

## Ryuichi Sakamoto

### "ART – ENVIRONMENT – LIFE"

November 1 (Fri), 2013 - March 2 (Sun), 2014 10:00 - 19:00

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

#### Exhibition of Ryuichi Sakamoto's work wrapping up the YCAM 10th Anniversary Program Three installations by Ryuichi Sakamoto + Shiro Takatani concurrently on display

The exhibition "ART – ENVIRONMENT – LIFE" by musician Ryuichi Sakamoto, the artistic director for the 10th Anniversary Program, opens as part of the Anniversary Program at the Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM].

The exhibition introduces three installations realized in collaboration between Sakamoto, artist Shiro Takatani, and the YCAM InterLab team, as a result of Sakamoto's and Takatani's stay in Yamaguchi.

In "LIFE – fluid, invisible, inaudible... Ver.2", sounds coupled with visual projections onto fog open up the visitor's perception of the environment.

The "Forest Symphony" is composed of sounds generated from biological data of trees around the world, and in "water state 1", the newest piece, new spatial environments are created from the complex state variations of water.

Each of these works reflects Sakamoto's particular awareness of issues related to the 10th Anniversary Program's keywords "ART", "ENVIRONMENT", and "LIFE", and evokes chains of thoughts from the past into the future while causing subtle fluctuations of the viewer's inner sensitivity.



Ryuichi Sakamoto + YCAM InterLab  
"Forest Symphony" (2013 / Commissioned by YCAM)



Ryuichi Sakamoto + Shiro Takatani  
"LIFE-fluid, invisible, inaudible..." (2007 / Commissioned by YCAM)

[INQUIRY]

## Ryuichi Sakamoto's thoughts and practice related to ART, ENVIRONMENT and LIFE



Ryuichi Sakamoto

Humans today are leading comfortable lives based on the fertile cycles of civilization-informed urban spaces and the surrounding nature. However, the Great Tohoku Earthquake that brought devastating damage to the daily routine two years ago reminded us once again of the fact that we are constantly living side by side with such unpredictable forces of nature, and at the same time, it was an occasion for us to ask from a life-sized point of view, "What does 'environment' mean today?"

In response to this question, YCAM and Ryuichi Sakamoto, the 10th Anniversary Program's artistic director, formulated "Art, Environment, Life" as the 10th Anniversary Program's central theme aiming to illustrate visions of future forms of artistic expression. Behind this theme lies the conviction of Ryuichi Sakamoto, who has been referring to various environmental, peace and social issues, and implementing concrete projects even before the 2011 quake, that "the civilization and art of tomorrow must emerge from a deeper understanding of nature."

Based on this key idea, YCAM hosted a range of events as part of the 10th Anniversary Program that kicked off in July 2013, and that will be concluded with "ART - ENVIRONMENT - LIFE", an exhibition of Sakamoto's own works. Each of the three exhibited installations was produced in collaboration between Sakamoto, artist Shiro Takatani, and YCAM InterLab team, as an attempt to establish a dialogue between the increasingly computerized human society and nature from a new point of view through such substances as fog and water.

### ■ Ryuichi Sakamoto

Musician. Born 1952, currently lives in New York, USA. Released his first album "Thousand Knives" in 1978, and joined the band YMO in the same year. After the breakup of YMO, he composed numerous movie soundtracks and other Academy Award-winning works that established him as an internationally renowned artist who keeps pursuing an innovative sound. Launched "more trees" in 2007, and took part in forestation projects and educational activities on the prevention of global warming. He continues to be involved in numerous activities and projects that support recovery from the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011, such as "LIFE311 by more trees", "Kodomo no ongaku saisei kikin (School Music Revival)" and "www.kizunaworld.org" among others.

### ■ Shiro Takatani

Born 1963. One of founding member of artist group "Dumb Type" in 1984. Responsible for visual works in general and currently dedicated to visual direction. Main solo works include visual direction of 1999 opera "LIFE" by Ryuichi Sakamoto. Production of installation "LIFE-fluid, invisible, inaudible..." in collaboration with Ryuichi Sakamoto (YCAM.) Announced performance, "La Chambre Claire" in 2008 and "CHROMA" in 2012.

### ■ YCAM InterLab

YCAM InterLab is an R&D team affiliated with the Yamaguchi Center for Art and Media(YCAM.) YCAM InterLab is mainly involved in development of installations and performing arts commissioned by YCAM. The team also researches the possibility of applying such media technology in artistic expression while also being actively involved in joint researches with experts from Japan and overseas.

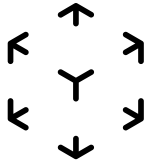
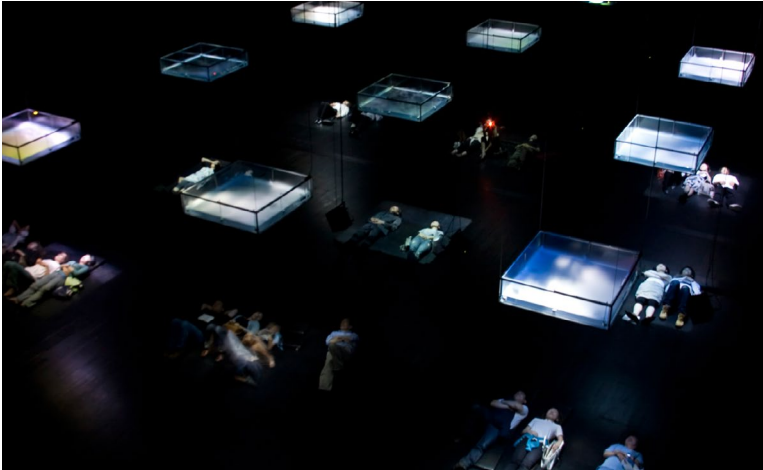


Exhibit 1: Ryuichi Sakamoto + Shiro Takatani "LIFE – fluid, invisible, inaudible... Ver.2"



Ryuichi Sakamoto + Shiro Takatani "LIFE - fluid, invisible, inaudible..."  
(2007 / Commissioned by YCAM)

"LIFE – fluid, invisible, inaudible...", an installation piece resulting from a collaboration between Ryuichi Sakamoto and artist Shiro Takatani, was produced and unveiled at YCAM in 2007. After its first presentation at YCAM, the piece toured around Japan and other countries, and now returns as a new version with significantly revamped and newly added contents.

**Nonlinear "symbiotic systems"**

For this installation, the artists de-/recomposed the opera "LIFE" (1999), in which Ryuichi Sakamoto summarized the 20th century as an age of conflict and disruption, and proposed visions of coexistence for the 21st century.

Suspended from the venue's ceiling are nine water tanks filled with artificial fog, which serves as a screen for successive projections of visuals used in the opera. The piece further incorporates sounds raining down on the audience in concert with the ever-changing imagery, in complex interactions of repeated synchronization and variance. Visitors surrender to the fleeting scenery of lights and sounds, while gradually opening their perception toward the environment.

Introduced in this exhibition is a new version of the piece with additional sounds and visuals illustrating new visions regarding the coexistence of man and nature after the Great Tohoku Earthquake. Also shown at this occasion is video footage of the opera, the original installation version from 2007, and the October 22 performance of "LIFE – WELL".

■ **LIFE**

Ryuichi Sakamoto's first opera was unveiled to celebrate the 120th anniversary of the first publication of Asahi Shimbun, and the 40th anniversary of the launch of TV Asahi. Shiro Takatani was in charge of the visuals.

September 4 - 5, 1999: Osaka Jo Hall

September 9 - 12, 1999: Nippon Budokan

■ **LIFE - WELL**

For this stage performance in the setting of the installation "LIFE – fluid, invisible, inaudible... Ver.2", Ryuichi Sakamoto and Shiro Takatani collaborated with Mansai Nomura and other leading figures in the contemporary Noh scene.

October 22 (Tue) 14:00/19:00 start

For details please see the event's flyer or visit the 10th Anniversary Program website.

**Exhibit 2: Ryuichi Sakamoto + YCAM InterLab "Forest Symphony"**



Ryuichi Sakamoto + YCAM InterLab "Forest Symphony" (2013 / Commissioned by YCAM)

"Forest Symphony" is an art project based on joint technical development in collaboration between Sakamoto and the YCAM InterLab team. Prior to the opening of this exhibition, an installation and web contents derived from the project's concept have been on public display since July 2013.

**A symphony performed by the forest**

Following the Great Tohoku Earthquake, Ryuichi Sakamoto conceived an art project in which he would compose music based on the bioelectric data of trees, with the aim to direct our attention to trees and forests as supporting pillars of human living environments. With the further involvement of the YCAM InterLab team, the project eventually developed into the installation and web contents that are now presented as "Forest Symphony".

For this project, the YCAM InterLab team developed a sensor device for measuring the biopotential of trees, and collecting the measured data on a server via network. The device is installed on trees at different locations around the globe to measure their respective bioelectric data, which Sakamoto used to create sounds that envelop the venue along with visuals made under the direction of Shiro Takatani, visualising the changing biopotential and information of the respective environments the device is installed in. These elements are spatially integrated into a "forest-like environment" in the form of a sound installation that continuously transforms in response to seasonal and climatic changes. With the opening of the exhibition, bioelectric data and sounds from the actual exhibition space have been made accessible via the exhibition's dedicated website.

Exhibit 3: **Ryuichi Sakamoto + Shiro Takatani "water state 1"**



Ryuichi Sakamoto + Shiro Takatani "water state 1" (2013 / Commissioned by YCAM)

Made in collaboration between Sakamoto and Takatani, the installation "water state 1" is shown for the very first time in this exhibition.

**The varying states of water distilled through media technology**

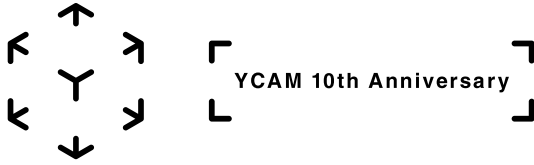
*Water takes on different states depending on the temperature, freezing to ice or condensing to vapor. Such water-based natural phenomena as rain, clouds, fog, snow, oceans, rivers, lakes, waterfalls, icebergs and glaciers all have in common that I never get tired of looking at them.*

*Water is the source of life that covers 70% of the earth's surface, and that the human body consists of to 70%.*

Ryuichi Sakamoto

Water is a fundamental, life-supporting substance that changes its appearance depending on the situation. Ryuichi Sakamoto has been expressing his fascination with water for a long time, but at the same time also emphasizes the difficulty he has always felt when choosing water as a motif for his work. While laying out the concept for this new work, he began to focus on the possibility of using water as an actual material. The YCAM InterLab team eventually developed a device that can be used to let large amounts of water rain down in droplets, which allowed Sakamoto to work with actual water rather than depicting its different appearances in an indirect manner.

The device is used in this work to cause complex transformations of droplets and water surfaces, and at once translate these into sounds. The harmonic and contrasting aspects of the work's visual and acoustic elements call forth a wealth of memories in the viewer's mind.



October 28, 2013 Press Release

Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM] 10th Anniversary  
Exhibition

#### Event Data

## Ryuichi Sakamoto "ART - ENVIRONMENT - LIFE"

November 1 (Fri), 2013 - March 2 (Sun), 2014 10:00 - 19:00

Admission Free

Closed on Tuesdays (the following day if Tuesday is a national holiday), 29 December - 3 January

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

\* The duration of the "Forest Symphony" exhibition has been extended due to great popularity.

\* Please note that the "LIFE - fluid, invisible, inaudible... Ver.2" exhibition will be closed for special events on January 4 and 5.

Organized by: Yamaguchi City, Yamaguchi City Foundation for Cultural Promotion

In association with: Yamaguchi Board of Education

Supported by the Agency for Cultural Affairs Government of Japan in the fiscal 2013

Grants from: The Kao Foundation for Arts and Sciences

Sponsored by: SHISEIDO

Co-developed with: YCAM InterLab

Produced by: Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM]

### Related Events

#### Artist Talk

January 5 (Sun), 2014 13:00-14:00

Speakers: Ryuichi Sakamoto, Shiro Takatani Moderator: Akira Asada

Venue: Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM] Foyer

\*Admission only with ticket for the concert below.

#### Special Concert

January 5 (Sun), 2014 14:30 start

Performers: Ryuichi Sakamoto, Mayumi Miyata

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

\*For admissions and ticket information please see the box on the right.

#### Gallery Tour

"LIFE - fluid, invisible, inaudible... Ver.2":

December 7, January 11, February 8 15:30 start

"Forest Symphony":

November 9 & 23 & 30, December 21, January 25, February 22 15:30 start

"water state 1":

November 9 & 23 & 30, December 7 & 21, January 11 & 25, February 8 & 22

14:30 start

Venue: Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM] Foyer

Admission Free

### Ticket Information

Tickets available from **November 9**  
(**November 3** for "any" members)

#### Admission [All Seats Reserved]:

Advanced tickets	¥3,000
any members & special discounts & Under 26	¥2,500
Tickets at the door	¥3,500

\*Children of preschool age or younger are not admitted.

\*A special discount is available for seniors over 65, as well as for handicapped persons and one accompanying care person each. Children of preschool age or younger are not admitted.

#### Phone:

YCAM ticket information desk

**083-920-6111**

(10:00-19:00 closed on Tuesdays or on Wednesdays in case Tuesday is a public holiday)

#### Online:

**www.ycfcp.or.jp**

(open 24 hours, userregistration required. Japanese only)

### Childcare service

This service is available for children aged six months or older.

Times: From 30 minutes prior to the performance until 30 minutes after the performance

Fees: ¥500 for one child; ¥300 per child for two or more children

Application: Applications must be made until December 28 via the ticket information desk

### Wheelchairs

Please contact the venue for information.