

Youkobo Art Space



youkoboART SPACE

Annual Report 2012

The Artist in Residence Program of Youkobo Art Space was supported by

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Foreword

Youkobo at the Start of the Next 10 Years

Youkobo Art Space Co-director, Tatsuhiko Murata

2012 marked 1 year after the disaster of 3.11, and was a year in which Youkobo reflected upon the origins of its engagements as an AIR, while also being an opportunity to take a new approach to its gallery program, undertaking a fruitful start towards the next 10 years. Artists who had the previous year hurriedly returned home due to the earthquake, or who had postponed their plans due to the disaster were able to take up the residence this year, while in the gallery program also enthusiastically expanded its format, not merely presenting solo exhibitions but also artist projects and group exhibitions.

1. Creating Opportunities for Domestic/Foreign Artists Exchange

2012 proved to be a year rich in exchange opportunities between foreign and domestic artists by building upon various events such as artist talks, critique sessions, workshops and gatherings which enabled foreign artists participating in the residence program and domestic artists in the gallery program to connect with each other, a principal fundamental to Youkobo's activities. 2012 welcomed 14 artists to the residence program and hosted a total of 40 artists in the gallery program.

2. Developing the Global in the Local

Youkobo actively engaged in activities with the aim of widening opportunities for young artists, building on its network and linking upon a one to one basis, with an awareness of connecting the global to the local. In terms of international ties Youkobo hosted 5 artists/groups from European cultural capitals, while sending young Japanese artists to overseas hosts through 4 different programs, increasing spaces and opportunities for engagement. From a local perspective, Youkobo collaborated with other domestic residencies to host foreign artists, and handed over the management of the open air exhibition in Zempukuji park "Trolls in the Park" to a young group of locals. Further domestic engagements included the participation in a project in Yokohama and continued association in events organized by Tokyo University of the Arts.

3. Increasing the Visibility of AIR

To coincide with the General Meeting of the worldwide network of artist residencies Res Artis, held in Tokyo in the Autumn of 2012, Youkobo provided an opportunity for the directors of artist led AIR to gather, and share their work in a special program "MICRORESIDENCE!". This proved to be a starting point of deepening discussion through face to face exchange, the opportunity to share various issues and the search for means of future cooperation.

4. Developing Youkobo's Management

Firstly I would like to draw attention to the publication of Youkobo's 10th Anniversary Catalogue. With

celebrations of Youkobo's 10th anniversary coinciding with the disaster of 3.11, the publication of this catalogue took much longer than anticipated, but with the support of our staff we were able to successfully publish it in the Summer of 2012. Furthermore Youkobo entered its 2nd year of support for its artist in residence program from the Agency of Cultural Affairs, enabling us to offer further assistance towards the work of artists. Youkobo introduced as part of the residency program the routine publication of an artist catalogue which would become an effective tool for each artist's promotion both in Japan and overseas. Furthermore with the provision of a space in which staff of Youkobo could hear the direct voice of the residence artists, we were able to gain valuable feedback towards the improvement of our program. In terms of the gallery program we have also come to facilitate a regular platform for debate and critique also providing an opportunity for interaction between foreign and domestic artists. Furthermore Youkobo actively supported projects and exhibitions which renewed a questioning of what it means for artists to present their work.

In all of these engagements, the connection between one person and another comes first, and through dialogue this solid bond enables understanding of the position of both parties, from the sustainable base of these art engagements, a critical eye is honed, a tolerant mind is cultivated and many outputs are realized. 2012 was a year in which we put our belief in the next generation and began our next steps forward.

Introduction to Youkobo Art Space

Art is essential to society, providing people with time to reflect on and make new discoveries in their daily lives. Through autonomous activities, Youkobo Art Space links the regional and the international, traditional culture and contemporary art, and such elements that appear to be in different directions. We generate situations and exchanges with a natural openness to and recognition in such diversities. With the objective of supporting creative expressions of artists who earnestly work, we will continue carrying out our art programs as a member of local community.

Vision

We aim to demonstrate the importance and the vital role of art in society, by being a flexible and supportive space for artists

Core values

- Openness and exchange:

We believe that art should be open to everyone, and that it is an essential tool in fostering communication and understanding between people of different cultures.

- Flexibility:

We recognize that the nature of art and the work that artists do requires a flexible approach in the way that we maintain our activities.

- Autonomy:

While recognizing the importance of maintaining strong networks with the community and other institutions, we also believe in individuality and diversity both in the artists and our own institution.

Mission

- Supporting artists who have a genuine commitment to their practice. (AIR program and gallery program)
- Encouraging dialogue and mutual understanding between overseas, local artists and residents, and building a society more open to diversity. (Artist talk and events).
- Building strong networks with other AIR centers and art spaces in order to increase accessibility to and promote a greater appreciation of art. (J-AIR Network, Res Artis, etc.)
- Developing a range of art activities that play a normalizing role where art is recognized as essential to society.

Youkobo Art Space is run by the following people:

Directors: Hiroko Murata, Tatsuhiko Murata

Staff members: Mika Harigai, Yuhri Kabata, Jaime Humphreys, Utako Shindo, Emma Ota

1. Overview of Activities

1-1 AIR Program

Neil Malone (Australia)

2012.1.3 – 3.31 Residence 2 + Studio 2

Neil is specialized in painting and printmaking, and was Head of Printmaking at the University of Melbourne Faculty of The Victorian College of the Arts and Music between 2002 and 2012. He was a returning artist for the Youkobo's 10th anniversary, undertaking a three-month residency across the winter. Neil said of the resulting works, "here consideration was given to the essential necessity for reflection and contemplation to substantiate our notion of reality and self."



Amanda Riffo (France)

2012.2. 1 – 3.31 Residence 1 + Studio 1

Amanda Riffo is a French artist who lives and works in Reykjavik, Iceland. She built a box-house inspired by different observations she made through astrolabes, microscopes, Japanese movies and her own elliptic corner. Her works combine drawings, photographs, objects, art books, as well as collaborations with musicians.



Saran Youkongdee (Thailand)

2012.04.02-05.30 Residence 2 + Studio 2

The Thailand based interior designer and artist participated in the AIR program with the support of the Japan Foundation JENESYS Programme. Alongside his studio residency at Youkobo, he ran special art classes at the local elementary school and showed the children's work in Zempukuji Park. In his exhibition he attempted to draw upon a concept and material which Thai and Japanese cultures both share, creating a paper

installation which visitors were encouraged to write their wishes upon.

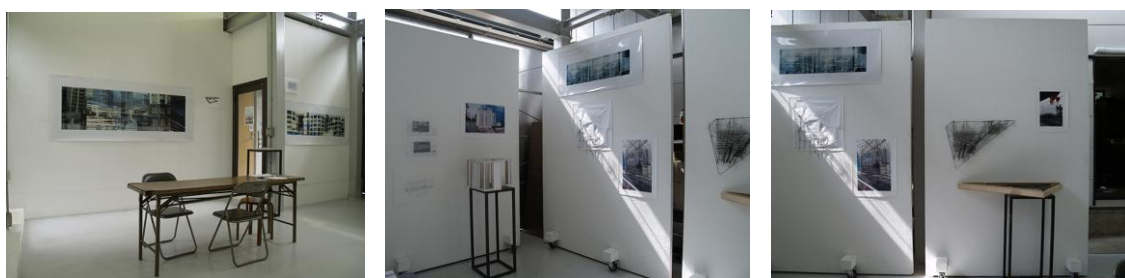


Bart Benschop & Leontine Lieffering (Netherlands)

2012.04.04 – 2012.06.29 Residence 1 + Studio 1

Bart intended to create an image of his perception of the Tokyo metropolis and its rural surroundings in a process in which he rode the highways upon the edge of the city with a camera recording upon the still film the images his eye was met with, building layers of time and place in a single shot.

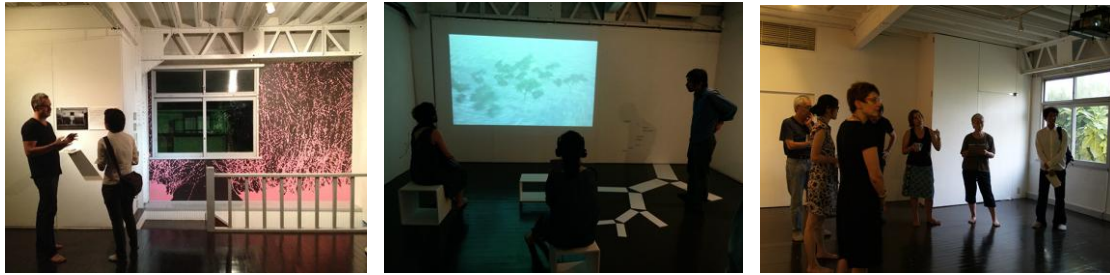
Leontine investigated buildings in different states of construction, restoration or demolition through taking photographs, making notes and drawings, aiming to freeze parts of the experience of an 'ongoing movement' and provide a space in which aspects that normally would be overlooked could surface, taking seeming insignificant elements of flux in order to give it meaning.



Almut Rink & Christof Schlegel (Austria/Germany)

2012.6.18 – 7.31 Residence 2 + Studio 2

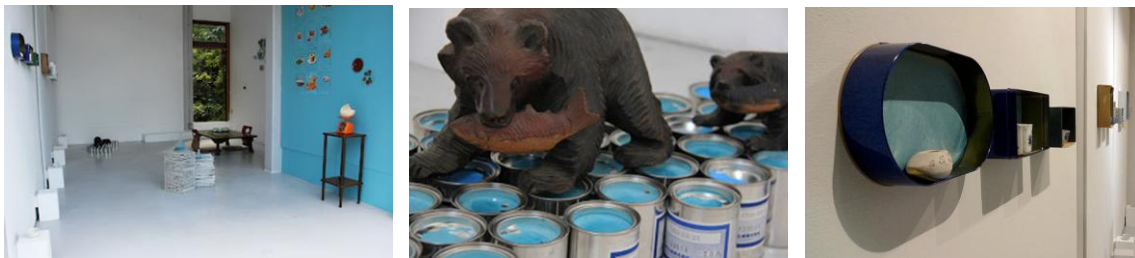
As returning artists specially invited to mark Youkobo's 10th Anniversary Almut Rink and Christof Schlegel came to join Youkobo again, reflecting on the important experience the first Youkobo residence proved to be for them while developing an engaging exhibition "*SolidGrowth*". Almut Rink in "*SolidGrowth – A Scene with 2+1 Species*" used rendering software to create landscapes of vegetation, the tutorial like scenes along with narration inviting the viewer upon a journey in the construction of nature. On the other hand, Cristof in "Heat Island Blueprint" created a wall paper based on the traces left from the ivy on the exterior wall of the Youkobo building, with these shadows appearing like DNA codes, a blueprint of the vertical pathways that the green of a hyperdense metropolis is forced to take before it may become an urban forest covering all of the city and questioning the responsibility of the city dwelling viewer.



Catalina Tuca (Chile)

2012.7.3 – 9.30 Residence 1 + Studio 1

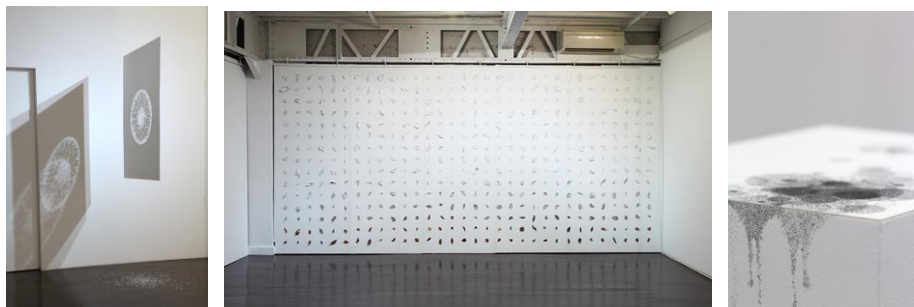
Tuca is Youkobo's first resident artist from South America, and is based in Santiago where the contemporary art scene is gaining much attention. In her work Tuca explores the limits and meanings of painting and the use of objects as supports.. In "Suginami Sky" she undertook a visual investigation into Japanese identity through the study of its everyday objects, selecting items from the local trash in a representation of the economic, social and cultural reality of the neighborhood, and creating dialogues and relations between them through their materiality and meaning.



Jeremy Bakker (Australia)

2012.08.01 – 09.30 Residence 2 + Studio 2

Working across installation, drawing, sculpture and photography Bakker aims to convey a sense of movement between opposites – between absence and presence, the minute and the vast, the particular and the general. In his work at Youkobo Bakker continued his interest in evoking something ineffable and sublime inherent within the commonplace details of human experience and the natural world, developing a series of objects and installations.



Francisco Guevara (Mexico)

2012.10. 1 – 11. 2 Residence 2 + Studio 2

Francisco's work and projects emphasize the role of contemporary art in economic development and as a tool for social change. As an artist he has explored the links between food, rituals of eating and collective identity. He is also director of the independent art space/residence Arquetopia and joined the AIR program as part of the MICRORESIDENCE! project. During his residency he investigated the connections between Japan and Mexico through the medium of food highlighting its ability to reflect highly specific social contexts.



Julie Upmeyer (USA/Turkey)

2012.10.02 – 11.30 Residence 1 + Studio 1

Julie's work as an artist is based on interaction, creating site-specific experiences. She is co-founder of Caravansarai, a production space and artist-residency in Istanbul and she has initiated projects such as the Virtual Chef a trans-locational interactive cooking experience. During her residency Julie developed an installation tracing her own family's past connection with Japan and through cooking practices handed down through her family created a site for communication.



Anat Litwin (Israel)

2012.11.03 – 11.27 Residence 2 + Studio 2

Anat Litwin is an internationally active Israeli American artist and curator, and founder /artistic director of the HomeBase Project, a nomadic site-specific public art project/residency, exploring the meaning of home. In this residency supported by Embassy of Israel, Tokyo, as part of the MICRORESIDENCE! program she took the opportunity to create, collect, commune and contemplate on the meaning of culture and labor, highlighting moments in which they connect and intertwine.



Nicholas Bastin (Australia)

2012.12.03-02.23 Residence 1 + Studio 1

Nicholas Bastin, having pursued a career as a jewelry artist since the 90's in Australia and internationally, has in recent years begun to develop his activities within the contemporary art scene. During his residency he developed a series of object based works in which he seeks out the possibilities of miniature collections. Based upon research into the manner in which individuals select and display mass produced objects which possess some form of narrative, he constructed his own miniature world while referencing to his own experiences in Japan.

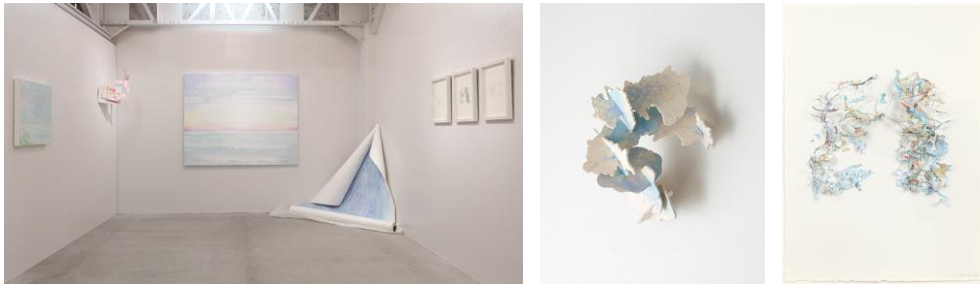


1-2 Gallery Program

Aya Murakami 'folded landscape'

2012/02/02 Thu – 2012/02/19 Sun

Aya Murakami, while centering her practice upon painting, incorporates collage, photography, sculpture and various other media in a cross disciplinary approach, in which works appear to be nesting throughout the exhibition space. In this exhibition she presented work based upon the folds of the landscape, the landscape of the body and the habitat of memory.



Kaoru Murakami 'easy journey'

2012/02/02 Thu – 2012/02/19 Sun

Kaoru Murakami investigates the behavior of materiality in her work. In her practice she undertakes a reconstruction of these materials through theoretical and poetic interpretation of the cultural and historical background of each substance, reconsidering the sense of belonging between this material and herself. This was her first exhibition at Youkobo Art Space.



Shirley Cho [Australia] 'Grandmother's Flower Garden'

2012/02/29 Wed – 2012/03/04 Sun

In the installation, 'Grandmother's Flower Garden', Shirley Cho explored the intimate childhood memories of a patchwork quilt and by collecting fabric from her family and friends, reflected on the importance of relationships in her life and the importance of process to her art practice.



Akira Mori 'Twenty-three wards all day'

2012/03/11 Sun – 2012/03/18 Sun

This was an exhibition taking its inspiration from Youkobo's location and realized by unit Akira Mori, well known for their conceptual projects. Reflecting upon our dependence upon the infrastructure of the city and how this was disrupted and laid vulnerably open by the events of 3.11, the unit Akira Mori organized a bus tour through the 23 wards of Tokyo on 11 March 2012, gathering passengers on the way to Youkobo Art Space, the bus journey being accompanied by the sound recordings of the melodies played upon the disaster warning system in each ward every evening in order to test them. This sound is confirmation that the everyday is indeed in a state of renewal. The sounds within the bus were fed live to the Youkobo Art Space and were subsequently replayed throughout the exhibition.



Group Exhibition [T/here]

Juka Araikawa, Mike HJ Chang, Xana Kudrjavcev-DeMilner, Yvan Martinez and Joshua Trees, Krister Olsson (multinational)

2012/04/05 Thu – 2012/04/29 Sun

A group exhibition organized by Juka Araikawa including the work of other transnational artists Mike HJ Chang, Xana Kudrjavcev-DeMilner, Yvan Martinez and Joshua Trees, Krister Olsson.

Statement: "Time begins to take on unusual characteristics in the liminoid zone where quotidian bleeds into extraordinary: it slows down, it crystallizes, it splits one reality into multiple realities, it inverts space like Alice Through the Looking-Glass creating new projections and self-referential simulations. Expectations become unreliable but it is through frustrating (in)variability that we encounter new forms and ideas."



Utako Watanabe '1944 and 2012'

2012/05/03 Thu – 2012/05/13 Sun

Watanabe presented a series of video works in which characters in their 20's-30's repeat the story of the artist's 86 year old grandmother as if it were their own, accompanied in this exhibition with text and illustration. Here in taking a personal memory which previously held as a single line, and opening it in all directions, where time and memory lose their shape, the viewer is brought to sense the past and present as they settle into the same pool.



Curatorial Project 'Unknown Voice'

Mio Shirai / Harutaka Matsumoto / Taro Morimoto / Akiko & Masako Takada / Mineki Murata / Yu Hara / Aya Murakami and others

2012/05/16 Wed – 2012/05/27 Sun

The "Unknown Series" curated by Chika Kato asks the question of "What have artists perceived and created since 3.11?", examining the ways in which the creative expression of artists has been affected in their response to the disaster. This exhibition created an independent space to present the "voice" of such artists and reflect on their thoughts and work. This exhibition attracted a wide range of visitors and drew much positive attention through its theme and participating artists.



Naoki Miyasaka 'Surspace'

2012/06/02 Sat – 2012/06/10 Sun

Naoki Miyasaka undertakes art production not as a form of expression but rather as a researcher into the composition of form, treating space as an outer environment which the subject perceives and interacts with. The monumental work presented in this exhibition aimed to create a platform for such insights, in an approach characteristic of Miyasaka who is currently undertaking an arts Phd.



Project 'Living Everyday by Art'

Elizabeth Presa, Thea Rechner, Gaku Tsutaja, Utako Shindo [transnational]

2012/07/18 Wed – 2012/07/29 Sun

A project organized by Youkobo staff member Utako Shindo, connecting the everyday lives and creativity of 4 artists across Berlin, Melbourne, New York and Tokyo, with their daily artistic expressions being constantly updated within the gallery space, in an accumulation of creative processes. The artists, who belong to multiple communities and work across different countries, here reflected how, without being rooted to one place, they are able to maintain their activities and positions as artists, and translate the workings of the everyday into the language of art.



Natsumi Sakamoto 'unforgettable landscapes#1(pigeon loft)'

2012/08/29 Wed – 2012/09/02 Sun

Sakamoto, who in recent years has particularly developed her installation work, presented in "unforgettable landscapes" the start of a new series of paintings which draw the landscapes of memory based on words cut out from conversations with strangers. In this exhibition Sakamoto investigated how the scene before our eyes becomes relegated to the past in an instant, only to be captured in memory, these fragmentary landscapes perhaps gathered in order to move through the "now".



Joji Sato 'Joji Sato Solo Show'

2012/09/05 Wed – 2012/09/23 Sun

The work of Joji Sato captures the moving image in the form of painting, with the multi-layering of images which circulate in the media. Here the figurative becomes lost from the contours, shadows and surfaces of the work to form an abstract chaotic image, creating a world of image noise. The works presented followed the consistent features of Sato's practice in their monochromatic embodiment of silent film, reflecting the artist's own condition of perceiving the world through limited senses.



Microresidence Special Program: 'Global Micro Experience'

Part 1 2012/10/04 Thu – 2012/10/14 Sun Yoshiko Maruyama, Kyougo Matsumoto, Saran Youkongdee

Part 2 2012/11/10 Sat – 2012/11/23 Fri Masami Aihara, Takahiro Ishii

As part of the MICRORESIDENCE! program artists who had gone on to join other microresidencies around the world through the Youkobo network presented work which they had developed from these experiences. Spread over two parts 5 artists who had joined residencies in Finland, the UK and other parts of Japan took the opportunity to reflect upon their residence and share the inspirations gained from this.



Microresidence Special Program 'Micro Intro Exhibition & Archive Library'

2012/10/20 Sat – 2012/11/04 Sun

Also as part of this program an exhibition introducing 14 residencies which have shown active interest in forming a microresidence network was held including photos, video, texts, catalogues and a special feature of a handmade diorama for each residence made by Youkobo residence artist Julie Upmeyer. This was accompanied by an archive of information on 31 microresidencies from around the world made available throughout the MICRORESIDENCE! program. In inclusion within this space of an interview with the directors of Youkobo provided an important insight into the thoughts behind the microresidence.

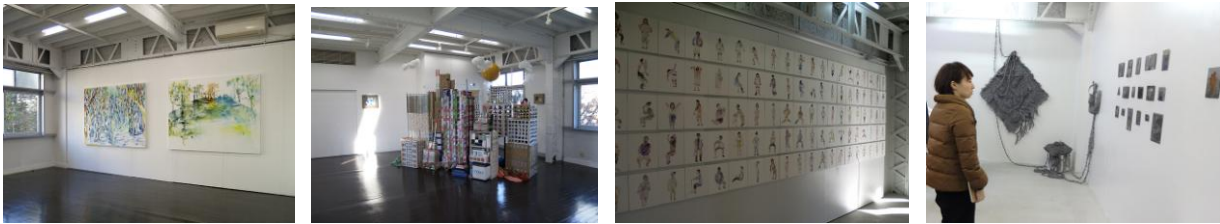


Group Exhibition 'own thirty'

Yukako Izawa, Kyoko Shindo, Emu Nagasaka, Natsuno Yoshikawa

2012/11/30 Fri – 2012/12/09 Sun

This group project exhibition gathered together 4 artists who had met through friends, all born between 1982-1984 in Tokyo. Having grown up in the same age, encountered the same world events of 9.11, the Lehman shock, the disaster of 3.11 and how increasing disquiet between Japan and its neighbours, this exhibition brought the artists together for the first time to offer their own unique reflections upon the landscape of their 30 years.

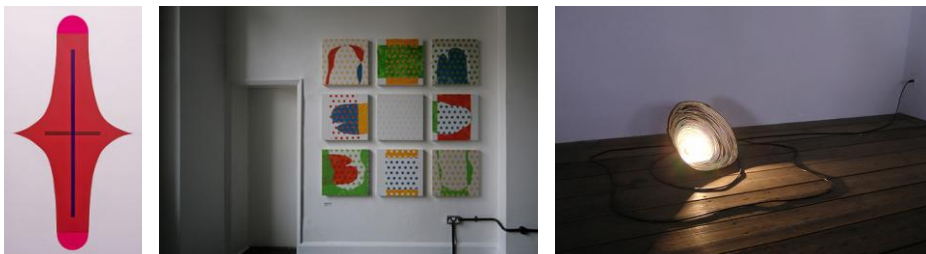


Report Exhibition '3 Japanese Artists in WEYA2012'

Takumi Kato, Manabu Kanai, Naoki Miyasaka

2012/12/12 Wed – 2012/12/16 Sun

In September 2012, 1000 young artists from all over the world took part in the World Event Young Artists 2012 (WEYA) held in Nottingham in the UK. Takumi Katou, Manabu Kanai and Naoki Miyasaka, are three Japanese artists who participated in WEYA with the support of Youkobo Art Space and they presented the outcomes here in a group exhibition communicating the energy which they encountered during their 2 week stay.



1-3 Studio Program

Kyougyo Matsumoto

23.12.2011-13.1.2012 (Exhibition 14.1-29.1.2012)

Matsumoto, as an artist who often creates work in response to urban environments, including suburb areas, regularly undertook research around the area of Nishiogikubo from 2011. From the end of December 2011 he took Youkobo's gallery space as his base camp and in continuing field work built up a body of work which was then presented in January 2012. He commented upon the results of this process along with other urban research in areas such as Finland and Tsukuba city in a talk presentation held on the opening of this exhibition.



1-4 Events (Artist Talk, Critique Session, Symposium etc)

Youkobo aims to encourage exchange between domestic and overseas artists and the wider community through the organization of numerous artist talks, dialogues, and critique sessions, in addition to symposiums and workshops held throughout the year. Youkobo is also actively organizing lectures relating to its various programs. Since 2011, “critique sessions” have been conducted in order to give greater in-depth feedback to the artists creating work in the Youkobo studios and exhibiting in the gallery, gathering Youkobo staff, artists, and other art professionals in the Youkobo network in an informal session where opinions can be shared freely.

< Artist Talks >

2012.1.14	Kyougo Matsumoto (Guest: Takayuki Nasu / curator, Kitakyushu City Museum)
2012.5.6	Utako Watanabe
2012.7.27	Armut Rink, Christof Schlegel
2012.7.28	Elizabeth Presa, Thea Rechner, Gaku Tsutaja, Utako Shindo
2012.9.8	Joji Sato (Guest: Harumichi Saito / photographer)
2012.10.4	Yoshiko Maruyama, Kyougo Matsumoto, and others
2012.10.20	Francisco Guevara
2012.11.10	Masami Aihara, Takahiro Ishii, Julie Upmeyer
2012.11.23	Anat Litwin
2012.12.2	Emu Nagasaka, Yukako Izawa, Kyoko Shindo, Natsuno Yoshikawa



< Critique Sessions >

2012.2.12	Gallery exhibition	Aya Murakami, Kaoru Murakami
2012.3.4	Gallery exhibition	Shirly Cho
2012.3.18	Gallery exhibition	Akira Mori
2012.4.21	Gallery exhibition	T/here
		Juka Araikawa, Krister Olsson & others
2012.5.12	Gallery exhibition	Utako Watanabe & others
2012.6.9	Gallery exhibition	Naoki Miyasaka & others
2012.7.26	Gallery exhibition	Utako Shindo & others
2012.8.26	Gallery exhibition	Natsumi Sakamoto & others

- 2012.9.21 Residence Presentation exhibition Jeremy Bakker & others
- 2012.9.21 Gallery exhibition Joji Sato & others
- 2012.9.21 Residence presentation exhibition Catalina Tuca & others
- 2012.12.5 Gallery exhibition Emu Nagasaka, Yukako Izawa, Kyoko Shindo,
Natsuno Yoshikawa



< Performances, etc. >

- 2012.5.16 Performance Harutaka Matsumoto
- 2012.6.20 Improvisational performance Marcos Fernandez
- 2012.6.22 – 6.23 Reading night Elizabeth Presa, Utako Shindo & others



< Symposiums & dialogues >

< Symposiums >

- 2012. AIRs vol. 2 Open Talk about Artist in Residencies
 - 1 4/15, Finland / Art Break &KK
 - 2 5/20, UK Portland
 - 3 6/3, Youkobo Art Space
 - 4 6/24 Fukuoka / Studio Kura

 Youkobo Art Space

- 2012.10.30 Microresidence!



< Lectures >

- 2012.1.21 ResArtis Strategic Meeting, Tatsuhiko Murata – Microresidence Survey and Interim Report
- 2012.3.10 Tokyo Wondersite Forum, Tatsuhiko Murata – a report on the activities of Youkobo Art Space
- 2012.10.03 Tokyo Institute of Art & Design (Tokyo, Shinjuku) Tatsuhiko Murata – “What is an Artist in Residence?”
- 2012. Joshibi University of Art & Design (Tokyo, Suginami-ku)
Special Lecture Department of Cross-disciplinary Art & Design, Joshibi University of Art and Design
 - 11.2 Julie Upmeyer 「Art Initiator」
 - 11.9 Utako Shindo 「Practicing Art」
 - 11.16 Tatsuhiko and Hiroko Murata

< Interview >

2012.8.22 Utako Shindo Momoshi Elementary School 6th Grade Career Program “Close Professionals”

< Online publicity >

•ARDA Newsletter vol.6 (2012.9.1)

Tatsuhiko Murata – Introduction to Artist in Residencies as centers for transmitting overseas arts and culture, and the concept of microresidencies

•Tamagawa University Curators' Bulletin “Day After Day” No.41 (2013.2.10)

Tatsuhiko Murata – A walk down Istanbul Golden Street and Istiklal Street

1-5 Internship-GIP: Global Internship Program

From 2007 Youkobo initiated an internship program with the view to offering practical experience of the management of artist in residence and exhibition/gallery programs. The program is usually offered for 6 months to 1 year. Up until now we have welcomed 5 interns from the Netherlands, Spain, the UK, as well as an artist returning to Japan from Australia. Based upon their interests we provide a space to work together, and welcome the breath of fresh air this brings to the Youkobo program. This program was put on hold for 2012.

Yuko Kotera – After returning to her home in Amsterdam she has become a member of Trans Artists and is travelling the world

Jaime Humphreys – Now a member of Youkobo staff, organizer of art kids and involved in many activities

Marta Gracia – Since returning to Spain she has become active in the AIR network, and is living with a former Youkobo residence artist.

Utako Shindo – Jan-Mar 3 months 2011 – Continues to be a member of Youkobo's staff while concentrating on her artistic practice

Emma Ota – June-December 2011 (7 months) – Currently a member of Youkobo staff and involved in various activities

2. Network Development

2-1. International

Res Artis – Worldwide Artist in Residence Network

In October the bi-annual general meeting of the worldwide network of artist in residence – Res Artis (of which Youkobo is a member) was held in Tokyo under the directorship of Mario Caro. During this time Francisco Guevara was amongst 4 nominees elected to the membership of the Res Artis board. At this event Youkobo presented a session on its microresidence research and continued its engagement in the further development of an international AIR network.



Portland, UK

Through the introductions of artists Mark Dunhill and Tamiko O'Brien, who have been resident at Youkobo on two occasions, Youkobo was able to send two Japanese artists to join a residence and exhibition at Portland Sculpture and Quarry Trust. The sculptor Masami Aihara, based in Hokkaido, was inspired by the famous stone of Portland, coming to develop a work which utilized the natural surfaces of the rock and revealed the ancient fossils of water which had once run through it. Takahiro Ishii, who has recently been active overseas, developed research upon the different use of stones in Japanese and English gardens, presenting a variation on the Japanese garden. Through the "Open Talk about AIRS" and "MICRORESIDENCE!" programs the two artists were able to share their experiences in Portland and the impact this opportunity has had on the subsequent work.



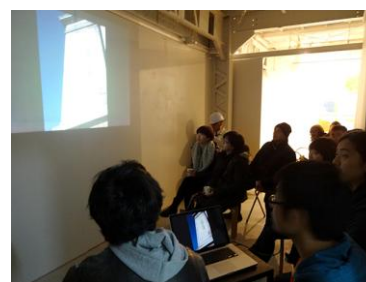
6581 Project, INSTINC and Youkobo

Shih Yun Yao is an artist and microresidence director who undertook research at Youkobo Art Space in December 2011, and through continued dialogue an exchange program of artists between Tokyo and

Singapore has been developed, with an initial field trip being undertaken in March 2012. In this program 2 artists from each city will undertake a residence and exhibition in the host residence, however the plans for this have been postponed for 1 year due to the happy event of Shih Yun becoming a mother.

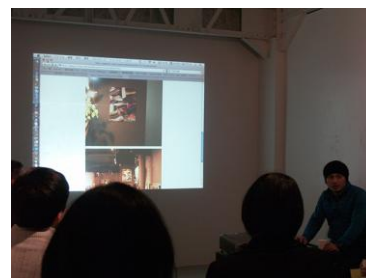
WEYA (World Event Young Artists2012)

In September WEYA was held in Nottingham, UK in conjunction with the Olympics, organized by UK Young Artist as a festival of creativity. In this event through partnerships with organizations in countries all over the world 500 international young creative were brought together. Youkobo, through its association with the ResArtis Award winner at BJEM, was the Japanese partner in this event and supported the participation of 3 young artists (Takumi Kato, Manabu Kanai and Naoki Miyasaka) who had previously presented exhibitions at Youkobo Art Space. In a two week festival which encompassed the whole of the city of Nottingham, the three artists joined in exhibitions and events gaining new encounters and inspiration. At the end of the year they then presented an exhibition reporting and sharing their experiences with a range of young artists and Youkobo's artists in residence.



European Culture Capital Guimaraes 2012, KOSCIE2013

Perhaps the structure of the European Culture Capital program will come to have an impact on the workings of East Asia in the future. With this in mind, with the support of EU Japan Fest we have been given the opportunity to develop an exchange between Japanese artists and artists from selected capitals. In 2012 we were able to recommend the artist Mitsumasa Kadota to the event held in Guimaraes, Portugal. During his stay Kadota was able present work in a space utilizing the characteristics of the old town and engage in meaningful exchange with local artists. Furthermore an artist exchange was developed with Slovakia's second city and European Cultural Capital 2013, Kosice based KAIR (Kosice Artist in Residence) with an agreement to host 1 artist recommended by each organization. The Slovakian artist Erik Sille joined this program at Youkobo between January – March 2013, while Yokohama based Juka Araiawa is to join KAIR between March – May 2013.



Hweilan International Artists Workshop 2012

Through developing a relationship with artist and educator Pan Sheau-Shei since meeting at the Intra Asia Network in 2005 Youkobo has sent artists to join this project for the third year running and between 17th November-3rd December 2012 Natsumi Sakamoto participated in this project over a two week period developing work and joining in exchange with many different



artists from the base of the National Dong Hua University.

<Youkobo Artist/Staff Network>

Youkobo continues to extend its connections through the continued sharing of information with former residents, exchange of resources with its associates and face to face dialogue.

2-2. National

The 3rd Year of JENESYS Programme Invitation Programme for Creators

Saran Youkongdee from Thailand was in residence at Youkobo Art Space between 4th April to 30th May, in which time he led a series of special classes for children at the neighbouring Momoi Daishi Elementary School as part of the “Spring Trolls in the Park”, presenting the works in the local park, while also realizing his own solo exhibition “SPIRIT”. Furthermore he took the opportunity to participate in a papermaking workshop at a local Japanese Paper Making space in Ogawacho, Saitama. He then went on to join a residence at Studio Kura (Fukuoka), introduced through Youkobo’s network and also held a report event on this experience.

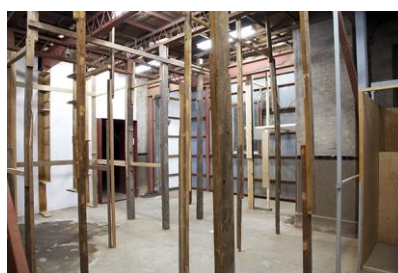


The 3rd Year of GTS Sightseeing Project (Geidai Taito Sumida Sightseeing Art Project)

Youkobo has supported this project over 3 years by recommending overseas artists to the program. Here artists have the opportunity to engage in a public project through the university and local area, widening their activities and contributing to the program with their own international perspective. In 2012 Sam Stocker (Glasgow, UK) was Youkobo’s recommended artist, presenting his work between 11th October-11th November in a warehouse below the Toubu railway tracks, under the title of “Shitamachi Bace”.

*GTS Project

GTS is formed from acronym of Geida, Taitou, Sumida and is an art project realized in the East of Tokyo. With the objective of creating an environment of art along the banks of Sumida river this was realized over 3 years through the collaboration of Tokyo University of the Arts, Taito ward and Sumida ward.



Start of a 2 year collaborative program with Yokohama’s Hammer-head studio

Through collaboration with “studio Jean” Youkobo has begun to further engage with artists based in Yokohama (including Juka Arai-kawa, Krister Olsson) and expand its activities by fostering collaborations between domestic and international artists. With the main concept of making “links”, connecting everyday activities, open studios, workshops and events this program aims to form ties between one person and another, between people and art, creators and audience, and with the area of ShinMinatoku itself.

Team members: Kyougo Matsumoto (representative), Takayuki Nasu(Supervisor) , Souhei Kimura, Hironobu Hijiya, Yuki Morishita, Ryosuke Kimura, Toshitaka Fujii, Youkobo Art Space



Yorii

This project based on the idea of the forests found in picture books and fairy tales, involves the creation of a fresco with the theme of Snow White, being drawn on a new facility for agricultural products in Yorii-machi, Saitama. This mural is being created by the German artists Marte Kiessling (Berlin) and Viviane Gernaert(Hamburg), with the support of Youkobo Art Space.

*Associated organizations: Yorii-machi/UG Urban Planners/Bosch



2-3. Local

“Trolls in the Park” Supporting a New Structure

The open air art exhibition “Trolls in the Park” is an event directed toward the community in which Youkobo is located, inviting the participation of domestic and overseas artists in addition to local residential groups, performers, and students of Momoshi Elementary School. It was established with the aim of giving new energy to the Zempukuji community. With the successful completion of its tenth anniversary in 2011, bringing the participation of many local residents and setting down firm roots, from 2012 the management of this project was handed over to a young group of locals, creating a new structure for this event.

The “Spring Trolls” is an event held every spring with the 4th years of Momoshi Elementary School, working together with a guest artist to create art work is then presented in Zempukuji park. This year, the 8th year of this program, Youkobo artist in residence, Saran Youkongdee (Thailand) worked together with the children to create a colourful array of sculptures under the title of “Tree in my Mind” and presented them in the park’s “Momoshi Forest”.

The Autumn Trolls in the Park entering its 11th year welcomed 2 artists and 1 artist group from overseas and 11 domestic artists presenting art work and various workshops while also hosting 7 groups of performers, proving to be an event to be enjoyed by many local people.



Art Kids

Art Kids is a children’s art workshop taking place once a month at the neighboring Momoshi Elementary School. Now in its twelfth year, numerous artists and creators have taught the children over the years, giving the children opportunities to explore their own creative potential through a number of art activities. The workshops have taken many themes and forms, utilizing a wide range of media from handicrafts and music, to more recent uses of video and technology.

This year’s workshops were again led by Japan-based UK artist Jaime Humphreys, who continued to develop a variety of themes exploring space and materials with a focus on encouraging the participants to consider different ways of observing their environment. Youkobo residence artist Leontine Lieffering also joined as guest teacher in a workshop where the children “up-cycled” (transform an unwanted material into something better) unwanted toys and packaging brought from home, while there was also a short program of workshops organized as part of “disolcate”, an ongoing project which aims to explore individual and collective expression

in various localities through art and technology. The results of this program of workshops were then presented in the “Trolls in the Park” exhibition.



3. MICRORESIDENCE! special program

Artist-in-Residence programs provide, through a period of residence and production, a place in which artists may pursue their creative activities and engage in exchange with different cultures. The structures and scales of operation vary from long-term residencies to event-led programs which exist widely both in Japan and overseas. Within these, a microresidence may be described as small-scale (both in the size of facilities and budget), artist-run, independent, grass roots and flexible, while placing importance upon responding flexibly to artists' needs and valuing human relationships. Today surely it is this growing group of small scale residencies promoting artistic and cultural exchange which have the potential to point towards new directions for artist in residence programs. How do we define an artist-in-residence? What is its function? What are its benefits? Answers to these questions are not simple, and require a review of the differing environments and social backgrounds of respective residencies. In this special program, while re-evaluating the possibilities and important roles of AIR, we examined microresidencies from various perspectives. The program included a special residence for 3 artists who are also directors of microresidencies themselves, an exhibition of artists who have joined microresidence programs through the Youkobo network and an introduction of 31 microresidencies from across the world who have shown an interest in joining together in cooperation. A highlight of this program was the "Microresidence Director's Talk" which gathered together directors of programs from many different contexts around the world to engage in a debate upon the fundamentals of microresidence practices. The document of these events has been collated in the "MICRORESIDENCE!" catalogue and we hope this prove of use in the development of further links and collaborations from now on.



2012 Overview

		AIR - Studio Program				Gallery Program		Event	NETWORK			
		Studio 1	R1	Studio 2	R2	Gallery	Lounge	Talk/Symposium	International	National	Local	
Jan.	5	Stina Fisch (Luxembourg) 12.1-1.31 * O.S. 1.18			Neil Malone (Australia) 1.3-3.31	Kyougo Matsumoto *Gallery Residence 12.23-1.30		1.14 Matsumoto				Art Kids 1.14
	10											
	15											
	20											
	25											
Feb.	5	Amanda Rizzo (France/Iceland) 2.1-3.31				Aya+Kaoru Murakami 2.2 - 2.19		2.12 Murakami				Art Kids 2.11
	10											
	15											
	20											
	25											
March	5	* O.S. 3.15-25			* O.S. 3.11-25	Shirley Cho 2.22-3.4		3.4 Cho				Art Kids 3.10
	10											
	15											
	20											
	25											
April	5	Bart Benschop & Leontine Liffering (Netherland) 4.4-6.29			Saran Youkongdee (Thailand) 4.2-5.30	Group Exhibition (Juka Araiawa, Krister Olsson, Mike HJ Chang, Xana Kudrjavcer-DeMilner, Yvan Martinex and Joshua Trees) 4.4-29		4.15 Micro AIRs	UK - PSQT (Masami Aihara & Tahahiro Ishii)	JENESYS at youkobo		Art Kids 4.14
	10											
	15											
	20											
	25											
May	5				*O.S. 5.16-27	Utako Watanabe 5.2-13		5.6 Watanabe				Art Kids 5.12
	10											
	15											
	20											
	25											
June	5	*O.S. 6.20-24 Sound Performance (Marcos Fernandes)			Christof Schlegel 6.18-7.31 Almut Rink 7.16-30 (Austria)	Project (Elizabeth Presa, Thea Rechner, Gaku Tutaja, Utako Shindo) *work in progress 6.13-7.15 *exhibition 7.18-29	Reading Night (Elizabeth Presa)	6.20 Benschop etc		JENESYS at Studio kura		Art Kids 6.2
	10											
	15											
	20											
	25											
July	5	Catalina Tuca (Chile) 7.3-9.30			*O.S. 7.26-29			6.24 Micro AIRs				Art Kids 7.14
	10											
	15											
	20											
	25											
Aug.	5				Jeremy Bakker (Australia) 8.1-9.30	closed		7.27 Rink etc				Art Kids 7.14
	10											
	15											
	20											
	25											
Sep.	5	*O.S. 9.12-23			*O.S. 9.19-23	Natsumi Skamoto 8.29-9.2		8.26 Sakamoto				Art Kids 9.8
	10											
	15											
	20											
	25											
Oct.	5	Julie Upmeyer (Caravansarai/Turkey) 10.2-11.30			Francisco Guevara (Arquetopia/Mexico) 10.1-11.2	Curated Exhibition (Yoshiko Maruyama, Kyougo Matsumoto, Saran Youkongdee) 10.4-14		10.4 Maruyama, Matsumoto etc	Portugal (Mitsumasa Kadota)	GTS (Sam Stocker) 10.10-11.11		Art Kids 10.13
	10											
	15											
	20											
	25											
Nov.	5	O.S. 11.10-23			*O.S. 10.20-11.4	Micro Intro Exhibition 10.20-11.04	Micro Archive Library 10.3-11.23	10.20 Francisco	Res Artis GM in TOKYO 10.25-28			Art Kids 10.13
	10											
	15											
	20											
	25											
Dec.	5	Nicholas Bastin (Australia) 12.3-2.27			Anat Litwin (HomeBase/Germany) 10.21-11.3-27	Group Exhibition (Emu Nagasaka, Yukako Izawa, Kyoko Shindo, Natsuno Yoshikaw) 11.30-12.9		11.10 Upmeyer, Aihara, Ishii	Taiwan (Natsumi Saskamoto)	Yorii Project (Marte Kiessling, Vivian Gernaert, Takahiro Ishii) *preparation Nov-Jan *production Feb-March		Art Kids 12.8
	10											
	15											
	20											
	25											

 → "MICRORESIDENCE!" special program period



Kingdom of the Netherlands



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