

山口情報芸術センター [YCAM] 公演

Shun Ishiwaka + YCAM new performance

Echoes for unknown egos – manifestations of sound

2022.6.4 (Sat), 19:00 / 6.5 (Sun), 14:00

Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM] Foyer, Studio A

Expanding musical expression through drumming:**A rediscovery of percussionist Shun Ishiwaka's music by way of artificial intelligence**

The Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM] presents Echoes for unknown egos – manifestations of sound, a new performance realized in collaboration between YCAM and drummer/percussionist Shun Ishiwaka.

Ishiwaka is a spirited, internationally active percussionist, whose works cross over from the musician's background in jazz and contemporary music, into the realms of rock, hip hop and pop.

Inspired by a unique "joint performance" concept, the piece unfurls as an improvised session by Ishiwaka and "co-performers" that include artificial intelligence (AI), playing conventional and originally developed instruments, and partly based on machine-learned patterns from Ishiwaka's own drumming. Following Ishiwaka's solo performance on the first day, saxophonist Kei Matsumaru adds another dimension to the concert on day two.

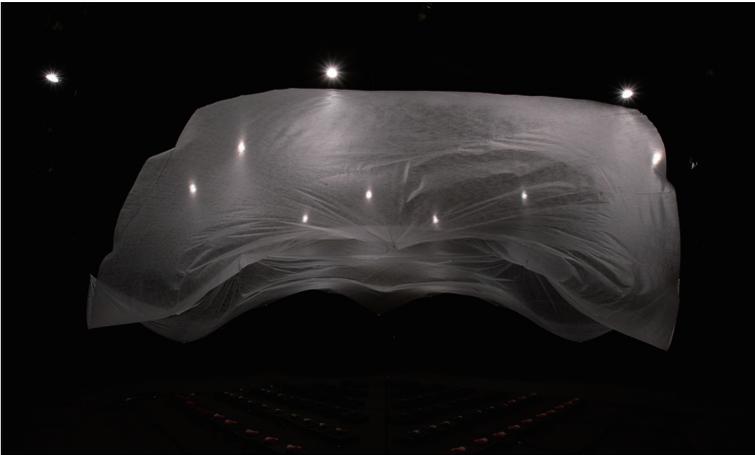
Designed as an event at which Ishiwaka shares the process of rediscovering the characteristics of his music by way of media technology, the set of performances will be an opportunity for exploring a new, as-yet unheard type of music, while at the same time finding some hints regarding the whereabouts of human creativity at large.



Shun Ishiwaka
photo by kana tarumi

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YCAM's explorations into the creative potential of media technology



Miyu Hosoi + Shun Ishiwaka + YCAM concert piece "Sound Mine" (2019)
(photo by Yasuhiro Tani)

Having previously invited such pioneering artists/performers as Kazuhisa Uchihashi, Yoshihide Otomo, Keiichiro Shibuya or Israel Galvan, YCAM continues to explore new possibilities of creative work inspired by, and in combination with, media technology, through experimental projects beyond the frameworks of exhibitions and live performances.

Shun Ishiwaka, who this time unveils the fruit of another collaboration with YCAM, is an internationally renowned percussionist who has been engaging in genre-crossing activities that include next to his own projects, such as Answer to Remember, SMTK and Songbook Trio, also appearances at live concerts and recordings by Quruli, CRCK/LCKS, Kid Fresino, Ohzora Kimishima and Millennium Parade, as well as scores for movies and TV plays.

Ishiwaka and YCAM first collaborated in 2019 for the concert piece Sound Mine, in which voice artist Miyu Hosoi was also involved. His work on this project, which combined research, recordings and live performances based on unique reverberations of sound at spaces across Yamaguchi Prefecture, inspired Ishiwaka to proactively incorporate media technology into his own performances. One concept that these new efforts resulted in is a concert with artificial intelligence (AI) that partly reconstructs Ishiwaka's drumming, from which the artist then reflects back on his own performance.

Unveiled about three years after Sound Mine, the new performance Echoes for unknown egos – manifestations of sound is the result of one year and a half of joint research and development with YCAM and AI researchers, tracing the unique musical quality and approach to percussion in Ishiwaka's work.

■ Shun Ishiwaka

Percussionist, born 1992 in Hokkaido. Studied percussion at the Music High School Attached to the Faculty of Music, Tokyo University of the Arts. Graduated from the same university, and won an Acanthus Music Award and a Douseikai Award at the time. Next to leading his own projects, including Answer to Remember, SMTK and Songbook Trio, he also appears at live performances and recordings by such artists as Quruli, CRCK/LCKS, Kid Fresino, Ohzora Kimishima and Millennium Parade. His most recent activities include the "excursion" type performance Shun Ishiwaka + Nobuyoshi Asai live session. In addition to soundtracks for the movie Architecture, Time and Kazuyo Sejima and the NHK audio drama Okujo no shinnyusha, he also contributed music for promotional movies for products and series such as OU (Yamamoto Co., Ltd.), "Niji no koku chapter 15" (Madame Figaro), LOEWE FW21 | Exploring Happiness, and "Jordan – Tokyo Fearless Ones" (Nike). In 2022, he wrote music for the NHK program Ending Cut together with Tomomi Oda. At YCAM, the new concert piece Sound Mine by Miyu Hosoi + Shun Ishiwaka + YCAM was unveiled in 2019.

■ Sound Mine

Presented in 2019, the collaborative concert piece by Miyu Hosoi, Shun Ishiwaka and YCAM, was based on the special characteristics of audio recordings made at YCAM and other architectural and natural spaces with unique acoustic properties in Yamaguchi Prefecture. From these recordings, the artists constructed soundscapes that rouse all kinds of memories in the audience. Different from a live concert, visitors to this event used headphones to experience the soundscapes as if "walking" in them.

Expanding music while discovering a new “self”



Shun Ishiwaka's work-in-residence at YCAM (November 2021)
(photo by Kazuma Yoshiga)

The event that inspired the idea of a “joint performance with himself,” at once the core concept behind the new performance Echoes for unknown egos – manifestations of sound that is presented this time, was “Disco 3000 Vol.02_1+2 Layer Shun Ishiwaka extended technique” (organized by Song X Jazz at blkswm welfare centre) in 2020. Ishiwaka played an improvised set for which only the timeframe was predetermined, and later did a second performance based on his memory of the first one. After that, video footage of both sets was released. Having played with a wide variety of other performers, and flexibly changing his own musical style in the process, Ishiwaka refers to this “session with just himself” as a profoundly inspiring experience.

As a result, for this piece Ishiwaka created “agents” in the form of artificial intelligence among others, to enhance his music with a variety of delicate sounds they autonomously play after “listening” to his drum performance first. His interaction with the agents as part of the performance, gave Ishiwaka ideas for new performance methods, and initiated a process of rediscovering the core elements that define his music, such as the development of individual sounds into music, connections between individual performers, etc. Following Ishiwaka's solo set on the opening day, the second day features saxophonist Kei Matsumaru, a likeminded artist whose participation will enhance the performance with a new sonic layer.

The “egos” in the title refer to the agents, while at once also implying the as-yet unheard sounds that will supposedly be exposed and encountered through the concert with those agents. In other words, the piece can be understood as an attempt to create “a variety of Shun Ishiwakas.”

■ Kei Matsumaru



Saxophonist, composer, improviser. Though born in Japan in 1995, Kei Matsumaru was raised in the highlands of Papua New Guinea where he calls home. From there, he moved to Boston to study music in 2014, after which he relocated to Japan in late 2018.

Kei is currently based in Tokyo and has been active mostly in the jazz and improvised music scene, but has increasingly been collaborating with artists from other musical genres and creative disciplines, such as contemporary dance, visual arts, and various media arts. In 2021, he participated in a band led by Jim O'Rourke to perform Christian Marclay's graphic score "To be continued" as part of the "Christian Marclay Translating" exhibition at the Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo.

Kei is a member of SMTK, a rock/free jazz/instrumental band, as well as m^ofe (em-doh-feh), an electro-acoustic ambient/avant trio. In 2020, he released "Nothing Unspoken Under the Sun" as his quartet's first album.

He also periodically presents "dokusō", a series of live 90-minute solo saxophone performances through which he explores the relationship between time, space, body, and instrument and how the performance affects cognition and perception of these elements in both the audience and himself.

Recent collaborators include: Jim O'Rourke, Otomo Yoshihide, Eiko Ishibashi, Kazuhisa Uchihashi, Tatsuhisa Yamamoto, Dos Monos, etc.

General Information

Shun Ishiwaka + YCAM new performance**Echoes for unknown egos – manifestations of sound**

2022.6.4 (Sat), 19:00 / 6.5 (Sun), 14:00

Gather at the Foyer 30 minutes prior to each performance

[Tickets required, see details on the right]

Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM], Foyer / Studio A

Performance: Shun Ishiwaka, Kei Matsumaru (June 5 only)

[Different program on both days]

Organizer: Yamaguchi City Foundation for Cultural Promotion

Support: Yamaguchi City, Yamaguchi City Board of Education

Technical support: Roland Corporation

Cooperation: Nonaka Boeki Co., Ltd. / Keio University SFC Computational Creativity Lab / Qosmo, Inc.

Shun Ishiwaka plays Bonney Drum Japan, Istanbul Agop Cybals

Co-development: YCAM InterLab

Planning & Production: Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM]

Related events

Post-performance talk session

2022.6.4 (Sat), following the performance (ticket for the performance required)

Talk guests: Shun Ishiwaka, Mitsuru Tokisato (YCAM), Mitsuhiro Ando (YCAM),

Keisuke Nohara, Atsuya Kobayashi

Shun Ishiwaka + YCAM New Installation**Echoes for unknown egos with cymbals**

Inspired by the harmonic overtones and other sounds that can be made with cymbals, the soundscapes in this installation are made of various cymbal sounds that resonate in concert with the space's characteristic acoustic features.

2022.4.29 (Fri) – 6.12 (Sun), 10:00-19:00

[Different times on 6.3 (Fri) – 6.5 (Sun)]

Venue: YCAM Foyer (admission free)

Backstage Tour

In this backstage tour, Shun Ishiwaka explains and demonstrates details behind his creative work.

5.21 (Sat), 15:00-16:30

Venue: YCAM Studio A

Participation free, registration required (first-come-first-served)

Number of participants: 20 (no admission for children below school age)

For registration and other information, see the YCAM website

Movie Screening

Showing is Takashi Honma's movie Architecture, Time and Kazuyo Sejima, featuring music by Shun Ishiwaka.

5.20 (Fri) – 5.22 (Sun)

Venue: YCAM Studio C (paid event)

For screening schedules and fees, see the YCAM website

*The program on 5.21 also includes a talk session with Shun Ishiwaka and director Takashi Honma

Ticket information**Start of sales**

"any" members (advanced sale):

4.2 (Sat), 10:00

General: 4.9 (Sat), 10:00

Ticket prices (free seating):**Advance**

General: 2,500 yen

"any" members, below age 25, special discount: 2,000 yen

Students (high school and below):

300 yen (student pass required)

2-day ticket: 4,500 yen

Door

General: 3,000 yen

Students (high school and below):

300 yen (student pass required)

* In the case that advance tickets are sold-out, there may be no ticket sales at the door

* Special discount: Seniors (aged 65 or above), disabled persons (+ 1 accompanying careperson)

* No admission for children below school age

* For wheelchair seats, please contact YCAM in advance

Reservation & Inquiries

Yamaguchi City Foundation for Cultural Promotion, Ticket Information

083-920-6111

10:00-19:00 (closed on Tuesdays, or on Wednesday if Tuesday is a national holiday)

Online Ticket Reservation**www.ycfcp.or.jp**

24-hour service [user registration required]

Nursing service

Paid service available, please inquire to the Ticket Information Counter by May 28 (Sat).