

Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM] Exhibition

Chia-Wei Hsu + Ting-Tong Chang + Hsien-Yu Cheng

There is Another Capital Beneath the Waves

In collaboration with YCAM

June 3 – September 3, 2023 10:00-19:00

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

**Modernization in Japan and Taiwan seen through the lens of sugar
Artists from Taiwan unveil a new work!**

The Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM] announces the opening of the exhibition “There is Another Capital Beneath the Waves,” at which the Taiwan-based artists Chia-Wei Hsu, Ting-Tong Chang, and Hsien-Yu Cheng, will unveil their latest work.

Individually, each of them is an internationally operating and reputed artist who has won major art awards in Taiwan in the past, and has participated in art exhibitions around the world. In recent years, the three of them have been collaborating on a project exploring the memory of modernization and historical relations between Taiwan and Japan, inspired by aspects of industrial sugar production in Taiwan during the time of Japanese rule.

Unveiled at this exhibition is a new work related to this project. Set in Moji and Moji Port in Kitakyushu, a place that once flourished as an international trade hub at a time when the Japanese industry was developing according to the progress of modernization, the work combines methods of Japanese puppet theatre and CG animation, as well as elements of video and live performance. It is produced and presented in collaboration with YCAM.

The exhibition is designed to focus from various angles on the memory of modernization and the Pacific War in Moji and Moji Port, located rather close to Yamaguchi, and highlight the hidden parts of history that connect Japan and Taiwan.

We are looking forward to your visit!



Work-in-progress at Moji, Kitakyushu
Photo: Shintaro Yamanaka (Qsyum!)

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A collaborative project by YCAM and internationally operating artists



"Crystal Seeding" (2021), exhibition view at Taiwan Contemporary Culture Lab (C-LAB)
Photo by Che-Chun Liu



Photo: Shintaro Yamanaka (Qsyum!)

Since the establishment of YCAM, our activities have been revolving around exploring new forms of artistic expression utilizing media technology, including the production and exhibition of a variety of works with such leading-edge artists as Ryuichi Sakamoto, Dumb Type, Fujiko Nakaya, and Ho Tzu Nyen among others. In this exhibition, Taiwan-based artists Chia-Wei Hsu, Ting-Tong Chang and Hsien-Yu Cheng, present a new work combining elements of video and live performance, realized in collaboration with YCAM.

The artists Chia-Wei Hsu, Ting-Tong Chang, and Hsien-Yu Cheng have embarked on a four-year collaboration since 2020. Although each artist has an independent practice, they have developed a unique way of working together during this four-year period.

From *Crystal Seeding* to *There is Another Capital Beneath the Waves*, both projects blend the styles and artistic methods of the three artists. Hsu's multi-channel videos, Chang's scriptwriting and immersive environments, and Cheng's programming and technology integration have all contributed to the creation of these two unique works.

They have been working together on a project exploring the relationship between Taiwan and Japan, and aspects of modernization in East Asia at large, inspired by industrial sugar production in Taiwan during the time of Japanese rule. Unveiled in Taipei as part one of this project in 2021, was *Crystal Seeding*, an installation piece set in Huwei, a town in Taiwan that once flourished thanks to its sugar-manufacturing industry.

This exhibition marks the world premiere of a new work that was realized in collaboration with YCAM as part two of the project. This one is set in Moji, a town in Kitakyushu where a sugar mill is still operating today, just like in Huwei. The exhibition looks from various angles at the memory of the two towns, which seem to be mirroring each other's fate within the history of modernization in East Asia.

■ Chia-Wei Hsu

Born 1983 in Taichung. In his video works, he reconstructs the relationships between people, things and places that have been omitted in conventional historical accounts, to highlight the geographical, historical and cultural connections between Taiwan and other places in Asia, and the personal histories of human individuals tossed about by the tides of the times. He represented the Taiwanese pavilion at the Venice Biennale in 2013, and was a finalist at the Hugo Boss Asia Art Award in the same year. In Japan, his works have been exhibited at "Theater Commons '18" (2018), "MAM Screen" at Mori Art Museum (2018), and Aichi Triennale 2022.

■ Ting-Tong Chang

Born 1982 in Taipei. His imagery, dramatic works and immersive installations based on scientific and biological knowledge, explore the relationships between human individuals, technology and society. He has been involved in numerous projects that highlight aspects of contemporary society by various approaches, including works that present an overview of modern-era Taiwan from the viewpoint of personal history. He held solo exhibitions at the Museum of NTUE and Taipei Fine Arts Museum and has participated in group shows and commissioned projects in Guangzhou Triennial, Jeju Biennale, Taipei Biennial, Compton Verney Art Gallery and Wellcome Trust.

Restaging history by way of animation and VR



Work-in-progress at Moji, Kitakyushu
Photo: Shintaro Yamanaka (Qsyum!)

■ Hsien-Yu Cheng

Born 1984 in Kaohsiung. Artist and software developer who creates artworks, software, and experimental biomechanical devices incorporating electronical equipment. Through his works with a focus on human behavior, emotions, software, and relationships between machines, he communicates his unique view of society and environment in humorous ways. His solo and group exhibitions were mostly exhibited in Taiwan, Asia and Europe. Recently, he has participated in the Guangzhou Triennial, Taiwan Biennials, and some other exhibitions in the Netherlands, Slovenia, Norway, Italy, Germany and France.

This exhibition is divided into two parts, and features a brand new work.

Shown in part one, *Crystal Seeding* is a video installation set in Huwei, a town in Taiwan that flourished thanks to its sugar-manufacturing industry. The history of this town, including the heritage of modernization in the form of sugar mills built during the time of Japanese rule, is illustrated through a mixture of traditional Taiwanese puppet theater and music.

The new work, *There is Another Capital Beneath the Waves*, which is unveiled in part two, is set in Moji and Moji Port in Kitakyushu, a place that once flourished as an international trade hub back when the Japanese industry was developing according to the progress of modernization. There is a sugar mill also in Moji today, which used to be operated by the same company that also operated a mill in Huwei. This is how the two towns have been connected through sugar. Both were strategically important bases during the war, and they both suffered severe damage in air raids when the war intensified.

In this work, the memories of war and modernization in Moji and Moji Port are portrayed by means of Japanese traditional joruri puppet theater, CG animation, music and live performance, while also overlapping with the famous local tale of the Heike clan. The title is in fact a line from the Heike Monogatari that describes scenes of the Battle of Dannoura.

The movements of the puppet masters and puppets, performers and avatars, symbolically suggest the complexly tangled relationship of “controlling and being controlled.” What exactly is the driving force that has repeatedly generated this relationship throughout history? This is the question that this work inspires the viewer to explore through a mixture of traditional and contemporary styles, while moving back and forth between the real and the virtual world.

General Information

Chia-Wei Hsu + Ting-Tong Chang + Hsien-Yu Cheng

“There is Another Capital Beneath the Waves”

In collaboration with YCAM

June 3 – September 3, 2023 10:00-19:00
 Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM], Studio A
 Admission free
 Closed on Tuesdays

New work “There is Another Capital Beneath the Waves” (approx. 40 min.)

Screening start on weekdays: 14:05

On weekends and holidays: 10:45 / 12:50 / 14:55 / 16:20

Organized by Yamaguchi City, Yamaguchi City Foundation for Cultural Promotion

In association with Yamaguchi City Board of Education

Supported by The Agency for Cultural Affairs, Government of Japan in the fiscal 2023; National Culture and Arts Foundation Taiwan

Coordinated by Mojiko Art Platform

Cooperated by Ministry of Culture Taiwan, Ministry of Culture Republic of China in Taiwan,

Kanmon Seito Co. Ltd., Shin-Moji Saiseiki Co. Ltd., Sankiro, Kitakyushu Film Commission,

Co-developed by YCAM InterLab

How to apply

Please fill out the application form on the website below and submit it to us.

www.ycam.jp/en

*)Please refer to the YCAM website for details on measures against the COVID-19 infection.

Exhibition Events

Artist talk

June 3, 14:00-15:30

Place: Foyer

Admission free (registration required),

Cross talk with the “The Flavour of Power” exhibition

June 4, 14:00-16:00

Meeting place: Foyer

Admission free (registration required), no English interpretation available
 Artists featured in this exhibition, and participants in the “The Flavour of Power” exhibition that is showing until June 25, discuss topics that concern both exhibitions.

No English / Taiwanese Mandarin interpretation available

Triangle Talk Session

June 17, July 9, July 23, August 26

Each 16:00-18:00

Meeting place: Foyer

Admission free (registration required),

Panelists discuss the works featured at the exhibition.

Also scheduled during the exhibition period are special Taiwanese movie screening events, live concerts by Taiwanese indie-bands, and talk events with invited guests from Taiwan. Details will be announced on the YCAM website.

Curator's Talk

June 18 11:30-12:30, July 23

13:40-14:40, August 5 13:40-14:40

Place: Foyer

Admission free (registration required),