

## Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM]

### Yamaguchi Seasonal 2025 / Ryuichi Sakamoto + YCAM Forest Symphony

August 8 (Fri) – November 30 (Sun), 2025

Joeiji Temple (2001-1 Miyanoshimo, Yamaguchi City, Yamaguchi Prefecture)

**Discover new Sceneries of Yamaguchi and Art. Ryuichi Sakamoto's masterpiece based on the bioelectric potential of trees is once again shown at Yamaguchi's historic site!**

From among the installation works that have so far been created and exhibited by/at the Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM], the installation Forest Symphony by Ryuichi Sakamoto + YCAM is shown again as part of the "Yamaguchi Seasonal 2025" program of exhibitions at various places and historic spots in and around the center of Yamaguchi City.

Forest Symphony, one of the flagship productions realized with the help of media technology at YCAM, was composed by Sakamoto from sounds based on bioelectric data collected from trees at locations around the world, and co-produced by YCAM. It was first unveiled in 2013, and continued to receive international praise while being exhibited in varying formats at locations in Japan and abroad. Since 2020, the piece has been repeatedly shown for limited periods of time at Joeiji, a temple in Yamaguchi that is primarily known for its "Sesshutei" (Sesshu garden). This sixth consecutive annual exhibition will be an opportunity to experience a fascinating work that gradually shifts our awareness toward the natural environments around us by minutely capturing the transformations that occur in them, while at once rediscovering the appeal of Yamaguchi's famous historic sites and natural surroundings.



Ryuichi Sakamoto + YCAM 《Forest Symphony》  
Photograph by Shintaro Yamanaka (Qsyum!)

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

#### INQUIRIES

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## Yamaguchi Seasonal: Encounters with art, nature and the city



Joeiji Temple, the exhibition venue  
Photograph by Shintaro Yamanaka (Qsyum!)

Since its opening, the main focus of YCAM's activities has been on exploring new forms of art incorporating media technology. Up to this point, a wide variety of installations have been produced and exhibited with such cutting-edge artists as Dumb Type, Ryuichi Sakamoto, Fujiko Nakaya and Ho Tzu Nyen, which were subsequently presented at art exhibitions and festivals in Japan and abroad. As all of them have established a high international reputation, opportunities for exhibiting these works once again back home in Yamaguchi are increasingly rare.

“Yamaguchi Seasonal” was launched in 2022 as a serial exhibition program aiming to bring back installations produced/exhibited at YCAM, and once again show them at locations across the city of Yamaguchi. For these occasions, vacant buildings in Yamaguchi's central shopping district have been converted into exhibition spaces. While being opportunities for visitors to encounter outstanding works of art at unusual places, the displays highlight at once also the activities of the city itself. YCAM is continuously sounding out possible affiliations with historical landmarks and other famous spots in Yamaguchi, with the aim to create new values by rediscovering the region's unique appeal through the interaction between artworks and landscapes. Following last year's exhibition, Forest Symphony, a work that was initially co-produced by the musician Ryuichi Sakamoto and YCAM in 2013, is once again shown at the Joeiji, a temple that is especially known for its “Sesshutei” (Sesshu garden).

### ■ Past events of Yamaguchi Seasonal

#### Yamaguchi Seasonal 2022

September 17 - December 25, 2022

Artworks :

- ・ Ryuichi Sakamoto+Shiro Takatani 《water state 1》
- ・ Ryuichi Sakamoto+YCAM 《Forest Symphony》

#### Yamaguchi Seasonal 2023

August 11 - November 5, 2023

Artworks :

- ・ Ryuichi Sakamoto+YCAM 《Forest Symphony》
- ・ Otomo Yoshihide+Yasutomo Aoyama+Takayuki Ito 《without records》

#### Yamaguchi Seasonal 2024

August 10 - December 15, 2024

Artworks :

- ・ Ryuichi Sakamoto+YCAM 《Forest Symphony》
- ・ Otomo Yoshihide+Yasutomo Aoyama+Takayuki Ito 《without records》

## Ryuichi Sakamoto + YCAM “Forest Symphony”



Ryuichi Sakamoto + YCAM 《Forest Symphony》  
Photograph by Shintaro Yamanaka (Qsyum!)

This work combines an installation and online contents derived from the “Forest Symphony” art project that was initially launched by Sakamoto and YCAM back in 2013. Following last year’s exhibition at the Joeiji temple that is especially known for its “Sesshutei” (Sesshu garden), this time an updated version is presented once again at the same location.

### A Symphony Performed by the Forest

Following the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011, Sakamoto conceived an art project in which he composed music based on the minute bioelectric signals emitted by trees, inspired by the idea to pay special attention to the forest and its substantial role in supporting “living environments for humankind.” YCAM eventually became involved in that project, co-producing an installation and online contents that are now together presented under the title “Forest Symphony.” For the project, YCAM developed a special sensor device that can be used for measuring the bioelectric potential of trees, and collecting the data on a server via a network. The piece is staged in venues that are entirely filled with soundscapes based on data of bioelectric potential that have been collected using the device from trees at locations around the world. The varying bioelectric potential, along with environmental data related to the places the sensor devices were installed, are at once also expressed in a visual arrangement under the direction of the artist Shiro Takatani. All of these elements are spatially combined into one sound installation representing an “environment like a forest” that continues to change according to seasons and climates. Visitors can enjoy a unique audiovisual experience comparable to listening to the subtly nuanced breathing of the forest while overlooking the Sesshu garden at the Joeiji temple, located in the area where the Zen monk and painter Sesshu was based.

### ■ Ryuichi Sakamoto

Ryuichi Sakamoto was a composer, producer, and artist born in Tokyo. His diverse résumé includes pioneering electronic works in the legendary techno group Yellow Magic Orchestra, producing pop albums and numerous classical compositions, two operas, and nearly 45 original film and TV scores for directors such as Bernardo Bertolucci, Pedro Almodóvar, Brian De Palma, and Alejandro González Iñárritu. His film soundtracks have won prestigious awards, including an Academy Award, two Golden Globes, and many others.

Sakamoto made considerable contributions to the art world through both solo and collaborative installations and multi-piece exhibitions presented in galleries and museums across the globe. On January 17th, 2023, his 71st birthday, Sakamoto released 12, his 15th solo album. This work is a collection of twelve songs selected from musical sketches he recorded like a sound diary during his two-and-a-half-year battle with cancer. In the years leading up to his death, Sakamoto was unable to perform live, but in late 2022, he mustered all of his energy to leave the world with one final performance: Ryuichi Sakamoto | Opus. The most comprehensive survey of his artworks was exhibited at the Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo from December 2024 to March 2025. It became the most visited exhibition in the museum’s 30-year history. Ryuichi Sakamoto passed away in March 2023 at the age of 71.

General Information

**Yamaguchi Seasonal 2025**  
**Ryuichi Sakamoto + YCAM**  
**Forest Symphony**

August 8 (Fri) - November 30 (Sun) , 2025 10:00-16:30  
Joeiji Temple (2001-1 Miyanoshimo, Yamaguchi City, Yamaguchi Prefecture)  
Admission free \*Note: Entrance fee to Joeiji is required separately.  
Closed on Tuesdays \*Note: Held the next day if it's a public holiday,  
August 11 (Mon), September 24 (Wed), November 2 (Sun) and 3 (Mon)

Organized by Yamaguchi City, Yamaguchi City Foundation for Cultural Promotion  
Supported by Yamaguchi City Board of Education  
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In cooperation with KAB Inc., dumb type office  
Co-developed by YCAM InterLab  
Planned and produced by Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM]

Related Programs

**Gallery Tour**

Participants in this guided tour can walk around the exhibit together with members of the YCAM staff, while listening to their explanations, or exchanging thoughts and ideas with other participants.  
August 24, September 21, October 26, November 9, 30 \*Note, : All on Sundays  
10:30-11:30 Capacity: 5 \*Note, : No registration required

Concurrent Exhibition and Event

**scopic measure #17 Maya Erin Masuda**  
**Ecologies of Closeness 痛みが他者でなくなるとき**

July 5 (Sat) - November 2 (Sun) , 2025 10:00-19:00  
Venue : Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM] Studio B  
Closed on Tuesdays and September 23, 2025

**Korogaru Department Store 2025**

July 12 (Sat) - September 15 (Mon) , 2025 10:00-17:00  
Venue : Yamaguchi Izutsuya 2F (3-3 Nakaichicho, Yamaguchi City)  
Closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays  
This is the latest in the "Korogaru Koen" series focusing on the design of play and learning environments that allow children to think and create while playing.

