

Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM] Exhibition

Richi Owaki + YCAM New installation exhibition
"The Other in You"December 9, 2017- March 11, 2018, 11:00-17:00 Admission free
Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM] Studio B**What If the Audience was a Part of the Work!?**
- An ultimate dance experience made possible by VR

The Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM] presents "The Other in You" exhibition, a new installation works by Richi Owaki and YCAM. The Other in You is a virtual reality (VR) installation, which explores ideas of dance and body in an environment marked by modern technologies.

Richi Owaki, a dancer and choreographer, as well as a member of YCAM InterLab, has been searching for a new form of performing arts by merging media technology and movement. His internationally acclaimed installation, skinslides (2009–present), is an attempt to create an interface for a permanent preservation of the dancer's movements by producing images and sound first, and subsequently programming a data-choreography out of those elements. Owaki also produces dance work in which audiences experience the work through cutaneous sensation.

YCAM has also explored new possibilities in dance and dance training with professionals from different fields. The R&D project Reactor for Awareness in Motion (RAM) and its variation Perception Engineering re-examined the act of "seeing" by directly approaching the viewers' five senses with the help of technologies. The Other in You is an outcome, which brings the insights the artist and YCAM learnt over the years, into an installation piece.



Experiencing a work by wearing an head mount VR display.
*Helmet for HMD is originally designed and handmade by YCAM.

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Image of obtained from Head mount display.

The movement of the dancer is captured with a motion capture system. The data is converted into 3DCG to create virtual dancers covered with black skin. Using VR technology, the views of the audience move freely during the performance and the dancers get very close to the audience—an unlikely situation with ordinary dance theater. In addition, screened by 3D sensor cameras, the audience members themselves virtually come to appear in the VR images.

The work is based on Owaki's meditations on the dance theater audience. Often, audiences are required to stay in fixed seats in the dark and quietly watch the stage. However, this is a recent phenomenon. It became the norm only after the modern theater system was established. *The Other in You* sheds light on the physicality of the audience which we, including the audience themselves, have forgotten along the way. At some point during the performance, the point of sight of the viewer leaves their own body and they see themselves from above. This out-of-body sensation is a unique experience VR offers. Playing with this phenomenon, Owaki challenges the idea of "selfness." The body we are seeing moves the same way as we move behind the helmet, but there is a sense that that body isn't really our body. For Owaki, watching dance is an act of "seeking others in oneself" or "oneself in others." The title suggests we are not divided from each other, but rather an extension of one another.

Related event

RAM CAMP in Kyoto 2017 Archive Exhibition

12.9 (Sat), 2017 - 3.11 (Sun), 2018 11:00-17:00
 Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM]
 Studio B
 Admission free

Presented at this exhibition are results of the "RAM Camp in Kyoto" at the international performing arts festival KYOTO EXPERIMENT in October 2017.

"Reactor for Awareness in Motion (RAM)" is a dance and technology themed research and development project carried out by YCAM together with such creators as Yoko Ando. As part of this project, YCAM has been conducting workshops incorporating the system developed in the RAM sessions in Yamaguchi and other places in and outside Japan. In addition to a documentary video of the "RAM Camp in Kyoto" that was implemented from October 25-29, 2017 as an official program at the international performing arts festival KYOTO EXPERIMENT, this exhibition introduces computer programs developed by dancers/choreographers and programmers from Japan, China and Korea, which visitors will be able to try and use at the venue.

profile

Richi Owaki

Richi attended Tohoku University of Art and Design to study film and media, and alongside learning about artwork production in general with an emphasis on film, he taught himself and strengthened his understandings about physical expression. After earning his degree, Richi participated in "memorandum" tour as a member of "Dumb Type", an artist group that he had been a member as a video engineer since he was a student. He also presented his solo works involving a number of installation and performance pieces, and in 2005, he founded a dance group "Chikuha". In February 2004, Richi served as a video engineer for the production of Dumb Type's exhibition and performance "Voyage/Voyages" presented at YCAM. In April, he then joined the staff team as "mediaturge" who is responsible for carrying out researches on technology and techniques to concretize the works' idea, while mainly overseeing the media planning and operation for all the YCAM-hosted exhibitions and performances. In addition, he is involved in the management of an alternative space "Studio Imaichi". He investigates to form a new relationship between media technology and body, especially realizing a new form of expression by building a tool that bridges the gap between the subjective and objective data that exist in the sphere of physical expression.

Satoru Higa

Born 1983. Drawing on his experience working as a programmer and visual artist on a wide variety of projects incorporating realtime 3D graphics, computer vision and other advanced programming technologies, Higa is active across such diverse fields as installation, stage art, VJ-ing and live performance. Launched the lab space "backspacetokyo" in 2015.

Tomohiko Tsujimoto

Photo by Muga Miyahara

Joined Jo Kanamori's Noism04 in 2004, and Cirque du Soleil as the first ever Japanese male dancer in 2007. Main choreography works include Isao Tomita + Miku Hatsune "Dr. Coppelius", Tao Tsuchiya's dance performances during Hiromi Go's rendition of "lenai yo" at the 67th NHK Kohaku Singing Contest (dance instruction & choreography) and in a music video for the Japanese version of Sia's song "Alive", as well as Kenshi Yonezu's dance in "Loser", and another music video for DADARAY's song "Woman Woman".

Kazuhisa Uchihashi

Photo by Leonid Selemenev

Head of Innocent Records and the improvisation trio Altered States. Has been involved with improvised music since around 1983, and further produced and performed live for/with such pop musicians as UA, Haruomi Hosono, Tabito Nanao, Ichiko Aoba, Salyu and Quruli. Generally operates in the fields of theatre, dance and film music production, while functioning as musical director for the theatre company Ishinha for thirty years. In 2013 he hooked up with Indonesian SENYAWA to form the group MAHANYAWA.

General Information

Richi Owaki + YCAM New installation exhibition
"The Other in You"

12.9 (Sat) , 2017 - 3.11 (Sun), 2018 11:00-17:00

Admission free

Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM] StudioB

*Participants must be older than 13 years old.

Concept / Directed by Richi Owaki (YCAM InterLab)

Co-developed with YCAM InterLab

Dance: Tomohiko Tsujimoto

Sound Design: Kazuhisa Uchihashi

Sound System Engineering: Junji Nakaue (YCAM InterLab), Takayuki Ito (YCAM InterLab)

Sound Recording: Junji Nakaue (YCAM InterLab), Mitsuhiro Ando (YCAM InterLab), Etsuko Nishimura

Visual Programming / System Direction: Satoru Higa

CG Direction: Takeshi Yoong (Jitto), Tai Komatsu (Cai)

Scensing System Operation: Nariaki Iwatani (anno lab)

Motion Analysis: Takuto Shimizu

Helmet for HMD: Mitsuhiro Ando (YCAM InterLab)

Supervisor : Takayuki Ito (YCAM InterLab)

Curator: Akiko Takeshita (YCAM InterLab)

Presented by Yamaguchi City Foundation for Cultural Promotion

In association with Yamaguchi City and Yamaguchi City Board of Education

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Cooperation by KYOTO EXPERIMENT

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Co-developed with YCAM InterLab

Produced by Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM]