

山口情報芸術センター [YCAM]

## Adam Kinner & Christopher Willes MANUAL

January 24-25, 2026 - 4 performance per day (see Page 3)

Meeting spot: Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM], Foyer

Venue: Yamaguchi City Central Library

### A must-see library work by Canada-based artists!

Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM] invites the performance "MANUAL" by Canada-based artists Adam Kinner and Christopher Willes, introduced for the first time in western Japan.

"MANUAL" is a performance staged in public libraries, created through a collaboration between choreographer Hanna Sybille Müller and two artists who explore extraordinary sensory encounters through their work. This one-on-one intimate and interactive performance between audience member and performer, the direction adapts to each location, with the experience changing every time. Since its premiere in 2022, this unique approach has garnered significant attention, leading to invitations from around the world. In this Yamaguchi performance, the Yamaguchi City Central Library, situated in the same building as YCAM, will be the stage. An experience to slowly conduct the act of reading and listening with somebody – while overlapping with an ordinary day of an open library – will allow the audience to reconsider libraries as a place to listen to inner senses, recognize new things, and generate connections. Please look forward to the performance.



Above : Performance of "MANUAL" at OFFTA, 2022.  
Performer: Hanna Sybille Müller. Photograph by David Wong.

Below : Adam Kinner and Christopher Willes, Workshop  
held in 2025  
Photo : Kosuke Shiomi

For any inquiries for an interview or press photos, please contact us at the following address.

#### INQUIRIES

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山口情報芸術センター  
Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media

## A quiet adventure begins in our library



Performance of "MANUAL" at Take Me Somewhere 2023 in Glasgow, UK, at the Mitchell Library. Performer: Hanna Sybille Müller.  
Photo credit: Brian Hartley.

"MANUAL" is an interactive piece where participant and performer meet at a particular location, then take a walk through a publicly accessible library. The participant receives an MP3 player, earphones, and written instructions; with these in hand, they explore the books and listen attentively to sounds through the earphones, accompanied by the performer. This piece guides participants to perspectives they have never noticed before or pages they have never turned, immersing them more deeply in the world of the library and exploring the vast realm of books. This collaborative experience also transcends the traditional audience-performer dynamic, as the artists attempt to reimagine theatrical and stage art possibilities.

Another beauty of this work lies in how it creates a unique time and space that can only be experienced in that particular location, brought to life together with the audience. For the YCAM performance, citizens selected through an open call serve as performers – guides who lead participants through the narrative – while the audio played through the earphones is based on field recordings made by the artists during their research visits to Yamaguchi. During the run, a related talk event will be held featuring the artists, local performing guides, and library staff to explore and discuss the library as a space.

### Adam Kinner

Adam Kinner is an artist living and working in Tiohtiá:ke - Mooniyang - Montréal. Having trained in music, he now makes work on the thresholds of performance, sound and visual arts, collaborating with artists from dance and music. Recent projects include an exhibition at ArtexTe that wove together national and personal performance histories, sound works, and readings; a performance with 8 saxophonists for the Musée d'art contemporain des Laurentides; and a research-performance project for OFFTA in Montreal. He has presented work at the Leonard and Bina Ellen Gallery, SBC Gallery, Galerie d'UQAM, Musée McCord as well as Usine C, Tangente, Studio 303 and Innovations en Concert. His work has been shown abroad in the UK, USA, France and Belgium. In the summer of 2017, Kinner was a fellow at Vila Sul in Salvador de Bahia, Brazil. He holds degrees from McGill University and Concordia University and received an MFA at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

### Christopher Willes

Christopher Willes is an artist, composer/musician, researcher, and dramaturge based in so-called Canada. His projects focus on the subject and practice of listening, and are often generated through long term collaborative processes that blur the lines between art making, learning, performance, publication, curation, and research. Christopher has also worked as a sound-designer and dramaturg in dance and theatre for over a decade. And since 2014 he worked extensively with Public Recordings, an organization in Toronto - Toronto focused on interdisciplinary performance research. His recent work has been presented by The Toronto Biennial of Art, the Music Gallery (CAN), Fierce Festival (UK), Musée d'art de Joliette (QC), Bétonsalon (France), OFFTA, Take Me Somewhere (UK), PuSH Festival (CAN), and elsewhere. He holds a Bachelor of Music (University of Toronto) and an MFA (Bard College, USA). Christopher often facilitates and organizes community arts projects and workshops, and he is currently studying Conflict Mediation at the University of Waterloo.

General Information

## Adam Kinner & Christopher Willes MANUAL

January 24 (Sat) , 25 (Sun) , 2026

11:05/ 12:20/ 14:00/ 15:15 (Performance duration is approximately 45 minutes)

Venue: Yamaguchi City Central Library

Meeting spot : Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM],  
Foyer

\*Each performance accommodates 1 person

\*This event is for audience beyond 9th grades (under 8th grade cannot join)

\*Performance in English will be held separately to the above (see below)

Performances in Japanese

January 24 (Sat) , 25 (Sun) , 31 (Sat) , February 1 (Sun) , 7 (Sat) ,  
8 (Sun) , 2026

10:05/ 10:20/ 10:35/ 10:50/ 11:20/ 11:35/ 11:50/ 12:05/  
13:00/ 13:15/ 13:30/ 13:45/ 14:15/ 14:30/ 14:45/ 15:00/  
15:30/ 15:45/ 16:00

### Notes for participants

- Please note that if you are late to the meeting time, you will not be able to participate. We cannot accommodate refunds for ticket fees.
- This work involves walking, climbing stairs, sitting, and reading books. Participants will also wear earphones and listen to audio throughout the experience.
- If you require any assistance to participate or have questions, please contact us in advance.

Organized by Yamaguchi City Foundation for Cultural Promotion  
Supported by Yamaguchi City, Yamaguchi City Education Committee  
Cooperation with Yamaguchi City Central Library, KYOTO EXPERIMENT  
Sponsored by the Canada Council for the Arts, Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec  
Technical Cooperation with YCAM InterLab  
Produced by Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM]

Related Program

### Artists Talk

#### "What is a Library?"

Date: 17:30-, January 24 (Sat), 2026

Venue: Yamaguchi City Central Library

Ticket: Free admission, Reservation required

Speakers: Adam Kinner, Christopher Willes, Soma Ishii (Assistant director, performer), Akira Ichimura (Yamaguchi City Central Library), Hazuki Ota (YCAM)

### Ticket information

**On Sale :** From 10:00 October 18 (Sat) ,  
2025

#### Ticket Prices :

##### Pre-sale

General 2,500 Yen  
any members/ Special discount/Under 25

2,000 Yen

Junior/senior high school students 1,000 Yen

##### Same-day

General 3,000 Yen

Junior/senior high school students 1,000 Yen

※ Special discount applies to: Seniors (65+),  
visitors with disabilities (one accompanying carer  
admitted free)

※ No refunds after purchase

※ If pre-sale tickets sell out, same-day tickets will  
not be available

※ You will receive a confirmation email after  
purchase. Please ensure you can receive emails  
from @ycam.jp

※ Electronic tickets available

Please visit the website for purchase.

**Website:**

**www.ycam.jp**

### Nursery Service

Available upon request (fee applies). Please contact  
ticket information at least one week prior to your  
selected performance date.

### How to apply to related programs

**Website :**

Please complete the application form on the  
website below.

**www.ycam.jp**

### Performance in Kyoto

KYOTO EXPERIMENT 2025

October 13 (Mon) ~22 (Wed) , 2025

Library of Kyoto City University of Arts (ITO  
Memorial Library), Kyoto City University of Arts