

Activity Report Part 4 AIR Exchange Program between Youkobo and ECoC

# European Capital of Culture, ECoC2015 Pilsen



Youkobo Art Space, Tokyo

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# Learning About European Capitals of Culture Through the Activities of Artist-in-Residence Programs (AIR)

**Tatsuhiko Murata** (Co-Director, Youkobo Art Space, Tokyo)

## Outline of the Program

With an understanding of the aims of the European Capital of Culture (ECoC) and its longstanding framework, Youkobo has actively developed a program of artist exchanges between AIR in ECoC cities, in addition to dispatching artists from Japan to cities designated as ECoC through the support of the EU Japan Fest. While perceived as a program that creates chances for young Japanese artists to experience the positive developments seen in contemporary art in cities given ECoC status, it endeavors to extend AIR opportunities in Japan that are often given to artists based in major cities such as London, Berlin, Paris and Amsterdam, to artists working in cities designated as ECoC, thus supporting their professional development while also acting as a bridge between Japan and ECoC.

## Activities with ECoC 2015 Pilsen

The mutual exchange of artists between the city of Pilsen and Youkobo began with the dispatch of Kyogo Matsumoto in 2014 to OPEN AiR, an AIR based in the city that had just been launched prior to ECoC 2015 Pilsen. In the year of ECoC 2015, Soichiro Mihara was dispatched between July and September, while in the same year Michal Cáb from Pilsen was hosted by Youkobo Art Space between October and December, thus providing mutual opportunities for stay, production and presentation. The three-month activity reports of respective participants in 2015 are as follows.

Relations between Pilsen and Youkobo are not, in fact, limited to this AIR exchange; connections also exist with ArtCamp, an international summer course organized by the University of West Bohemia in Pilsen City. After being introduced in 2013 to these international activities by Mr. Kogi, the Secretary General of the EU Japan Fest, a young Japanese artist was dispatched for the first time in the same year, followed in 2014 by another young artist and 10 art students who were able to participate through the cooperation of nationwide art universities, while in 2015 the exchange not only involved the dispatch of five students but also the participation of a Japanese artist as instructor in ArtCamp.

Gaining recognition as valuable opportunities for Japanese artists to stay and produce work overseas, these activities continue to develop, extending to the invitation of two experts from universities in partner cities to an AIR Network forum held in autumn 2014, and the dispatch of an intern to ArtCamp for a one-month period that straddled the start and end of the summer event with the aim of exploring the feasibility of developing a similar framework in Japan.

## Continuation and Expansion of Activities

Far-reaching results have been achieved through the exchange of artists in these exchange programs organized between a number of AIR based in ECoC. Along with the continuation of artist exchanges, it is our hope that exchanges realized through the AIR of newly designated ECoC, in addition to the development of new artist exchanges can be further developed.

With the objective of continuing these activities, further development is expected through the sharing of information between domestic and foreign AIR that are undertaking similar activities.

This will be facilitated through Res Artis ([www.resartis.org/](http://www.resartis.org/)), an AIR network working on an international scale, and the domestic AIR Network Japan (<http://air-j.info/>).

In addition, microresidencies—small-scale, artist-led AIR existing all over the world—may come to serve a pivotal role in these activities. (<http://microresidence.net/>)

We also hope that the development of a framework creating opportunities for young graduates to experience AIR through collaboration between AIR and art universities in respective countries will also be achieved, thus furthering the aim of this artist exchange program to provide opportunities and spaces for young artists.

## Background to these Activities

It was a residency by Lithuanian artists Saulius Valius and Diana Radaviciute at Youkobo in 2008 that became the trigger for relations between Youkobo Art Space and ECoC.

As part of ECoC 2009 Vilnius, the exchange exhibition Rain Meets Sun involving artists from both countries was held with the support of the EU Japan Fest.

Bringing together 12 artists and two collectives from Japan and nine artists from Lithuania, and involving the participation of an art museum in Lithuania, it proved to be a very successful event.

Istanbul in 2010, Guimarães in 2012, Kosice in 2013, Riga in 2014, Pilsen in 2015...

While limited in scale, this program being carried out by Youkobo where the faces of respective participants are visible is expected to broaden its scope through the sharing of information between likeminded microresidencies pursuing similar activities.



## DEVĚTSIL - Power of Japanese artist Soichiro Mihara to show how little we know about the essence of the world around us

**Tereza Svášková** (Director, OPEN A.i.R., Pilsen)

The residency of Soichiro Mihara was really inspiring! For the first time we have decided together with the jury and our partners from the Youkobo Art Space to welcome an artist who deals with the topic which concerns environmental issues and technologies. The subject raises many questions concerning the usage of natural resources and our approach to them, future of the alternative sources of energy which is closely connected to that and then also questions on the attitude of some governments which is in some cases alarming.

Soichiro came to the city of Pilsen at the beginning of July. His intention was to keep working on his long-term project called "blank". Soichiro has been exploring the connection between art and science since 2011 in this series. Both shaken and inspired by the catastrophe in Fukushima, he has become a kind of indicator of the time and society in which he lives. He is a philosopher and a critic but the seriousness of the situation has not stopped him; quite the opposite. In his allegorical installations, you can feel his faith in progress and an honest respect for human knowledge.

His latest project, called 'Cosmos', which he worked on as part of his artistic residency at DEPO2015 in Pilsen, expresses a metaphor for the material world and life, which only makes up 5% of the total volume of space. This installation itself is so special that it needs more explanation. The centre of the installation was a living ecosystem powered by alternative energy sources. Soichiro used modern bio-electronic technology, which produces power using the activity of living organisms. It is a swallow symbolising the potential future of power supply. The rest of the installation was a kind of packaging embracing the ecosystem like the dark matter of space encircles our world. Soichiro Mihara shows in this art work how little we know about the essence of the world around us.

As part of the exhibition's opening on the 13th September, the installation included the catapulting of eggshells, referring to possible reincarnation. It would be a sin not to mention a plant sitting in moss – a butterbur. The butterbur is a winter plant; it is not that simple to find it in September (and in good shape). Fortunately, the Institute of Botany of the Academy of Science of the Czech Republic in Třeboň helped us and the wish of the Japanese artist to integrate this plant in his installations came to fruition. The main reason for his wish was the name of the plant, which corresponds with the name of a Czech avant-garde artistic group of the 1920s and 1930s. Some members of this group became pioneers in the field of light art and kinetic constructions; they sought a connection between art and science in the same way as Soichiro Mihara does today.

As much as the project itself is inspiring, at the same time it was challenging for our OPEN A.i.R. team. We have learned a lot about the topic and we were fascinated by hard work of Soichiro, his original approach to the topic, how he was dealing with our Czech natural resources in the surrounding of the city. Besides many other production or event management tasks, my colleagues Honza and Matthieu were dealing with some bizarre tasks, e.g. they went with our artist in residence to find good soil, which is located nearby lakes around Pilsen. It was often very adventurous! Probably also because of this reason, Soichiro became essentially an instant OPEN A.i.R. team member – not just a great artist – our 'VIP guest', but also a colleague of us. He was much interested in the events organised by the Pilsen European Capital of Culture 2015 organisation and I would say that there was not a single event, which he had not attended in our beautiful industrial site DEPO2015 ([depo2015.cz](http://depo2015.cz)). He was also following the projects of his fellow artists in residence – Nicoletta Cabassi, József Havasréti, Patricia Leighton & Del Geist and Janna Ullrich. Besides the final presentation and really focused work on the project he led a workshop on DIY arduino programming. It took place on 29/08 in DEPO2015 as the part of the Bastl Festival. It was very successful and he let us use his receipt on the arduino programming in future as an open source. I am very grateful for this fruitful residency, I hope that Soichiro will come back soon to Pilsen, to taste our delicious beer (as he would say) and collaborate with the Czech microbes and us again! Many thanks to the EU-Japan Fest Japan Committee and the Youkobo Art Space to make this all possible!

DEVĚTSIL : A literal translation of the Czech word „devětsil“ is „nine powers“, but it is also a name for a plant called butterbur. Moreover, it is a name of the Czech artistic group.

# To be honest, it was dear to be Pilzen

Soichiro Mihara (Artist)



It was a really short stay, but I didn't think I gonna stay Pilzen, the city of original source as an artist who apply microbes and personally is interested in fermented food.

But such pleasant dream changed during my stay in local reality. At that time, democratic and refugee situation at EU and also Japan made me to re-think framework of modern nation.

But in Czech, I had really flesh experience from my identity or experience before. During residency, I seldom heard 你好, hello in chinese, and I got also German or Italian conversation on the street or bars. this is very special for my experience in abroad. Although, I only can reply "Dobrý den", "japonský", but Old lady save me to take right train, enjoying talking at flea market and also I managed Arduino workshop a half day. Especially one of my big happy memory is I found my lost iPhone in a bus at city government, lost & found. It seem everybody can only speak in Czech, but I got my one. děkuji vám! (thank you so much in Czech language)

During my residency, I decided to accept any local opportunity related with mu ongoing project called blank since 2011. I started to express distance between technology and society at this year when we got severe natural and artificial disaster. in this 2 years, I investigate strong connection between life and energy. I continued to build DIY microbe fuel cell, which microbes in the mud generate electricity. and tried several applications with plant especially mosses. I also tried open air exhibition for first time in my life at Pilzen. My way of practicing art is not using typical material or way of art, but I always got warm support from DEPO team. Thank you so much.

Devětsil, whose member experiment with technologies well as BAUHAUS, Futurists at that time. After several weeks of my arrival, I noticed more than important thing for the word Devětsil, derive from herb. I already know energy in scientific definition is decides among 9 or 10 of energies, ex: light, heat, radioactive, dark, still, etc. but when I got to know this word, living plant consists of Devět=9 and sil=energy, I thought This is what I want! This is energy and also life itself! so it is too easy for me and DEPO team to get this winter herbs at very hot summer time. we negotiated with wet plant institution at Třeboň a few hours from Pilzen by car.

Rest of the stay, I experimented with electronics, sand, mud, mosses, Devětsil, composting device, egg shells, coppers, aluminums to think about boundaries between materials and life, ratio about substance in whole universes for what is the best experience to feel life and energy.

Well, how people from pilzen fell my activities? At day of final presentation, I talked about almost 10 years about what makes me to focus on life and energy beside my new installation. but still I didn't find the right word for it. I don't know the typical and abstract term as JAPAN or ART will work for me, maybe YES, but I hope if DEPO team will describe my activity in the future, and then. it will spin their mind toward world situation at that time. I feel this is very unique artifacts for beautiful globe. I dreams this issue and looking forward to be Plzen again!

I want to conclude with many thanks for DEPO2015 team, EU JAPAN FEST comittee, YouKobo Art Space and Hinuma Lab from Joshibi University of art and design. I got lots of support before and after dense 3 month residency. To think about Devětsil, I really feel this residency is one of my turning point of my blank project.

Residency at OPEN A.i.R., Jul - Sep, 2015



## Soichiro Mihara

Born in 1980, Tokyo, Japan. Works in Kyoto, Japan.  
<http://mhrr.jp/>

### Solo Exhibition

- 2013 "the world filled with blanks" Kunstraum bethanien, Berlin, Germany
- 2013 "the world filled with blanks" Kuan-Du museum of fine art, Taipei

### Selected Group Exhibition

- 2014 "Sapporo International Art Festival 2014" [SIAF2014], Sapporo, JAPAN
  - "FILE - Festival Internacional de Linguagem Eletrônica" Centro Cultural FIESP, Sao Paulo, Brazil
  - "Crit Session", ARTLAAB, Perth, Australia
  - "Distant Observations. Fukushima in Berlin", Kunstraum bethanien, Berlin, Germany
- 2013 "mex21" Künstlerhaus, Dortmund, GERMANY
  - "Bio Media Art" 3331 ARTS CYD, Tokyo, JAPAN
- 2012 "OPENSPACE" NTTICC, Tokyo, JAPAN
  - "SOUND ART - SOUND IS A MEDIUM OF ART" ZKM, Karlsruhe, GERMANY
- 2011 "Simple Interaction - Sound Art from Japan" museum of contemporary art, Roskilde, DENMARK
  - "Sound Creatures" Galerie Grand Siecle, Taipei, TAIWAN
- 2010 "ISEA2010RUHR" kunstverein, dortmund, GERMANY
- 2009 "CodedCulture" MuseumQuarter, Vienna, AUSTRIA
- 2008 "Media City Seoul" Seoul City Museum, Seoul, SOUTH KOREA
- 2007 "Emergencies#3" NTTICC, Tokyo, JAPAN
- 2006 "PRIX ARS Cyberarts 06", OK Center, Linz, AUSTRIA
  - "transmediale 06 award exhibition", akademie de Kunst, Berlin, GERMANY
  - "Ogaki Biennale 06", Zensyou-ji (temple), Ogaki, JAPAN
- 2005 "Exploration of Time", YCAM, Yamaguchi, JAPAN

### Awards, Grants

- 2015 "Prix Ars Electronica, SoundArt Digital Music category, honorary mention.", ARS ELECTRONICA
- 2014 "Project to Support the Nurturing of Media Arts Creators", Agency for cultural affair JAPAN
- 2013 "17th Media Art Festival Art division excellence award", Agency for cultural affair JAPAN
  - "Japanese Government Oversea Study Program for Artists", Agency for cultural affair JAPAN
  - "Tokyo Wonder Site Berlin Exchange Program", Tokyo Wonder Site
  - "Creative Partnerships with Asia", Australian Council
- 2012 "Ryuichi Sakamoto special July prize", Tokyo Sonic Art Award
  - "GOOD DESIGN AWARD 100", Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry JAPAN
  - "Best Demo Award", Haptic Symposium
  - "Prix Emerging Technologies", Laval Virtual
- 2006 "transmediale award", transmediale
  - "Prix Ars Electronica, Interactive Art category, honorary mention.", ARS ELECTRONICA

### Artist In Residence

- 2013 "Kuan-Du Museum of Fine Arts", Taipei, Taiwan
- "Kunstraum Bethanien", Berlin, Germany
- "SymbioticA", Perth, Australia

### Education

- 2006 MA, Institute of Advanced Media Arts and Science [IAMAS]
- 2004 BA, Tama Art University (Information design department)



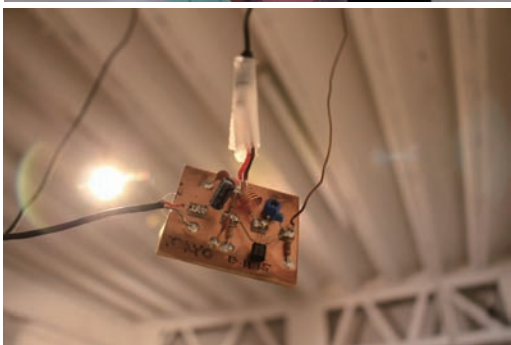
# Small in Japan / Poème électronique pour le monde

Michal Cáb (Artist)



To describe my residency at Youkobo Art Space which lasted for two and a half of month in not a piece of cake. It was always an unspoken notion for me to visit Japan and to be faced to the Otherness (E. Levinas) – in any possible meaning – artistic, cultural, ethical, scientific, religious. One old friend right after I come back to Prague in January told me this first sentence: “Yeah, I heard about one architect who visited Tokyo and afterwards gone out of his mind. How do you feel?” It is true, that I was partially blasted off with certain experiences (Pachinko slots, Kabukicho and Nakano district, Electric city at Akihabara, nonpresence for noise limit at places as Shibuya, Hokusai original shunga woodblock prints (ukiyo-e), gamification and commercialization of society, Onsen, and so on, and so on) but I have to confess that Japanese culture is very plausible to me. Although I got realized that Japanese way of doing things is about kind of obeying to given orders (i.e. there is kind of totality) I found many examples which stress an importance of individuality. This is how I interpreted my first impression with local unique architecture. Second: Japan (or maybe I should say only Tokyo because in fact I did not leave a city much) is for me a culture of extreme poles – on one side there is noisecolourchaotic life all around stations and on the other side you can just make few steps aside and find yourself in a tranquillity of shinto or buddhistic temple. This mixture and extremes are somehow present also in daily culture where Shichi-Go-San traditional celebration is shaking hand with KFC celebration of christmas. List of examples could continue...

Whatever – let me say something about my “artistic mission”. In proposal I suggested that I – as a soundartist – can work and develop multichannel sound system. That soundsystem is to be open-source based on Raspberry Pi2 microcomputer and programmed in Pure Data. It is supposed to be modular – as number of sound channels is derived from number of Raspberry Pi clients – and it is supposed to be also variable – as system is using wireless WiFi network so it can be adjusted in any way to various spaces. This was defined as a “main goal” of residency and this work was presented at my final exhibition. I composed short electroacoustic composition Poème électronique pour le monde as a tribute to E. Varese. There is still a lot of issues to upgrade and solve which I am going to deal with during a spring 2016. There will be an exhibition in gallery Školská28 with title Nástrojáři (Instrument makers) where my soundsystem will be presented. I am also give it a chance in theatre sound design as I we will prepare new piece with scenographer Kristýna Taübe-lová. After some upgrades and cleanup I will publish whole project and code at GitHub as opensource.



Well but besides this many other events happened. Of course I tried to get know and comprehend Tokyo and Japanese culture which is completely impossible. Maybe this was subconscious feeling and motive why I made short performance called "Small I Japan"... Well – I got touched with local noise musicians as Hakobune (Takahiro Yorifuji) or LZ129 (Ryota Okazaki) and we organised some gigs around Shinjuku (Buena Art Space, Rental Space). In gallery we had a jamsession with Satoshi Ikeda and Yoko Arai. I visited all main national galleries and scientific museums and checked out also some smaller events (home based projects, some performances which were part of Tokyo experimental festival).

Somehow important was meeting with philosopher and radioartist Tetsuo Kogawa. We had long and intense discussion about livecoding, Prague, Franz Kafka, broadcasting and FM transmitters. Tetsuo designed minimal FM transmitter which he was using during his musical improvisations. I also implemented his design into my first exhibition which took place at Youkobo Art Space. We are going also to continue in collaboration (which has already happened during a celebration of Art's Birthday event[1] and hopefully it will continue in our future Kafka project). Important was also meeting with feminist artist and performer Ito Tari who I personally visited and made some recordings with her. (Let me add that help of Youkobo team and help of Karin Písaříková was essential in getting in touch with mentioned artists.) Afterwards I implemented Tari's voice into my composition.

To say something about Youkobo itself: This was my second artistic residency and I have to say that from Youkobo side almost everything was managed very well. What is refreshing is a fact that there are usually more artist so they can discuss or share experiences. I really don't like commercialcheesykindofartproducing galleries but more private and friendly places. Youkobo – as small and let say family gallery – fits this very well. I did not feel any kind of pressure so I could freely develop and experiment with my issues. Youkobo's knowhow was also inspiring for me and push me more to think about establishing a nonprofit organization/gallery in Prague which should focus on soundart. I very appreciate that Youkobo provided a bunch of opportunities to have a presentations/lectures and also a workshop at Joshibi University. Only one suggestion I can mention is following: I would recommend to upgrade a technical repository (projectors, LCD panels, speakers).

So generally I can say that I was very satisfied with my stay at Youkobo. I was faced to brand new and other culture which is always inspiring. And I had also time and space to work and experiment with new issues in my artistic practice – few times I even found myself so deeply sunk into my work that I was thinking to myself: "Hey, you are in Tokyo, you should get out and get some life..." So I followed my inner voices which is usually a good way... Just hope that our collaboration can continue somehow in the future. [1]<https://youtu.be/Bv1I3haPuWU>

Residency at Youkobo Art Space, Oct - Dec, 2015

## Michal Cáb

1980, Kyjov, Czech Republic  
WWW: <http://ticho.multiplace.org>

### EDUCATION

2009 – 2014 Academy of fine Arts in Prague, Intermedia studio of Tomáš Vaňek (Ph.D. degree)  
2001 – 2002 Stage at Katholieke Universiteit, Leuven  
1999 – 2005 Faculty of Theology in České Budějovice (Mgr. degree)  
1995 – 1999 Gymnasium in Uherské Hradiště

### WORK EXPERIENCE

2014 Head of Software and Multimedia studio at Scholastika School, Prague  
2009 – 2014 External teacher of open source technologies at Academy of Fine Arts in Prague  
2009 – 2014 External teacher of open source technologies at SUPŠ Bechyně  
2009 – 2012 Assistant at New Media studio at Academy of Fine Arts in Prague

### EXHIBITIONS (selection)

2015 *poème électronique - pour le monde*, Youkobo Art Space, Tokyo  
2015 *signals*, Youkobo Art Space, Tokyo  
2014 *Site Specific: Made-to-order Art*, Galerie U dobrého pastýře, Brno  
2014 *If... than... else...*, TIC, Brno  
2014 *A Street Event*, Vzájemnost gallery, Praha  
2013 *T...O, 2+1* gallery, Bechyně  
2013 *Orbis Pictus Reloaded*, Doma gallery, Kyjov  
2012 *Pas Par Là*, ESAAA, Annecy  
2012 *Ich liebe Ich*, Blahobyt gallery, Praha  
2011 *Jiří Novák in motion*, Litoměřice  
2010 *Paper heads*, Trafačka gallery, Praha  
2010 *Connection*, Embassy of the Czech Republic, Berlin  
2010 *Instant Supper*, AVOID gallery, Praha

### MUSIC/THEATRE/AUDIO-VISUAL PERFORMANCES (selection)

2014 *Trasy vlasů* [second link], Alfréd ve dvoře, Praha  
2013 *Koupelny I., II.*, Alfréd ve dvoře, Praha  
2013 *Mondšajn*, Meetfactory, Praha  
2012 *Without that*, composition for Czech Radio 3  
2012 *Laputoids*, Duchcov  
2011 *Untitled*, BioOko, Praha  
2011 *Multiplace Opening*, Dům umění, Brno  
2011 *Orestek*, Na zábradlí, Praha  
2010 *Sound installation*, National Library of Technology, Praha  
2010 *Kokkola*, F. X. Šalda Theatre, Liberec  
2009 *LOA 15 Steps*, NOD, Praha  
2009 *Creative destruction*, AVU, Praha  
2009 *Camille*, Alfréd ve dvoře, Praha  
2007 *Mikroloops*, Školská 28, Praha



*poème électronique  
pour le monde*



## OPEN A.i.R.

Artistic residencies are places for international artists to meet. The main aim of the OPEN A.i.R. programme, which is being realised under the auspices of the Pilsen -European Capital of Culture 2015 project, is the opening up of Pilsen's cultural scene and the exchange of ideas, creative experience, processes, techniques and contacts.

The programme has been focusing on receiving Czech and foreign artists and sending Czech artists abroad; there are on-going successful collaborations with residential programmes and centres in Slovakia, Poland, Germany, the Netherlands, Japan, France, Hungary and others.

Since its inception in 2012, the programme has supported the work of more than 60 artists from various genres. We mainly focus on design, digital and interactive art and topic of recycling.

The OPEN A.i.R. programme currently resides at the DEPO2015 Creative Zone, with facilities such as two art studios and many spaces for the final presentations of residents. The artists can also use machines and the masters' craftsmanship in the open workshop Makerspace situated right at DEPO2015.

Website: [www.depo2015.cz](http://www.depo2015.cz)



Pilsen 2015. Concerning the photo (openair\_photocatalogue) please refer that as (c) Petr Jiras. Thank you.



**youkoboART SPACE**

## History

Youkobo Art Space houses its facilities and operates its programs within a building complex that was originally a clinic and sanatorium for tuberculosis patients from the 50's to the 80's. After the clinic closed, a section of the property was used as a home-stay style residence for foreign artists and students; another section was home to an animation studio for nearly two decades.

These spaces were refurbished in 2001 to officially become Youkobo Art Space. Youkobo Art Space has since facilitated a broad range of artists' activities through an artist in residence and gallery program, providing artists with important resources that benefit their artistic goals. The co-directors, Hiroko(sculptor) and Tatsuhiro Murata have welcomed over 200 artists of 20 different nationalities since founding Youkobo Art Space.

Address : Zempukuji 3-2-10, Suginami-ku, Tokyo, 167-0041 Japan  
Phone : +81-3-5930-5009 Fax : +81-3-3399-7549  
E-mail : info@youkobo.co.jp

**www.youkobo.co.jp**

## Program Statement

Youkobo Art Space's primary objective is to support and enhance the creativity of artists by offering opportunities for artistic investigation on urban issues in a contemporary Japanese setting. Its various programs are committed to providing the local community with creative stimulus by promoting cultural exchange between international artists and local citizens.

Youkobo Art Space is very active in Suginami City and across Japan, organizing and presenting a wide range of non-profit activities, including exhibitions and events that are open to the public.

## Studio / Gallery / Residence

Youkobo Art Space consists of two artist studios, a gallery and residential accommodations.

## Other services

The gallery holds exhibitions of contemporary art and mostly solo shows. To apply please submit artwork images and resume. For more information contact the gallery.

Artist Studio rental is available but please note that priority of studio use is given to artist in residence and must accommodate to their schedule.

## Access

Youkobo Art Space is located in metropolitan Tokyo, 15 km west from the city center.

From Narita International Airport, please take the limousine bus from Narita Airport, Tokyo to Kichijoji Station, 50km west from the airport (2 hours approx). Youkobo Art Space is a 5-minute taxi drive from Kichijoji Station.

## A place for artists in Metropolitan Tokyo

Youkobo Art Space is located in a tranquil residential suburb in Suginami City, central Tokyo, and consists of an art gallery, artists studios, and artist in residence program.

The residency program offers local and international artists the opportunity to live, work, and participate in a solo exhibition and/or collaborative projects within the local community for periods of up to six months.

## A member of

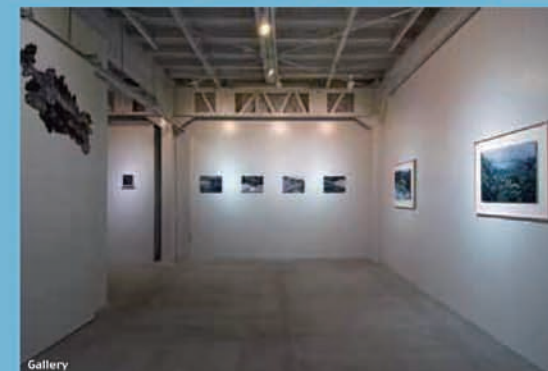
**Res Artis** WORLDWIDE NETWORK OF ARTIST RESIDENCIES  
**Microresidence Network** [www.microresidence.net](http://www.microresidence.net)



Studio 1



Studio 2



Gallery

Photo : Masaru Yamaguchi

# The Beginnings of the Microresidence Network

**Tatsuhiko Murata**

**Advocate of Microresidence**

**Co-director, Youkobo Art Space**

What is an artist in residence (AIR)? The present situation is such that when I am asked this question, it is not possible to make any generalization. This is because a plethora of AIR exist, from business models and administrative organizations to those of various forms and scales. "Microresidence" is proposed here as a general term to refer to organizations and activities focused on AIR, where the basis of AIR is perceived as being the provision of opportunities and venues for the creative activities of artists as ordinary residents.

The Microresidence.net, website was initiated with the expectation that it would bring greater visibility to microresidencies and promote their mutual activities, leading to the establishment of AIR as vessels for society. In the autumn of 2012, preparations for the site began following a gathering of microresidence directors in Tokyo (including those who participated via the Internet), based on an understanding between respective AIR operators that each would take responsibility for the conveyance of their own activities on the site. The site was later launched in January 2014.

There is great expectation that even more microresidencies will participate as the site gains the recognition of numerous artists and others who share similar concerns, bringing greater awareness of venues and opportunities for artists' creative activities. At the same time, the site will serve as evidence that art is essential to society, while increasing awareness of the activities of AIR as important social vessels.

Microresidence Network [www.microresidence.net](http://www.microresidence.net)

