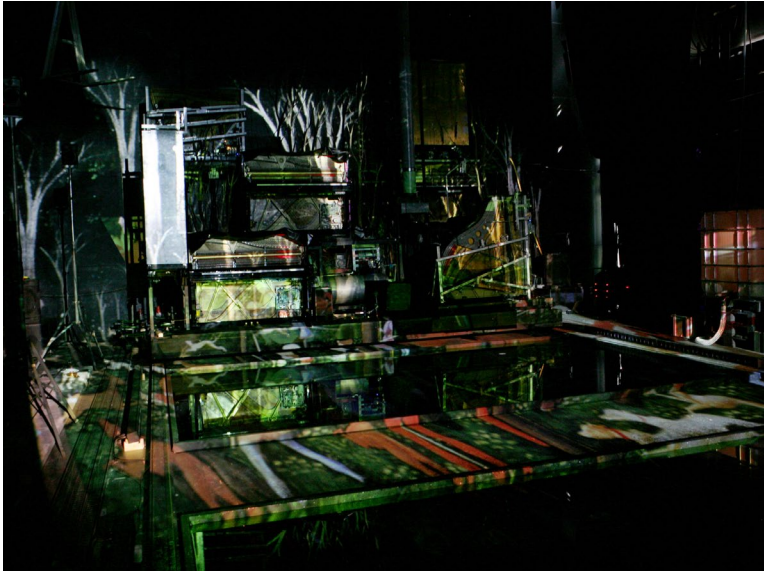
Photo: Wonge Bergmann

Born 1952. Leading composer/stage director in the contemporary music and theater scene. Has been composing/directing concerts, radio pieces, and compositions for ensembles and orchestras, and since the early 1990s, "music theater" pieces combining text reading and music. Mostly produced by Theatre Vidy-Lausanne (Switzerland), these works have been performed at noted festivals and theaters around the world. Recent productions include "Songs of Wars I have seen" (2007), "I went to the house but did not enter" (2008), "When the mountain changed its clothing" (2012), "John Cage : Europeras 1&2" (2012), etc.

In 2012 he premiered his latest music theatre production When the mountain changed its clothing as well as John Cage: Europeras 1&2 on the Ruhrtriennale - International Festival of the Arts.

Goebbels is a professor at the Institute for Applied Theatre Studies, Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen, and President of the Theatre Academy of Hesse. He is the artistic director of the Ruhrtriennale - International Festival of the Arts in 2012-14, and won the International Ibsen Award, one of the world's most prestigious theatre prizes, in 2012.

## "Stifters Dinge" – A play without actors; a concert without musicians



Heiner Goebbels "Stifters Dinge"  
Photo and Copyright: MARIO DEL CURTO

*Going into an underground bunker in order to experience nature*

—Heiner Goebbels

"Stifter's Dinge", shown for the very first time in Japan, is a "play without human performers" dealing with "natural and human activities", inspired by 19th century Austrian author/painter Adalbert Stifter's novels.

In this "multimedia installation" of sorts, spectators watch and listen to the transformations of various things (Dinge) that play the leading parts in lieu of actors and musicians.

Five pianos, programmed to automatically play back music and other sounds, are arranged in the center of the stage with their interiors exposed. Next to various types of music, the layered soundtrack contains recitals from Stifter's book "My Great Grandfather's Portfolio (Die Mappe meines Urgrossvaters)" (1847), a recorded interview with cultural anthropologist Claude Levi-Strauss, songs recorded in Papua New Guinea, and various other human voices talking about nature in one way or another. An additional central feature is an elaborate acoustic space incorporating noises of a machine-controlled "nature" interweaving such elements as ice, water, wind and sand.

The result is a stimulating piece in which text and artificial nature resonate without human involvement, questioning human perception of "beauty" and "nature", and at the same time, the relationship between stage and audience in which human beings are traditionally supposed to be the focal point, as one basic structure of theater itself.

### Heiner Goebbels "Stifters Dinge"

Japan Premiere  
(World Premiere: September 13, 2007 at Théâtre Vidy-Lausanne)

**Conception, music and direction :**  
Heiner Goebbels

**Set design, light and video :**  
Klaus Grünberg

**Collaboration to the music, programming :**  
Hubert Machnik

**Sound design :**  
Willi Bopp

**Assistant :**  
Matthias Mohr

**Production :**  
Théâtre Vidy-Lausanne

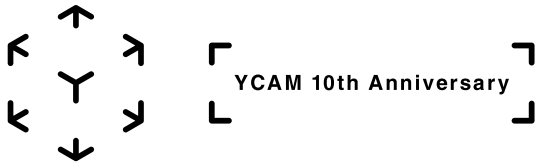
**Co-production:**  
Spielzeiteuropa I Berliner Festspiele, Grand Théâtre de la Ville de Luxembourg, Schauspiel Frankfurt, T & M – Théâtre de Genevilliers / CDN, Pour-cent culturel Migros

**Co-commission:**  
Artangel London

**With the support of:**  
Pro Helvetia - Fondation suisse pour la culture

### Adalbert Stifter

An Australian novelist and artist. Lived from 1805 to 1868. After success as an artist, Stifter published his first novel, "Der Condor (The Condor)" and also gained success as a novelist. Afterwards, after the March Revolution that occurred in 1848, he awakened to teaching activities, became a school inspector at elementary schools in Australia, and wrote books for children. Stifter's literary works are characterized by precise portrayals of nature and topography. His works include the collection of short stories, "Bunte Steine (Colorful stones/)" (1857), as well as the novels "Der Nachsommer (Indian Summer)" (1857) and "Witiko" (1865-1867), etc.



Apr 19, 2013 Press Release

Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media[YCAM] 10th Anniversary  
Performance/Installation

## Lecture on interpretation of this play, as well as a talk by Ryuichi Sakamoto!

As related events, we have prepared two talks to deepen your understanding towards this work.

Right before the premiere on the 13th, Morihiro Niino, German theater critic, will host a lecture on the history of theater in Germany as well as social conditions. He will also interpret the background behind the birth of this play.

On the 14th, there will be a talk by Ryuichi Sakamoto, who is the artistic director of the 10th anniversary celebration, and Heiner Goebbels. Through this play, these international artists of the same generation will talk about "art," the "environment," and "life," which are the themes of the 10th anniversary celebration, as well as the vision of the future.

### Lecture (lecturer: Morihiro Niino)

July 13 (Sat) 15:00 - 17:00 Place: Studio C (Free seating)

### YCAM 10th Anniversary Program Opening Talk

Ryuichi Sakamoto + Heiner Goebbels "ART / ENVIRONMENT / LIFE"

July 14 (Sun) 15:45 - 17:00 Place: Studio A (Free seating)

\*Japanese-English simultaneous interpretation available



YCAM 10th Anniversary Artistic Director  
Ryuichi Sakamoto

\*Admission is free to both events. Children of preschool age or younger are not admitted. Advance applications only with a ticket for the main performance, and only as long as seats are available. Entry will be possible on a first-come-first-served basis also without a ticket in case there are seats left on the day of the respective event.

### Event Data

## Heiner Goebbels "Stifters Dinge"

July 13 (Sat) 19:00

14 (Sun) 14:00 / 19:00

15 (Mon) 14:00

\*Please note that, for reasons related to the piece's choreography, visitors arriving late may not be able to take their seats.

Place: Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM] Studio A

Organized by: Yamaguchi City, Yamaguchi City Foundation for Cultural Promotion

In association with: Yamaguchi City Board of Education, Goethe-Institut Osaka

This performance was made possible by aids from the public lottery.

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

### Childcare service

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

Times: From 30 minutes prior to the performance until 30 minutes after the performance

Fees: ¥500 for one child; ¥300 per child for two or more children Application: Applications must be made until July 6 via the ticket information desk

### Wheelchairs

Please contact the venue for information.

### Ticket Information

Ticket on sale from May 11 (Sat)  
(from May 4(Sat) for "any" members)

#### Admission [All Seats Reserved]:

Advanced tickets	¥4,000
any members & special discounts	¥3,500
Under 26	¥3,300
Tickets at the door	¥4,500

\*Children of preschool age or younger are not admitted.

\*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.

#### Phone:

YCAM ticket information desk

**083-920-6111**

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

#### Online:

**www.ycfcp.or.jp**

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

\*We do not accept RSVPs for the related events over the Internet. If you wish to attend one of these events, please call or come to the information window to RSVP.