

Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM]

YCAM InterLab + Yoko Ando
Reactor for Awareness in Motion (RAM) in 2014-15 Dance Performance

"Dividual Plays

— Dialogue between the unconscious and systems"

2015.1.24 (sat) 19:00 / 1.25 (sun) 14:00 *The door open 30 min. prior to the performance
Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM] Studio A



RAM experiment (August, 2014 / at YCAM)

Initiated by YCAM InterLab, Yoko Ando, a leading dancer from The Forsythe Company, and a group of software engineers in 2010. Since then, we have been developing the "Reactor for Awareness in Motion (RAM)" and this presentation is the result of our project that explores the possibilities of body expression through technology in the form of dance performance. RAM defines dance as something produced by the interaction between the dancer and environment rather than a predetermined choreography. Dancers take in surrounding information including other dancers' movement and react to it according to certain rules they create.

As part of our research, we developed a system that captures the movement of dancers in real time and interfaces the information to a virtual environment which gives feedback to the dancers. With programming and capabilities design this virtual environment, the system becomes a tool for exploring the possibility of dance.

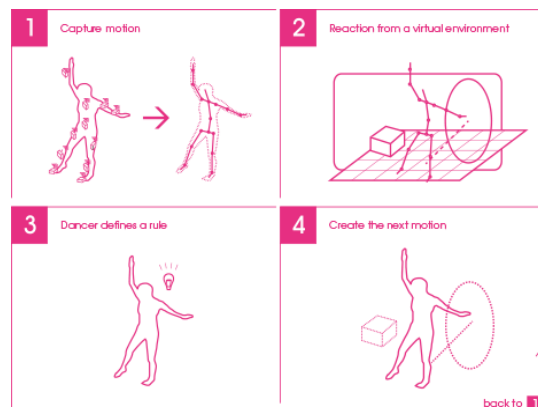
Paired with the feedback system, this piece accompanies a number of small laboratories on stage in which various objects are placed. They move and shift in accordance with the movement of the dancers. These changes are converted into sound and light and feedback to the stage atmosphere and the dancers who send another signal to the labs. It is a huge "connection machine" involving the dancers, stage and the laboratories.

About RAM

Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM] has played an active role in cultivating creative and research environments to support the art & technology of the next generation. Since 2011, we have carried out "Reactor for Awareness in Motion (RAM)", a research project for developing tool for dance creation and education, with Yoko Ando, a dancer from The Forsythe Company, a leading contemporary dance company and programmers from Japan and the US. Professionals in dance and technology shared an innovative concept in dance and developed it in the form of a physical tool and workshop. It is a revolutionary project in the sense that the technology is not only for theatrical effect, but also to embody one of the very natures of dance and communicate it with the world. What we witness is a technological inquiry into the nature of dance. Customized based on the perspectives of the dancer, the digital tool writes a new chapter in the history of experience in dance and technology.

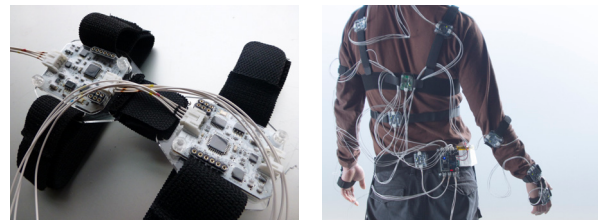
Mechanism and feature

Using devices such as motion capture systems or "Microsoft Kinect™", a computer detects the movements of dancers, collects and converts various relevant information in the form of image and sound for example, and visualizes them in the context of the dancer's body. Processing everything in real time, it allows dancers to decide their next movement, in other words create their own "rule", based on visual, aural and haptic information.



TOOLS / MOTIONER

MOTIONER is the inertial motion capture system developed for RAM. The computer captures the dancer's movements via 18 sensors attached to the dancer's body. In general, motion capture systems are very expensive and very accurate, or very cheap and very inaccurate. To address this problem we designed one which is relatively low in cost and fairly accurate.



YCAM InterLab



A team of media art researchers and developers in the Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM], provides technical support for the realization of installations and performing art pieces commissioned by YCAM. Along with research and practical attempts in implementing cutting-edge technology in the realm of art, the members engage actively in various collaborative research with specialists invited from all parts of the world, with the aim to establish human networks and facilitate exchange among the technical departments of cultural facilities, while continually expanding their area of investigation.

Tsuyoshi Tane



Photo: Alexandra Isard

Architect. Born in 1979, Tokyo, Japan. In 2006, he found DGT with Dan Dorell (Italy) and Lina Ghotmeh (Lebanon) as architecture practice in Paris. Currently, DGT is working on the winner of the international competition to design the Estonian National Museum, (to be completed in 2016) and other project globally.

The practice has gain an international, attention, the finalist for the New National Stadium of Japan in 2012. DGT has won numerous other prizes including the young architects prize from the French Ministry of Culture (2008) and an award from the Architects Association of Milan (2008), the Red Dot Award Winner (2013) and the Milan Design Award Winner of 2 prizes and etc. Since 2012, he has been teaching at the Columbia University GSAPP.

Yoko Ando



Photo: Dominik Mentzos

Embarked on a career as a dancer after meeting Kuniko Kisanuki in 1989, and has appeared in numerous dance performances since. She has been choreographing and performing her own solo pieces since 1997. In 2001 she was discovered by William Forsythe and joined the Ballett Frankfurt, in 2005 became a member of The Forsythe Company. Ando now enjoys a worldwide reputation as a leading dancer of the company. In Japan, she continues to work on her own projects while collaborating with other dance companies.

evala



Photo: Kenshu Shintsubo

Born in 1976. Musician / Sound Artist. Founder of the music label "port". Also releases his music on the "ATAK" label. evala has produced and performed cutting-edge electronic music in many of the world's most prestigious halls and festivals.

He has also made installations for visual art exhibitions. His work features prominently in stereophonic sound using his multi-channel audio system device. He writes music for films, theatrical performances, and advertising as well.