

YCAM PRESS RELEASE

YCAM presents

**Ryuichi Sakamoto + Shiro Takatani**

**LIFE - fluid, invisible, inaudible ...**

The exhibition of new installation, commissioned by YCAM



**Period: 10 March (Sat.) 2007 - 28 May (Mon.) 2007 \* Closed Tuesdays**

**Time: 12:00 - 20:00 Admission free**

**Venue: Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media / Studio A**

**<http://rsst.ycam.jp/>**

Organizer: Yamaguchi City Foundation for Cultural Promotion

Support: Yamaguchi City, the Board of Education of Yamaguchi City

Cooperation: commons, Kab America Inc., Kab Inc., SYNETICS LTD

Sponsorship: Ballad co.,ltd.

Co-sponsor: Agency for Cultural Affairs

Produced by Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media (YCAM)

Co-production: YCAM InterLab

Project Curator: Kazunao Abe (YCAM)

## **LIFE – fluid, invisible, inaudible ...**

“LIFE – fluid, invisible, inaudible ...,” a new installation by Ryuichi Sakamoto + Shiro Takatani, is a work that Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media (YCAM) has commissioned. Ryuichi Sakamoto is a musician and composer actively working worldwide, while Shiro Takatani is an artist who is a leading member of the art group “Dumb Type.” Their attempt at a new experimental installation space in combination with sound and image has reached fruition as a collaborative piece of artwork.

Those two artists’ collaboration started when Shiro Takatani was responsible for image supervision in “LIFE,” an opera by Ryuichi Sakamoto that was first staged in 1999. Modeled on various factors in the opera “LIFE” in 1999, their new installation work at YCAM is conceived with expressions reflecting today’s world. In “LIFE – fluid, invisible, inaudible ...,” a new element which uses previously unused material has been included in addition to a large quantity of original material. It is an experiment to fuse sound and image as a new kind of artistic synchronization, and the artists try to get its message across to a wide variety of people in today’s world.

### **On the title:**

In producing the opera “LIFE” in 1999, Ryuichi Sakamoto attempted to examine the music of the 20<sup>th</sup> century with a macrocosmic/microcosmic view of the entire flow of art and civilization. Based on various factors of this opera, Sakamoto has shifted to the present time. The subtitle “fluid, invisible, inaudible ...” connotes ideas that are perceivable or imperceptible, access to something amorphous, uncertain, or unrecognizable, and also changes in ourselves.

### **Installation:**

In this work, YCAM’s studio A, which is usually used as a theater space, is arranged as a huge flat exhibition space, in which sound and image are suspended so that the artists can attempt to express the fusion of both sound installation and image installation treated equally in the entire space.

The installation consists of nine acrylic water tanks 1200mm square x 300mm high. The nine tanks are placed to form a 3 x 3 grid, hung in space at 2.4m from the ground. Each

water tank is put between speakers, which are also suspended in the air. Mist is artificially made by ultrasonic waves inside each tank, and the condition and flow of the mist can be controlled. These nine blocks of mist serve as a screen for images that are projected from the ceiling downward. How the images are visible and reflected depends on the condition of the mist. Different or same contents are projected on the nine mist screens, sometimes working in conjunction and at other times working individually. The images and sound may or may not be synchronized, and sound is sometimes audible without images. Basically everything is controlled, although the whole content might drastically change, if triggered by some factor in the exhibition space when detected by sensors. The contents of the images and the sound are digitized by computers, and are processed and worked on in great detail.

There is no fixed way in which the work can be appreciated. Visitors can feel, while walking freely around the installation space, how the relations between the environment and perception (hearing and sight) are expressed in a complex but fluid way. The work is designed to show the visitors the relationship between perception and the environment as an artistic space of sound and image, and the possibilities between the two.

### **Residence:**

The work is produced at YCAM studio A as an artist-in-residence one-month program in collaboration with YCAM InterLab, and presented at the same studio. During the exhibition period, a gallery tour is held regularly for a general audience to guide them on how to approach the work.

### **Artist Profile:**

#### **Ryuichi Sakamoto**

Award-winning composer and musician Ryuichi Sakamoto has made a career of crossing musical and technological boundaries. Sakamoto has experimented with, and excelled in, many different musical styles, making a name for himself in popular, orchestral and film music. A founding member of Yellow Magic Orchestra (YMO), Sakamoto has composed original scores for 19 major and independent films, including: Merry Christmas Mr. Lawrence, The Last Emperor, and most recently, SILK (currently in post-production, scheduled to be released Fall 2007 in North America).

Sakamoto was awarded both the Academy Award and Grammy for The Last Emperor score.

In 2005, Sakamoto managed to simultaneously return to his electropop roots and maintain his classical influences with a fusion of many musical styles on his latest solo project, Chasm. Chasm was re-interpreted by fourteen of electronic music's top artists on the release Bricolages. In 2006, Sakamoto continued his collaboration with Alva Noto with the second European Tour and the first Asian Tour in support of their releases Vrioon, Insen, and Revap. Sakamoto revisits his partnership with Christian Fennesz with the 2007 release of their debut full length album, Cendre.

For further information visit [www.sitesakamoto.com](http://www.sitesakamoto.com)

### **Shiro Takatani**

Born in 1963. Graduated from Environmental design - Art Dept. of Kyoto City University of Arts. Joined Dumb Type as one of the founders in 1984, and has been involved especially in the visual and technical aspects.

In his solo activities, Takatani participated in a municipal project of Groningen, Holland (artistic director: Daniel Libeskind), in collaboration with Akira Asada in 1990. Takatani created images for the collaboration concert Dangerous Visions with Art Zoyd and the National Orchestra of Lille in March 1998. He did visual direction for the Ryuichi Sakamoto's opera LIFE September 1999. And he released solo video installation work frost frames 1998, optical flat 2000. Also, He created the video installation piece IRIS collaborated with Fujiko Nakaya, a fog sculptor, for the Valencia Biennial in 2001. Commissioned by the Natural History Museum of Latvia in Riga, for the exhibition "Conversations with Snow and Ice", his installation was presented in November-December 2005, as part of a retrospective of the works of the snow and ice scientist Ukichiro Nakaya (1900-1962). In 2006, under the auspices of the Japan Foundation's 2006 Australia-Japan Exchange Project "Rapt! 20 contemporary artists from Japan", selected for a one-month artist residency in Australia and exhibit in Melbourne.

### **Collaboration of Ryuichi Sakamoto + Shiro Takatani:**

Shiro Takatani was responsible for image supervision of "LIFE" (performed in Tokyo and Osaka), an opera by Ryuichi Sakamoto who tried to present an overview of music and society of the 20<sup>th</sup> century in 1999. In June 2005, a live performance, "Experimental Live at Honen-in Zen Temple," in Kyoto, was conducted through laptops and images, fronting a garden of the Buddhist abbot's quarters. In June of the same year, Sakamoto and Takatani collaborated again in a Susan Sontag memorial live performance at Kyoto University of Art and Design. The images, in which Sontag's portraits and punctuation marks in her texts are arranged, are combined with sounds in a collage style, with various sounds dubbed onto "Spiegel im Spiegel" by Arvo Pärt.

## **Related Events**

### **■ OPENING EVENT/ laptop concert**

Date/Time : 10 March (Sat.) 2007 19:00 – 20:20(18:00 open)

Venue : Foyer Admission : "any" members 2,000yen others 1,500yen

Performance : Ryuichi Sakamoto + Shiro Takatani

### **■ OPENING EVENT/ artist talk**

Date/Time : 11 March (Sun.) 2007 14:00 - 15:30 (13:20 open)

Venue : Foyer (Limited 300 people)

Admission : Free

Artist : Ryuichi Sakamoto + Shiro Takatani

Moderator : Akira Asada (Critic)

<INQUIRY>

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