

Youkobo Art Space Annual Report 2016



The Artist in Residence Program of Youkobo Art Space was supported by
The Agency of Cultural Affairs Government of Japan in the fiscal 2016

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Overview of 2016 and Future Prospects

With the understanding and support of the Agency of Cultural Affairs, Government of Japan, and a number of other related institutions, Youkobo has heretofore been able to undertake a range of unique activities relating to microresidencies*¹ and the Y-AIR Initiative*². Made possible through a new program of support*³, 2016 saw the beginning of new initiatives based on the activities achieved thus far that reconfirmed our relationships with international AIR and deepened exchange between domestic and international artists, guided with an awareness of the need for sustainable frameworks of exchange with AIR partners.

As of December 2016, Youkobo has been host to 275 artists from 38 different countries, and over 200 exhibitions have been held in its studios and gallery, while over 100 artists have been dispatched overseas through our support and recommendations. What follows is an overview of 2016, and an outline of the aims and challenges Youkobo faces in the future.

Running parallel to an open call for international artists to our AIR program, we have developed meaningful exchange programs with other international AIR in addition to dispatch programs for artists and researchers through the support of international organizations.

2016 was especially rewarding in relation to the Y-AIR Initiative, a collaboration between Youkobo as a “micro-scale” AIR and professors of “macro-scale” art universities. The London/Tokyo Y-AIR Exchange Program, a studio exchange between both cities organized with the support of Central Saint Martins in London and Tokyo University of the Arts in Tokyo, took place for the second year, while it was the fourth year of the Art Camp dispatch program, which creates opportunities for young artists and art lecturers to join Art Camp, a summer art school organized by the University of West Bohemia in Pilsen, Czech Republic. Additionally, 2016 saw the continuation of an artist exchange with KAIR in Kosice, Slovakia.

Among the artist dispatches achieved in 2016, of particular significance was the participation of artist Masami Aihara in a project to celebrate the tenth anniversary of Kulttuuri Kauppila Art Center in Ii City, Finland, one of the original members of the Microresidence Network, and artist Maiko Sugano in the Taiwan East Coast Art Project 2016, a new open-air art project in Taichung City, Taiwan. The vigorous activities of the participating artists will surely help to propel their creative practices forward.

In 2016, we also hosted an artist and researcher from Vienna, Austria, through the recommendation of an international organization. They participated in *Trolls in the Park*, an international open-air art exhibition that takes place in autumn at the local municipal Zempukuji Park, presenting a project in sites that straddled the park and the Youkobo gallery that was more than two years in the making.

In addition, a new agreement to host writers from Finland was forged with the Union of Finnish Writers in 2016, helping to extend the field of activities that Youkobo supports. A substantial range of exhibitions and public presentations held by artists and researchers participating in the programs outlined above was also realized.

2016 also saw the re-launch of the Y-AIR Studio Program as part of the Y-AIR initiative. This took the form of a six-month trial in which the young Tokyo-based artists who joined the London/Tokyo Y-AIR Exchange program 2016 used the gallery space as a shared studio from April to September.

In order to enhance the Microresidence Network, one of Youkobo’s related programs, the Youkobo directors joined a number of face-to-face meetings, in Armenia in June, and in Finland and Russia in August.

In the run-up to the thirtieth anniversary since it first started accepting artists from overseas in 1989, Youkobo is planning in 2017 to initiate *OKAERINASAI AIR* (provisional title), a project to examine and share the activities of previous residence artists by offering opportunities to return to Youkobo.

Humanity is a vital prerequisite in the management of an AIR and the support of artists in general, and yet humanity can be considered imperfect. Indeed, it is precisely this state of imperfection that provides artists with rich hints for their creative practice. There is a tendency to consider that AIR programs should be open to society, and yet for artists, AIR might be considered to be heterotopias rather than utopias, and as such we feel AIR must be open to the public while at the same time offering privacy to its resident artists.

*1 Microresidence

It’s a term proposed by Youkobo Art Space to refer to small-scale, often artist-run forms of residencies. Youkobo has been conducting research into their existence since 2011. The Microresidence Network was initiated in 2012.

*2 Y-AIR : AIR for Young

Youkobo launched the Y-AIR (AIR for Young) Initiative in 2013, aiming to create an environment where access to AIR is made easier for art students and art university graduates, and contribute through trial programs offering AIR experiences to the creative activities of artists as citizens of society and internationally-minded professionals. The initiative is being developed with the understanding and support of various professors of art universities, with the objective of connecting the educational programs of art universities to the necessary existence of AIR.

*3 Program to promote international cultural exchange through the support of artist-in-residencies

A new program of support for AIR launched by the Ministry of Cultural Affairs in 2016. The program is expected to activate international collaborations between AIR that are host to programs of exchange, while bringing about ongoing international cultural exchanges among domestic and international artists who are involved in such programs.

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 art activities, Youkobo Art Space aims to become a platform where the regional and the international, traditional culture and contemporary art diverge to inspire new expressive forms. Youkobo enables situations and exchanges that have a natural openness to and recognition of diversity engendered by such activities. With the objective of supporting the creative expressions of artists who are committed to their practice, Youkobo continues to develop its international art programs as a member of a local community.

Vision

We aim to demonstrate the importance and vital role art plays in society by offering 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 contemporary art and the work that artists do requires a flexible approach in the way that we maintain our programs.

- Autonomy:

While recognizing the importance of maintaining strong networks with the community and other institutions, we also believe in individuality and diversity in the activities of artists and those of 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 international and local artists and residents, and building a society more open to diversity. (Artist talks 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, Yuuri Kabata, Jaime Humphreys, Makiko Tsuji

Orientation as Gardening

Almut Rink and Carola Platzek

First of all we want to thank Youkobo Art Space for selecting us as “artists of the year.” We feel very honored.

We want to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the Youkobo team: Tatsuhiko Murata, Hiroko Murata, and Makiko Tsuji. It was their continuous support that enabled us to develop such a big project from outside Japan and to implement it successfully in the public space of Zempukuji Park and gallery of Youkobo Art Space.

At every stage of the project, from the planning at the beginning to its realization in Tokyo, we received so much support and also a deep interest in our work.

That made *Orientation as Gardening: Part 1 Tokyo*, one of the most satisfying work experiences of our lives.

We appreciated the complete reliability of our cooperation, the ongoing attentiveness to the process of the project, and all the assistance and enthusiasm we experienced throughout the various stages of preparation, set-up and performance. The perfect balance provided by Youkobo Art Space, which is established through the warmth of people, the pleasant encounters and environment, and carefully thought-out structures was one of the most important experiences for us.

The basis of every work is a “relationship” – a shared experience. A relationship that is shaping the environment and the subject that raises the question addressed. A relationship that can only be thought of as a process, which is reoriented at every moment. That is what will stay with us. Thank you.



EXPERIENCE

Heaven is above
specters are below
as long as I wait
and hope
everything will be different

I'll hover in between
finding no middle ground ...

Enrique Vila-Matas. “Exemplary Suicides”

Rosa Schwarzer is an attendant in the Paul Klee room at a museum in Düsseldorf. It's among these pictures, where she comes to terms with her one-day escape from her everyday life. On the previous day, she turned 50 and no one came to eat her famous suckling pig meal — husband and sons prepared excuses. She takes the leap out of her life, lands in the park with a drunk, has a new experience and lives on.

Note: Hiroko Murata, Youkobo Art Space

Orientation as Gardening Part 1 - Tokyo was a project that evolved on a daily basis, through the alternate installment of Almut Rink's “assemblage boards” and Carola Platzek's “poetry displays.” Installation of the eight ready-to-assemble shelf structures, referred to as “assemblage boards,” took place over an eight-day period in eight picturesque spots within the grounds of Zempukuji Park, each structure displayed once in one of the assigned locations before being returned to the Youkobo gallery. On each day that a new assemblage board was added, one of eight “poetry displays” was selected and installed in the spot that the structure had occupied as a trace of its presence there. Each containing a poem and title inspired by respective works of literature, the eight “poetry displays” consisted of three overlaying sheets of paper on which the poems and titles were written in three languages (Japanese, English and German). One of poetry display, 'Experience' is the above text. Involving performative elements as it moved back and forth daily between the gallery and park, this unorthodox work was like the staging of a story whose conditions would change through the passage of time. Realization of the project began first in 2014 with preparations that involved the research of gardens based on Sakuteiki (Records of Garden Making) and other Japanese literature before its presentation at Zempukuji Metropolitan Park and Youkobo Art Space during *Trolls in the Park 2016*, an international outdoor art exhibition held from November 3 to 23. In addition to talks, interviews with locally based intellectuals were also arranged during the exhibition, while investigations of *suiseki* (literally “water stone,” a form of stone appreciation) and additional research in Kyoto and Tokyo was conducted during the artists' stay, bringing a positive and productive start to a project that will continue to London and Vienna.

Almut Rink is an old friend whom, together with her partner Christof Schlegel, an architect, we first met during their stay at a residency for Austrian artists in Fujino Town, Kanagawa prefecture in the 1990s. Almut's research partner, Carola Platzek, became the nucleus of the project at the research stage. I understand that the resulting project came to fruition due to research that has developed through contributions by many collaborators, notably the cooperation of artist Gerald Freimuth who was instrumental in the creation of the “assemblage shelves.”

10th Anniversary Artist in Residence - My experience at Kulttuuri Kauppila

Masami Aihara

In the fall of 2006, the Artist in Residence program was inaugurated at the Kulttuuri Kauppila (KK-air) art center in Ii (a city with supposedly the shortest name in the world), located about a 40 minute drive north of Oulu, a city located in more or less the center of Finland. The residence was founded by three artists living in the city. Antti Yolenen, one of the founding artists, was the first artist in residence at Youkobo, a pioneer of the AIR scene in Japan. Antti was inspired by his amazing experience at Youkobo to create a similar initiative in his own city. To celebrate the start of KK-air with a Japanese artist, through Youkobo, I was given the honor of "first artist in resident." Everything was brand new then. The residence and studio had just been renovated, the kitchen and showers were spotless, the Marimekko bedding and linens with their Scandinavian color palette were crisp. If it were a hotel, it would have been the perfect environment. But with no materials or tools in sight, I remember being nervous and anxious since I was expected to begin some sort of activity. However, as the days passed, I met more artists and collaborators, and was able to create a number of works with pulp, and a sculptural piece called "Lotus" which combines Finnish pine and glass blocks. I was able to also lead a few workshops from late fall to early winter, and in the end, had quite a body of work to show for my time there.

While time does fly by, 10 years is still also long time. I had never imagined that I would be given another opportunity to do a residency at KK-air, which celebrates its 10 year anniversary in 2016, so when Antti and his partner, Kaisa Keratar, who also operates an artist program, came to Japan 6 months ago to tell me this, my memories of Ii and the residence came back to me all at once and I was immediately excited. Thanks to their efforts and the new director, Merja Brinon, I was able to travel there once again, from July 25th, 2016 to August 31st, as the 10th anniversary artist, creating and exhibiting work, as well as leading workshops.

The theme of my work was "Face to Face: Joy, Anger, Sorrow, and Pleasure." I created 14 linear relief pieces that depicted human expressions that were simplified into pictogram-like forms. Furthermore, I brought the works created with children in Tokachi, Hokkaido, a series of self-portraits made by tracing one's reflection in the mirror onto a transparent film. I exhibited this work at KK-air as part of my work exchange project.

On August 27th, we were able to welcome Tatsuhiko and Hiroko Murata, who have maintained a wonderful relationship with KK-air for the past 10 years, to celebrate together, with Ari Alatosava, the mayor of Ii, and many others, as well as the local people. (Photo: Kazue Shimomura)

During my stay, I was able to attend the biennale, hosted by KK (which focused on artists of Sami origins this year), and I was able to connect with the northern regions even more. I tagged along with Antti and Kaisa on their trip to Lapland, and they took me to Inari, an arctic town very close to Norway. Ten years ago I traveled to Rovaniemi in the winter, and this time to Inari in the summer, experiencing the wisdom, strength and gracefulness of the people who coexist with the vast nature surrounding them (specifically, I witnessed the care of semi-wild reindeer, holy stones, went berry picking and mushroom collecting in the forest, smoke saunas, swimming in the river, boating, campfires, and knitting). I can say with certainty that these experiences had an immense influence on me as an artist, and as I enter my 20th year of moving my artistic practice from Tokyo to Hokkaido.

I was able to interact with the local community, which I did not have the chance to do 10 years ago. I had the opportunity to engage with 130 seventh graders from two schools in Ii, Valtarin Koulu and Kuivaniemi Koulu. With the big help of Kirsi Saravesi, lead teacher, and Taija Jyrkas, assistant director of KK-air, I was able to lead 7 workshops despite the short period. There are messages for the Japanese people accompanying the self-portraits made during the workshops, to which there will be replies sent back from Japan to Finland, thus concluding the project. The one-on-one interaction between the two places is a chance for them to learn and think about each other, and perhaps someday, somewhere, they will meet. It is a project about planting that excitement in their hearts.

Since returning to Japan, I have been leading several workshops: "Here and the Future" hosted by All Seed Association (ASA), in Toyokorocho (September 17~23), and at Seisa Kokusai High School in Obihiro (November 9), "Here and the Future in Sapporo" hosted by Co Midori in Sapporo (December 12), and at "Face to Face" at Galleria ORYZA, hosted by ASA (January 11~22, 2017), through which we were able to pair up all works.

Finally, I would like to express my respect and gratitude towards the founding members of KK-air, Antti Yolenen, Kaisa Keratar, Sanna Koivisto, Helena Kaikkonen, and the first director, LeenaVuotovesi, and thank the co-founders of Youkobo Art Space, Tatsuhiko and Hiroko Murata, who have been gracious and consistent in their encouragement, Chiemi Chiba, Board Representative of non-profit, All Seeds Association, and photographer and Galleria ORYZA owner Makoto Okubo. I look forward to their continued commitments to provide residency experiences for many artists, so that through these overseas experiences, artists can gain deeper insights about themselves, about Japan, and that it will contribute significantly to their artistic practices.



(Photo : Kazue Shimomura)



Armenia After Fifty Years

Tatsuhiko Murata

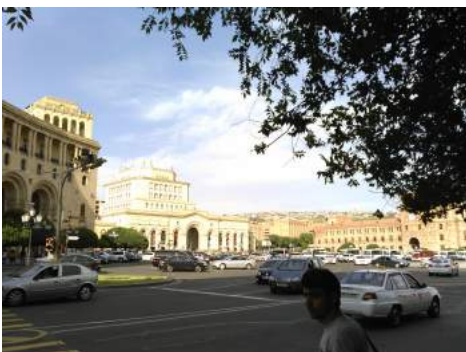
In June 2016, I visited Armenia for the first time in 50 years to attend an Artist in Residence (AIR) international network mini forum in Yerevan, the capital of Armenia. <http://microresidence.net/>

Armenia is perhaps an unfamiliar country to Japan. It is located at a high altitude in the southern part of the Caucasus Mountain Range, and is a country that is landlocked by Turkey to its west, Azerbaijan to its east, Georgia to its north, and Iran to its south. The land is fertile, looking out at Mount Ararat (where Noah's ark landed after the flood), and is famous for being the home of wine and cognac. The Republic of Armenia, which has existed from ancient times, had once occupied a vast region expanding to the Black Sea, Caspian Sea, and Mediterranean Sea, and in 301 B.C. it was the first country to adopt Christianity as the state religion. Since the Middle Ages, various historical incidents led to many Armenians fleeing the country, known as the Armenian diaspora. In 1991, Armenia gained its independence from the Soviet Union, and in 2015, it held its centennial commemoration of the Armenian genocide by the Osman Empire (an understanding between Turkey and Armenia has not been reached regarding this issue). The Armenian Pavilion received the Golden Lions for their exhibition, "*Armenity: Artists from the Armenian Diaspora*" in the 2015 Venice Biennale, which is still fresh in our memories. Furthermore, the Pope visited Armenia for the first time in history at the end of June 2016, which received some attention in Japanese news as well.

While I was an engineering student in university in 1966, I had the opportunity to participate in a three-month practical training session in Istanbul, Turkey, after which I traveled from the Anatolia region to the then-Soviet Caucasus region. Back then, it was difficult to cross the border between Turkey and the Soviet Union. We were stopped for one week while trying to cross from Kars, a city on the eastern end of Turkey, to Gyumri, the epicenter of west Armenia (it was called Leninakan back then, taken from Lenin's name). I have vivid memories of how the Soviet side, then an advanced country, was brightly lit and running on bountiful electricity. The country once had a venerable atmosphere, but it had completely modernized since then. The former Soviet-Armenian hotels had dramatically changed into modern hotels managed by the American capital. At the experimental exhibition space for contemporary art located in the center of the city (which was the art center during the Soviet era), there was a documentary exhibition about the return to the motherland and the tragedy that the people experienced following World War II. Together with my wife who accompanied me on the trip, we were also able to visit the world's oldest cathedral, the Etchmiadzin Cathedral, erected in 301 B.C., which was a deeply moving and emotional experience. I am very grateful to my local friends who were able to make arrangements for us to attend a worship service at a church inside a cave that was carved out of a single boulder in the 4th century, and visit world heritage sites in the Assad Valley region where the Temple of Garni is located. There is something special about this country, perhaps having to do with its unfathomably dense history, that is vastly different from the worldview of a small island country such as Japan. The encounters and interactions with the people made me feel as if no time had ever passed at all since my last visit, despite the half-century gap.

Seeing the history up close, I began to feel a dissonance with the history of culture as we know it, which is largely based on a western-centric worldview. I'm not insinuating that Japan has been circulating an exclusively western account of world history in the education system, but there are far too few opportunities to learn about more diverse accounts of it. From the trips throughout my life to Caucasus, the Balkans, eastern Europe, and the Middle East, I personally feel that the power and means utilized by western civilizations to spread their version of world history has enabled it to become the mainstream account that is widely accepted today.







Influenced by my ancestors, who converted to the Greek Orthodoxy in the late Edo period, I had a fascination with Constantinople (current Istanbul), and traveled to Turkey many times. The Byzantine Empire, which had once dominated the region, was one day taken over by the Eastern Roman Empire. My humble observations suggest to me that our current worldview, molded largely by western philosophers with immense foresight, perhaps stems from a strange, distorted understanding of reality, which obfuscates the Byzantine Empire into antiquity, and spotlights Rome as the center of the world. The origins of the mass immigration and refugee crisis occurring in the western hemisphere can perhaps be traced back to this, and may provide a hint for a solution to threats of terrorism. I believe that confronting reality, recognizing diversity, and having the tolerance to accept differences, are all roles that the Arts can model in our world today.


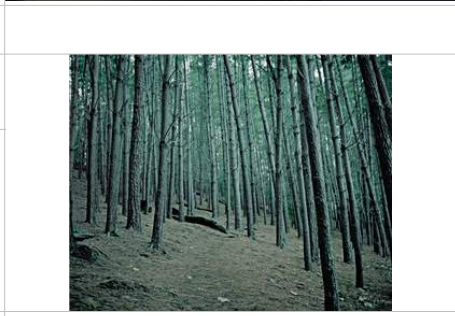



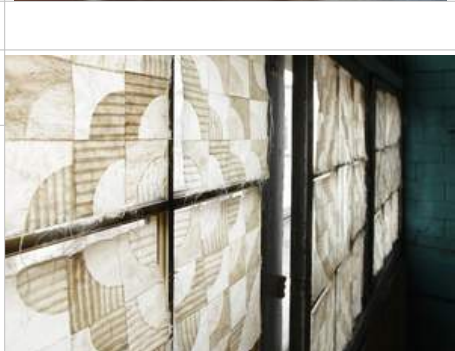








1 Overview of Activities







1-1 AIR Program

2016.01.05 - 2016.02.29	Kate Just
2016.02.01 - 2016.02.29	Josh Richardson, Josh Shackleton (Hildoceras)
2016.02.01 - 2016.02.28	Anie Nheu
2016.03.01 - 2016.04.30	Julia McInerney
2016.03.01 - 2016.03.31	Karien Vandekerkhove
2016.03.02 - 2016.03.30	Ting Chaong-Wen
2016.04.01 - 2016.05.31	Malin Pettersson Öberg
2016.04.01 - 2016.04.30	Jordan Madge
2016.05.01 - 2016.07.31	Deanna Dowling
2016.05.02 - 2016.06.15	Sean Lavelle
2016.06.01 - 2016.06.30	Brendon O'Neill
2016.06.01 - 2016.06.30	Sarah Bertrand-Hamel
2016.06.16 - 2016.07.31	Eleanor Turnbull
2016.07.01 - 2016.07.31	Johanna Karlin
2016.08.01 - 2016.09.30	SUMO
2016.09.01 - 2016.10.31	Leoni Andrews
2016.09.01 - 2016.09.30	Hannu Väisänen
2016.10.01 - 2016.11.30	Radek Brousil
2016.10.03 - 2016.10.30	Tiina Lehtikainen
2016.10.27 - 2016.11.25	Almut Rink & Carola Platzek
2016.11.01 - 2016.11.30	Vanessa Godden
2016.11.02 - 2016.11.30	Malin Kivelä & Hannele Mikaela Taivassalo
2016.12.01 - 2017.01.31	Franck Lesbros
2016.12.01 - 2017.01.31	Naomi Reis

<p>2016.01.05 - 2016.02.29 Kate Just [Australia]</p> <p>Kate Just is an American-born Australian visual artist. Since 2002, Just has created an expansive body of work in a diversity of media including knitting, resin, clay, collage and photo-media. A focal point in her practice is the development of feminist representations of the body and womanhood that embrace embodied, subjective perspectives. She organized a group show with three other feminist artists and a collective art group during her program at Youkobo Art Space.</p>	
<p>2016.02.01 - 2016.02.29 Hildoceras Josh Richardson & Josh Shackleton [Australia]</p> <p>Hildoceras is the collaborative artistic practice of Josh Richardson (1991) and Josh Shackleton (1992). Working within audiovisual, installation-based media, the two artists explore concepts that discuss aspects of environment and the perception of landscape. During their stay, they visited many places to document contrasting aspects of industrial/urban lifestyles and natural landscapes. At the end of the program, they showed a video work in an open studio.</p>	
<p>2016.02.01 - 2016.02.28 Anie Nheu [Australia]</p> <p>Displacement and identity have formed the core themes of her art practice. These preoccupations are a consequence of a series of short settlements in different countries during her formative years of adolescence. Her interest in joining this residency was mainly based on the idea of returning to an unfamiliar environment in order to reawaken the emotions of adaptation, and of locating herself as she navigated through the new environment. She showed some experimental works of paper in her open studio.</p>	
<p>2016.03.01 - 2016.03.31 Karien Vandekerkhove [Belgium]</p> <p>Over the past years Karien Vandekerkhove has created a series of works in a variety of media that include drawing, installation, scale models and photography. Her work always involves explorations in light and space, muses that evoke perception & feeling at once. It was the second time for her to join the AIR program at Youkobo. She continued a recent series of works, holding a solo show at the end of her residency.</p>	
<p>2016.03.02 - 2016.03.30 Ting Chaong-Wen [Taiwan]</p> <p>Lives and works in Taichung, Taiwan. Ting is an installation artist and a visual designer. He deconstructs, interprets, and reinterprets our shared history in surprising and innovate ways. He examines dominant values, historical conflicts such as colonialism, migration, and cultural collective memory and their cross-border existence. He explored the environs of Youkobo, conducting various interviews with local residents. He held an artist talk event at the end of his residency.</p>	
<p>2016.03.01 - 2016.04.30 Julia McInerney [Australia]</p> <p>Julia McInerney is an Adelaide based artist, graduating from the Adelaide Central School of Art with a Bachelor of Visual Art (Honours) in 2011. She received the Adelaide Critics Circle Emerging Artist Award (2015). Whilst in residence at Youkobo, she spent her time gathering and sourcing a variety of materials to place and she created some small-scale sculptural studies for future works and held an open studio at the end of her stay.</p>	



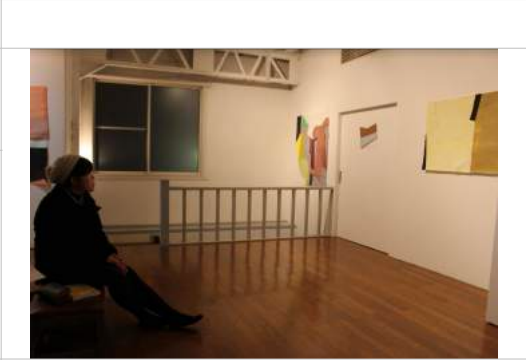
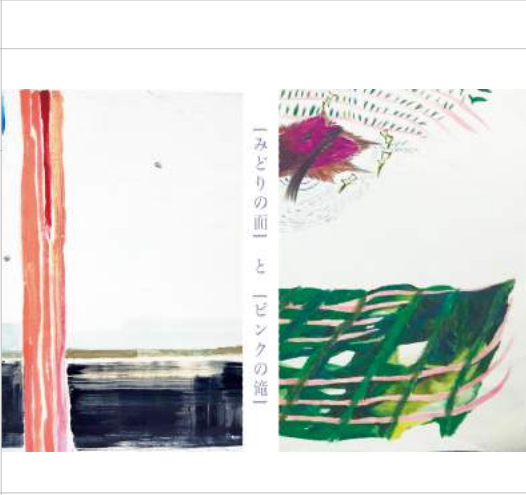
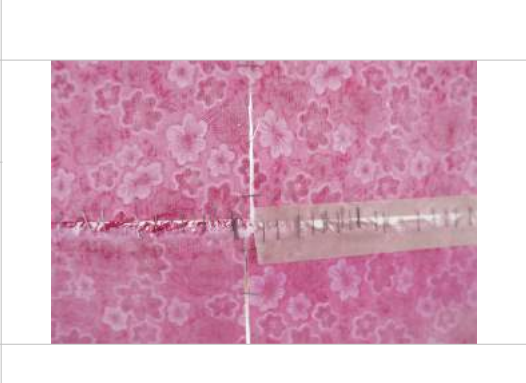
<p>2016.04.01 - 2016.05.31 Malin Pettersson Öberg [Sweden]</p> <p>Malin Pettersson Öberg is a Swedish visual artist working in a variety of media. From a research based practice, she uses the essay as a format to explore how we experience time and describe places and cultural or national identity. During her residency, she continued an associative research departing from the year 1974 in Japan, from "radioactivity" and its various links with time and space/the room. She visited the Japan Foundation Library in Yotsuya and met with numerous academics, activists and artists/writers. She held a presentation at Tokyo University of the Arts and Youkobo during her stay.</p>	
<p>2016.04.01 - 2016.04.30 Jordan Madge [Australia]</p> <p>Jordan Madge is a 21-year-old photographer based in Melbourne, Australia. His work is concerned with journeys, and ways of constructing and disseminating narratives in photography. His process includes image appropriation, found objects and his own photographs. In 2015 he graduated with a Bachelor of Photography (Documentary) at Photography Studies College Melbourne. During his stay at Youkobo, he held an open studio in which he showed a new series of photos and installation works.</p>	
<p>2016.05.01 - 2016.07.31 Deanna Dowling [New Zealand]</p> <p>Recipient of a grant awarded by the Asia New Zealand Foundation. Deanna is a New Zealand based artist working primarily in video and sculpture. Her work is often concerned with economic growth, urban regeneration and the impacts of these on the land both physically and culturally. Individuals within affected environments are integral to informing the trajectory of her work. During her stay at Youkobo, she focused on wood as an object of research and held an open studio at the end of her residency.</p>	
<p>2016.05.02 - 2016.06.15 Sean Lavelle [England]</p> <p>Participant of London/Tokyo Y-AIR Exchange Program 2016. He used the duration to assess how being in a new place provides different, foreign materials and methods of making. He observed different ways of utilizing materials and various approaches to art-making. He was able to make strong connections with Japanese artists and was proactive in exploring the art scene of Tokyo. His residency concluded with an open studio.</p>	
<p>2016.06.01 - 2016.06.30 Brendon O'Neill [Canada]</p> <p>Brendon O'Neill is a Canadian photo-based artist. In his earlier works he primarily shot pictures of people in the style of traditional street photography. In his current work he focuses on shooting unpeopled atmospheres and contexts, sometimes to the point of abstraction. The presence of people is nonetheless still felt in his most recent work, which tends to incorporate tiny, mysterious stories. On residency in Youkobo, he worked on his ongoing Leftovers series and held an artist talk event at his end of residency.</p>	
<p>2016.06.01 - 2016.06.30 Sarah Bertrand-Hamel [Canada]</p> <p>Sarah Bertrand-Hamel lives and works in Montreal. Her research has led her to make her own paper. Since each sheet is different, each batch has its specificity, and these particularities inspire the subsequent work. Fascinated by impermanence and singularity, the artist creates images that she repeats and reinterprets, fragments and recomposes. She traces change, and wants to make time visible. She focused on research and advanced training to learn paper thread making (Shifu), Japanese sheet forming (Nagashizuki), and three-dimensional object making with paper pulp. She had an artist talk event at the end of her program.</p>	


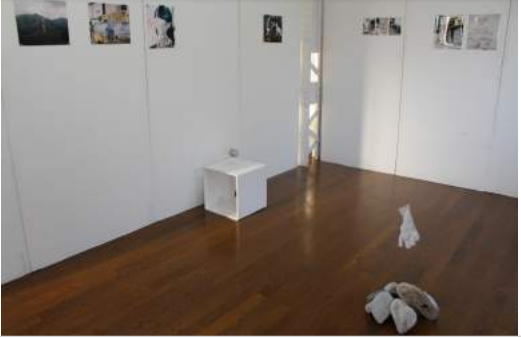



<p>2016.06.16 - 2016.07.31 Eleanor Turnbull [England]</p> <p>Participant of London/Tokyo Y-AIR Exchange Program 2016. Eleanor Turnbull (1992) is a visual artist based in London, working with sculpture, drawing and durational performance. She sets herself tasks that allow a material or situation to dictate the form. During her stay at Youkobo, she explored the rhythmic, meditative structures within the chaos of the city by locating anomalies and disruptions in the routine of everyday life. At the end of her program, she held an open studio in which she presented video, sculpture and drawing.</p>	
<p>2016.07.01 - 2016.07.31 Johanna Karlin [Sweden]</p> <p>Her artistic activities consist mainly of studies and work on various projects linked to architecture. These can involve concrete, site-specific architectonic installations to alterations in the scale of models. During her stay at Youkobo, she developed different projects around temporality in architecture, both in private and public space. She held an artist talk and gave a presentation about her activities and own studio in Sweden as a microresidence.</p>	
<p>2016.08.01 - 2016.09.30 SUMO [Luxembourg]</p> <p>Sumo is a well-known graffiti artist whose work can be seen all around Luxembourg. Although an important, formative stage in his artistic development, graffiti and street art are merely one aspect of Sumo's bulimic work on images. His compositions do not appear to follow any precise rules, filling the picture plane in a sprawling, virus-like mode. He documented his time on canvas and translated his impressions of Tokyo in the shape of slogans, characters and color compositions overlapping each other to create the layers of time spent in Japan. He held a solo show at Youkobo and the Embassy of the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg in Japan.</p>	
<p>2016.09.01 - 2016.10.31 Leonie Andrews [Australia]</p> <p>Recipient of a grant by Asia Link (Melbourne, Australia, VCA). She is an Australian visual artist working in textiles and printmaking. Her work is characterized by its exploration of the themes of location and how we connect to a particular place. Drawing inspiration from local streetscapes, she uses embroidery as a tool for social commentary. At the end of her stay at Youkobo, She held an open studio.</p>	
<p>2016.09.01 - 2016.09.30 Hannu Väisänen [Finland]</p> <p>Participant in the support program organized with the Union of Finnish Writers. Born in Oulu, Finland. Lives and works in Paris, France. He moves smoothly between different artistic fields as a visual artist, writer, set designer, costume designer, director, illustrator, and as a curator. During his residency, he gave presentations about his activities both at Youkobo and Musashino Art University in Tokyo.</p>	
<p>2016.10.01 - 2016.11.30 Radek Brousil [Czech Republic]</p> <p>Winner of the Oskár Čepan Award 2015, KAIR Exchange program. For some time now, he has been focusing on an analysis of the photographic medium. In his new series The Ultimate Norm, he is investigating a seemingly technical but in fact very political and universal issue about the improvement of color-photo technology in relation to racial issues. At the end of his residency, he held an open studio and had an opportunity to give a public lecture at Joshibi University of Art and Design.</p>	







<p>2016.10.03 - 2016.10.30 Tiina Lehtikoinen [Finland]</p> <p>Participant in the support program organized with the Union of Finnish Writers. Tiina Lehtikoinen is a Finnish poet and lives and works in Tampere. She has published five collections of poetry and contemporary aphorisms. In her work, the fragmentation of language reflects the interruptions rendered by the gagging information of the Internet age. During her residency, she finished her first short story collection and worked on her next collection of poems. At the end of this program, she participated in an artist talk.</p>	
<p>2016.10.27 - 2016.11.25 Almut Rink & Carola Platzek [Austria]</p> <p>Almut Rink is an artist, based in Vienna. She draws together and affects audiences with the semiotic content of language, text, images, and gestures. Her work has been exhibited internationally e.g. in Liverpool, London, Tokyo, Yokohama, Jerusalem, Graz, Vienna, Munich, Weimar, Zagreb and Beijing. Carola Platzek is a writer and researcher based in Vienna. She pursues her own writing practice and continually works together with artists. They took part in <i>Trolls in the Park</i>, showing installation works both in Zempukuji Park and at Youkobo Art Space.</p>	
<p>2016.11.01 - 2016.11.30 Vanessa Godden [Australia]</p> <p>Vanessa Godden is a mixed media artist based in Melbourne, Australia. She is currently a PhD candidate at the Victorian College of the Arts (Australia). Godden's studio practice draws from and combines a variety of mediums including performance, video installation, and book art. She used her time at Youkobo to develop a better understanding of Japanese embroidery techniques and research forms of bodily abjection represented in Japanese horror films and Butoh theater. She held an open studio and presented a performance work at the end of her stay.</p>	
<p>2016.11.02 - 2016.11.30 Malin Kivelä & Hannele Mikaela Taivassalo [Finland]</p> <p>Malin Kivelä is a novelist from Helsinki, Finland. So far she has published three novels as well as plays and children's books. She is also involved in the performance field. Hannele Mikaela Taivassalo writes mainly prose, but also children's literature and drama and has also written several plays for the stage as well as four scripts for radio drama. She has also published her essays and short stories in different anthologies, magazines and newspapers. During their residency, they researched about Ninja and continued preparations for a new upcoming performance. They also performed in <i>Trolls in the Park</i>, while Mikaela summarized their activities in a talk at Youkobo.</p>	
<p>2016.12.01 - 2017.01.31 Naomi Reis [Japan/USA]</p> <p>Born in Shiga, Japan, Reis lives and works in Brooklyn, NY. Her work investigates liminal spaces at the intersection of architecture and natural environments. Her recent work reconfigures photographic imagery into dimensional paintings and installations that are balanced between pictorial space and abstract composition. At Youkobo Art Space, she used the surrounding landscape as subject matter to make a series of mixed-media paintings and an immersive installation. She had a solo show at the end of her residency.</p>	
<p>2016.12.01 - 2017.01.31 Franck Lesbros [France]</p> <p>Franck Lesbros is a French artist. He lives and works in New York. His work is essentially video, yet in some ways, one could say that it is a hybrid that mixes installation and sculpture. During his residency at Youkobo Art Space, he made a video evoking maritime phenomena through various artistic devices, drawing parallels with visual art and cinema. At the end of his residency, he presented work created during his stay that also involved a collaboration with Japanese musicians.</p>	



1-2 Gallery Program

2016.02.20 - 2016.02.26	Kate Just, Kotoe Ishii, Megumi Igarashi, Kasumi Iwama, Yoshiko Shimada, YU Shuk Pui Bobby, The Tomorrow Girls Troop[Australia, China, USA etc.] Feminist Fan in Japan and Friends
2016.02.20 - 2016.02.26	Anie Nheu [Australia] Liquid, Paper and the Space in Between
2016.02.20 - 2016.02.26	Josh Richardson, Josh Shackleton (Hildoceras)[Australia] Fragmented Space.
2016.03.23 - 2016.03.27	Wataru Ozu, Shiori Higashiyama [Japan] [Green Surface] and [Pink Fall]
2016.03.23 - 2016.03.27	Karien Vandekerckhove [Belgium] sKinHouse. ed 2
2016.04.27 - 2016.04.29	Jordan Madge [Australia] Shōkai
2016.04.27 - 2016.04.29	Julia McInerney [Australia] recently my eyes
2016.06.05 - 2016.06.12	Atsuko Kusano, Ryunosuke Goji, Rintaro Fuse, Jesse Hogan, Kei Murata, Issei Yamagata [Japan] “buzz”
2016.06.05 - 2016.06.12	Sean Lavelle [England] Sean Lavelle
2016.07.20 - 2016.07.25	Deanna Dowling [Australia] Young wood is restless
2016.07.20 - 2016.07.25	Eleanor Turnbull [England] How to fill in the time
2016.07.20 - 2016.07.25	Takashi Horiuchi [Japan] Under experimentation
2016.09.21 - 2016.09.25	SUMO [Luxembourg] LOOKAT ME!!
2016.09.21 - 2016.09.25	Ryunosuke Goji, Takashi Horiuchi [Japan] Final Exhibition of Youkobo Y-AIR Studio Program 2016
2016.10.26 - 2016.10.30	Leoni Andrews [Australia] in the moment
2016.11.03 - 2016.11.23	Almut Rink & Carola Platzek [Austria] Orientation as Gardening
2016.11.23 - 2016.11.27	Radek Brousil [Czech Republic] Kodak over Fuji unless you want Fuji
2016.11.23 - 2016.11.27	Vanessa Godden [Australia] Embodying Entanglement

<p>2016.02.20 - 2016.02.26 Kate Just, Kotoe Ishii, Megumi Igarashi, Kasumi Iwama, Yoshiko Shimada, YU Shuk Pui Bobby, Tomorrow Girls Troop <i>Feminist Fan in Japan and Friends</i></p> <p>A self-proclaimed "Feminist Fan in Japan," Just presented new work alongside a range of female artists she researched and connected with while in Japan. The use of knitting across works casts craft as a highly engaging sculptural medium, a poetic or political tool. At the end of her stay, she held a group show with feminist artists. The show offered an intimate snapshot of the diversity, complexity, humor and seriousness of feminist practice in Tokyo and beyond.</p>	
<p>2016.02.20 - 2016.02.26 Josh Richardson, Josh Shackleton (Hildoceras) <i>Fragmented Space</i></p> <p><i>Fragmented Space</i> was the name of an open studio in which works focused on contrasting aspects of industrial/urban lifestyles and natural landscapes were presented. With a particular interest in water, they visited many places to shoot rivers and seas. These works aim to inspire audiences to reconsider their daily surroundings.</p>	
<p>2016.02.20 - 2016.02.26 Anie Nheu <i>Liquid, Paper and the Space in Between</i></p> <p>During the program, she experimented with many different kinds of papers, pigments, and inks. Her studio practice conjured up the process of osmosis, as it is the process of the body as a medium, making sense of its environment through absorptions and excretions, touch and being touched. Through the use of materials selected for their physicality, she created works that were a reflection of the process of how she unconsciously assimilated and negotiated her inhabited space during her time in Tokyo.</p>	
<p>2016.03.23 - 2016.03.27 Wataru Ozu, Shiori Higashiyama <i>Midori no Men to Pinku no Taki</i> (Green surfaces and pink waterfalls)</p> <p>An exhibition by Wataru Ozu and Shiori Higashiyama presenting the results of the London/Tokyo Exchange program 2015 in which they stayed and produced work for a six-week period at Acme Studios in London. Ozu traveled to various countries over a one-year period within which he joined this program in London. Higashiyama used her time in London to undertake research into flea markets. The exhibition consisted of paintings by Ozu that were based on sights seen during his travels, and works by Higashiyama that were inspired by the memories of others recorded in letters and postcards purchased at flea markets. In addition, the artists presented paintings made through collaboration, produced by mutually assigning the other a title that inspired the form of each work. During the exhibition, they also introduced the research and creative activities they engaged in during their time in London in a talk session.</p>	
<p>2016.03.23 - 2016.03.27 Karien Vandekerckhove <i>sKinHouse. ed 2</i></p> <p><i>sKinHouse ed.2</i> was a continuation on <i>sKinHouse ed.1</i> (Nov 2014 Joya: arte + ecologia, Spain). The projects are site-specific and consist of primal structures assembled from extremely delicate elements. The installation was intended to interact with the abundance of natural light within the gallery space, literally drawing luminosity from the sun during the day both outside and inside the construction.</p>	

<p>2016.04.27 - 2016.04.29 Julia McInerney <i>recently my eyes</i></p> <p>Her practice centers around a combined application of the literary order of words and the sculptural order of physical materials, with the aim to manifest variations of a “third language” suspended between these two poles that is distinct from the structures that allowed for its origination, yet continue to support its existence. The role of a title and material descriptions are an important component in her work.</p>	
<p>2016.04.27 - 2016.04.29 Jordan Madge <i>Shōkai</i></p> <p><i>Shōkai</i> is a about building a friendship with Japan. Searching for character traits from quiet rural towns where the pace of life is mesmerizingly slow, to the chaotic city that's blooming with ideas much like the cherry blossom. Central to this open studio was a search for familiar elements, allowing me to “connect the dots.” In using found objects and photos as well as his own, he aimed to create a new conversation about Japan through a newly formed friendship.</p>	
<p>2016.06.05 - 2016.06.12 Atsuko Kusano, Ryunosuke Goji, Rintaro Fuse, Jesse Hogan, Kei Murata, Issei Yamagata <i>“buzz”</i></p> <p>As part of the Youkobo Studio Program in 2015, a group exhibition curated by Goji Ryunosuke Goji involving six young artists was presented in the studio space. Starting with a consideration of art forms that might arise out of “noise,” the exhibition was composed of works made in various media such as video work, painting and sculpture that drew the viewer into a shifting relationship with the space while questioning ideas of effect and countereffect within art.</p>	
<p>2016.06.05 - 2016.06.12 Sean Lavelle <i>Sean Lavelle</i></p> <p>Showing an interest in architecture and structures, he carried out research and recorded his findings on a daily basis. He also visited the campus of Tokyo University of the Arts and key art spaces within the Tokyo art scene, guided by Japanese artists of the same generation with whom he made strong connections. Replacing materials he uses on a regular basis with materials found in Japan such as concrete and coins, he developed an installation work with humorous elements. The residency offered him the opportunity to reconsider his approach to materials within a new context.</p>	
<p>2016.07.20 - 2016.07.25 Deanna Dowling <i>Young wood is restless</i></p> <p>She explored her own relationship to materials in the context of a Japanese material sensibility. With an interest in Japanese wooden buildings and woodworking techniques, she developed an installation around the motif of wood. She also conducted interviews with architects. After witnessing the demolition of a private house in the neighborhood, she was able to acquire old timber in addition to filming the demolition process, combining both in her final exhibition. She also took this timber back with her to New Zealand, where she is currently planning a project to reconstruct the work shown at Youkobo in an exhibition at a gallery in Wellington.</p>	

<p>2016.07.20 - 2016.07.25 Eleanor Turnbull <i>How to fill in the time</i></p> <p>Wishing to give visible form to specific moments within urban spaces that are constantly changing, she developed a playful installation that made visible the air around us, a substance that is always present but which is invisible to the eye. She challenged herself to make various types of work that included video, drawing, sculpture, and interactive forms.</p>	
<p>2016.07.20 - 2016.07.25 Takashi Horiuchi, Takashi Horiuchi, Taku Akiyama, Daisuke Ida, Yuuichi Eto, Ryo Kimoto, Tetsuya Toyoshima, Shouta Torii, Issei Yamagata, Yuto Nemoto <i>Under experimentation</i></p> <p>Takashi Horiuchi, the organizer of this event, did not refer to it as an “exhibition.” For him, the main objective was to hold a closed meeting with his friends to talk openly about issues relating to their own practice and consider solutions. The motivation for this can be traced to his participation in the London/Tokyo Exchange Program, during which he had been surprised by the extent to which artists who work in London discuss their own works with other artists.</p>	
<p>SUMO 2016.09.21 - 2016.09.25 <i>LOOK AT ME!</i></p> <p>For his exhibition in the entrance gallery of the Embassy of Luxembourg, he mainly presented works on canvas that had been produced during his residency. A part of this exhibition has become a permanent feature of the gallery, and is still on view. At Youkobo, he presented characters, signs and fonts found in packaging and printed materials that he had collected throughout the residency, as well as a graffiti-based work drawn directly onto an entire wall of the studio in an exhibition with a strong impact.</p>	
<p>Ryunosuke Goji, Takashi Horiuchi 2016.09.21 - 2016.09.25 <i>Final Exhibition of Youkobo Y-AIR Studio Program 2016</i></p> <p>Ryunosuke Goji showed some paintings and Takashi Horiuchi published a ZINE as a final exhibition of Youkobo Y-AIR Studio Program 2016. During this program, they realized that they needed an opportunity to discuss their own works and activities. They set this exhibition as a space for feedback and reflection on experiences gained during this program.</p>	
<p>Leoni Andrews 2016.10.26 - 2016.10.30 <i>in the moment</i></p> <p>Photographic documents of everyday landscapes that she saw during her stay were developed into a series of works that involved embroidering onto images printed on cloth. She also had an interest in Japanese advertising mediums, which inspired experiments with new materials such as paper collage.</p>	
<p>Almut Rink & Carola Platzek 2016.11.03 - 2016.11.23 <i>Orientation as Gardening</i></p> <p>They took part in the <i>Trolls in the Park 2016</i>. They installed eight assemblage boards and eight pieces of text at Zempukuji Park and the gallery of Youkobo Art Space. Based upon classic Shohin displays which are small-scale indoor shelves for plants and stones, they developed boards that were enlarged to human scale and transferred into public space. During the program they held two talk sessions with local specialists.</p>	

<p>Radek Brousil 2016.11.23 - 2016.11.27 <i>Kodak over Fuji unless you want Fuji</i></p> <p>Taking the relationship between technological developments in cameras and skin colour as the theme of his research, Radek Brousil focused his research on Fuji film. In addition, he also deepened his research by investigating the difference in awareness of skin color by Japanese and Western consumers when purchasing make-up, going on to present photographic works and an installation at Youkobo. In addition, he also introduced Slovakian and Czech culture and his own projects in an open lecture for students and lecturers of Joshibi University of Art and Design that was also open to the general public.</p>	
<p>Vanessa Godden 2016.11.23 - 2016.11.27 <i>Embodying Entanglement</i></p> <p>She presented a new performance piece at the opening reception of her open studio, which also involved an exhibition of existing video works. In a 15-minute performance, she gradually covered herself in curry powder, flour and aromatic spice while lying and turning over on a tabletop. The performance related to themes of multi-ethnicity, autobiographical experiences and the aftermath of rape.</p>	

1-3 Events - Artist Talks & Critique Sessions

Artist Talks

- 2016.02.20 Kate Just, Kotoe Ishii, Megumi Igarashi, Kasumi Iwama, YU Shuk Pui Bobby, The Tomorrow Girls Troop
Feminist Fan in Japan and Friends
- 2016.02.20 Josh Richardson, Josh Shackleton (Hildoceras) - *Fragmented Space*
- 2016.02.20 Anie Nheu - *Liquid, Paper and the Space in Between*
- 2016.03.23 Shiori Higashiyama, Wataru Ozu - *Report of London/Tokyo Exchange program 2015*
- 2016.03.25 Ting Chaong-Wen - Artist Talk
- 2016.03.25 Karien Vandekerckhove - *skinHouse. ed 2*
- 2016.04.27 Julia McInerney - *recently my eyes*
- 2016.04.27 Jordan Madge - *Shōkai*
- 2016.05.22 Malin Pettersson Öberg - Artist Talk - Through the lens of Japan - Species of Spaces 1974
- 2016.06.05 Sean Lavelle - *Sean Lavelle*
- 2016.06.29 Sarah Bertrand-Hamel, Brendon O'Neill - Artist Talk
- 2016.07.20 Deanna Dowling - *Young wood is restless*
- 2016.07.20 Eleanor Turnbull - *How to fill in the time*
- 2016.07.25 Johanna Karlin - Artist Talk
- 2016.07.26 Takashi Horiuchi - Meeting with participating artists
- 2016.09.21 Takashi Horiuchi, Ryunosuke Goji - *The Final Exhibition of Youkobo Y-AIR Studio Program 2016*
- 2016.09.21 SUMO - *LOOK AT ME !*
- 2016.09.28 Hannu Väisänen - Artist Talk
- 2016.10.26 Tiina Lehtikoinen - Artist Talk
- 2016.10.28 Leoni Andrews - *in the moment*
- 2016.11.20 Almut Rink & Carola Platzek - Talk Session - Orientation as Gardening
- 2016.11.21 Almut Rink & Carola Platzek - Talk Session - Orientation as Gardening
Guests: Masatoshi Nishiyama, Eiichi Noda, Keiko Torigoe
- 2016.11.26 Hannele Mikaela Taivassalo - Artist Talk
- 2016.11.26 Vanessa Godden - *Embodying Entanglement*
- 2016.11.26 Radek Brousil - *Kodak over Fuji unless you want Fuji*

Critique Sessions

- 2016.06.05 Sean Lavelle - *Sean Lavelle*
Ryunosuke Goji - *"buzz"*
- 2016.07.20 Eleanor Turnbull - *How to fill in the time*
Takashi Horiuchi - *Under experimentation*

Live Performances

- 2016.02.24 Megumi Igarashi, *Feminist Fan in Japan and Friends* - *Reading Performance of prosecutor's concluding speech*
- 2016.11.13 Malin Kivelä & Hannele Mikaela Taivassalo - *Ninjas in the Park*, Zempukuji Park
- 2016.11.03 Almut Rink & Carola Platzek - *Trolls in the Park 2016* Art tour (Zempukuji Park)
- 2016.11.23 Almut Rink & Carola Platzek - *Trolls in the Park 2016* Art tour (Zempukuji Park)
- 2016.11.26 Vanessa Godden - Performance

2. Related Activities

Through the running of an AIR program, Youkobo aims to establish AIR as an inseparable element of artists' creative practice, while at the same time establishing it as a vital presence within society. Based principally on the provision of opportunities for artists from overseas to stay and produce work, as a program of related activities Youkobo also considers it has an important mission to provide domestic artists with opportunities to conduct activities overseas, and works to promote exchange through programs with international AIR, AIR management training through offering experiences of running AIR, and nurtures human resources through an internship that supports artists resident at Youkobo (Y-AIR). In addition, Youkobo is also actively developing networks with AIR programs and organizations supporting AIR activities in Japan and overseas. Connections with the local community are fostered through Youkobo's continuing participation in the outdoor art exhibition *Trolls in the Park* held in Zempukuji Park, in addition to hosting the children's workshop Art Kids. As part of a survey into activities relating to AIR, Youkobo continues to present research into AIR through activity reports that reveal the infinite potential for the greater dissemination of microresidencies and collaboration between AIR and universities of art. Additionally, Youkobo is working to organize the information gathered through surveys of AIR together with documentation of the activities of artists in residence at Youkobo in an archive accessible to the public.

2-1 AIR Exchange Programs

Reciprocal Exchange Programs

• KAIR (Kosice City, Slovakia)

This was the third year of the AIR exchange program between KAIR, Kosice, Slovakia and Youkobo Art Space. Radek Brousil from Czech Republic (winner of the Oskár Čepan Award 2015) and Hiroe Komai from Japan undertook two-month residencies in respective cities. Radek's residency was fruitful, combining an exhibition and open studio at Youkobo with a public lecture and workshop at Joshibi University of Art and Design in Tokyo.

2016.10.01-11.31 Hiroe Komai (KAIR)

2016.10.01-11.30 Radek Brousil (Youkobo Art Space)



• Kulttuurri Kauppila Art Center (Ii City, Finland)

To commemorate the tenth anniversary since the founding of Kulttuurri Kauppila Art Center, artist Masami Aihara was dispatched to undertake a two-month residency from July to September. Under the theme Emotions and Pleasures, she developed workshops with local children and presented new work in an exhibition. This workshop has developed into an ongoing activity in collaboration with local children in the artist's hometown in Hokkaido. Kulttuurri Kauppila came about due to the enthusiasm of the local municipality and locally based artists in Ii, Finland. Antti Ylonen, a key figure in its establishment, was a resident artist at Youkobo in 2002. Small in scale but popular with artists who participate from all over the world, for its tenth anniversary Kultturi Kaupila held a special event involving the participation of the mayor, senior citizens and local artists. The Youkobo directors also travelled from Japan to join the event.

2016.07-09 Masami Aihara



Dispatch Programs

• 2016 TEC LandArt Festival Artist Residence Project, Taichung City, Taiwan

At the request of TEC director Pan Sheau-Shei to propose an artist from Japan to participate in TEC, Youkobo selected Maiko Sugano who stayed in Taichung from May to July, 2016. Combining locally sourced timber and stone, the title of the outdoor installation work she presented was *Turtle*. It became a popular spot among the visitors to the east coast of Taiwan. The unexpected event of a large typhoon hitting near completion of the installation, which caused wild birds to use it as a place of refuge, gained wide publicity.

2016.05.29 - 07.09 Maiko Sugano



• ArtCamp, University of West Bohemia (Pilsen City, Czech Republic)

This is a dispatch program that involves sending young artists and art students to participate in the Czech Republic's largest art summer school that is gaining increasing popularity. 2016 marked the second year that Youkobo has dispatched young artists to implement workshops within the summer school program. This year, a class titled *Japanese Tea House in Pilsen* was realized by architect Kazuhiro Yajima. In addition, Akita-based artist Takahiro Oguma (director of Monokatari) was dispatched to ArtCamp through the recommendation of Akita University of Art as a researcher to investigate the possibility of developing a domestic version of the summer school. Four additional members also joined ArtCamp as participants, bringing the total number of participants to 20 since the program's launch in 2013. (Please refer to the Y-AIR section for details.) In December 2016, a symposium that also functioned as a presentation by the participants was held at Gallery Monokatari (Gojome City, Akita prefecture) in collaboration with Akita University of Art.

2017.07.11 - 07.15 Kazuhiro Yajima (Art Camp class - Architect / Japanese Tea House in Pilsen)

2017.07.03 - 07.21 Takahiro Oguma (dispatched as researcher)



2-2 Y-AIR

• Youkobo Y-AIR Studio Program 2016

This program was initiated in 2016, based on the Y-AIR concept. As a collaborative venture between AIR and art universities, the program is focused on the support of recent art university graduates, providing two Tokyo-based artists with six months of studio time at Youkobo to carry out self-directed activities. During this period, in addition to production time in a shared studio, the two selectees gained opportunities to join critiques by invited guests, present work in exhibitions, and build communication skills through active exchange and dialogue with artists and researchers joining the Youkobo AIR program. Also included in the scheme was the opportunity to produce and present work during a six-week stay in London at the studios of the Associate Studio Program run by Central Saint Martins, the partner institution of the Youkobo Y-AIR Studio Program. A presentation and exhibition that reflected on the results of the program was realized in the last month of the program through the involvement of Tokyo University of the Arts.

- Takahashi Horiuchi (residence period in London: May/June 2016)

- Ryunosuke Goji (residence period in London: June/July 2016)



• London/Tokyo Y-AIR Exchange Program 2016

This is a studio swapping program for young artists from London and Tokyo. The program provides young artists with opportunities to stay in host countries, and to present work produced during their stay using studios at Youkobo Art Space and the research labs of Tokyo University of the Arts in Tokyo, and those of the ASP (Associate Studio Program) Program run by Central Saint Martins, University of the Arts London.

In the second year of the program, artists undertook residencies over a three-month period between May and July. Takahashi Horiuchi and Ryunosuke Goji from Japan, and Sean Lavelle and Eleanor Turnbull from the UK stayed in respective cities for six-week periods, conducting research in addition to making work in the studio which was shown in a final exhibition at the end. The opportunities for exchange that were made possible by this exchange is certain to give fresh impetus to their artistic practice in the future.

1st : 2016.05.01-06.15 Sean Lavelle (Youkobo Art Space) ⇄ Takashi Horiuchi (ASP)

2nd : 2016.06.16-07.31 Eleanor Turnbull (Youkobo Art Space) ⇄ Ryunosuke Goji (ASP)



• ArtCamp Dispatch Program

Through cooperation between Youkobo Art Space and various research laboratories of Japan-based art universities, this experimental program dispatches students and artists to ArtCamp, an annual international summer school offering art and design courses organized by the University of West Bohemia in the city of Pilsen, Czech Republic. This program was launched in 2013 following an introduction to the organizers by the EU-Japan Fest Japan Committee. To date, 20 participants have joined this dispatch program. It involves international exchange through creative activities during a three-week stay in Pilsen, an experience that is regarded as a simulation of an AIR intended to challenge participants to communicate in an international setting using English. In 2016, participants from Tokyo University of the Arts, Joshibi University of Art and Design and Akita University of Art participated, and a report meeting about ArtCamp was held at Akita University of Art in December, 2016.



Lectures Relating to Y-AIR

Given by Youkobo AIR artists

As part 2nd Year Oil Painting class, Tokyo University of the Arts:

2016.05.17 Malin Pettersson Öberg

2016.06.02 Deanna Dowling

As part of *Introduction to International Exchange and Culture B*, a special open lecture at Joshibi University of Art and Design:

2016.11.11 Radek Brouil

Given by Youkobo staff

ArtCamp & Microresidence, Akita University of Art

2016.03.15 Tatsuhiko Murata,

Examples of Artist-in-Residence, Tokyo Zoukei University CSC

2016.11.17 Tatsuhiko Murata & Kyogo Matsumoto

A hundred threads - AIR for Young, 21st Century Takagamine Forum, Toranomom Hills

2016.11.12 Makiko Tsuji



2-3 Network

In addition to participating in domestic and foreign AIR network organizations, Youkobo also actively develops reciprocal programs of exchange and networking activities with international AIR programs and organizations that support AIR with the aim of establishing an important role for AIR within society.

1. AIR Programs

New

- Tapiola Studio (Finnish Artists' Studio Foundation, Helsinki) Reciprocal exchange scheduled to begin in 2017.

Ongoing

- Kulttuurri Kauppila (Ii, Finland): Artist dispatch and exchange to commemorate tenth Anniversary of Kulttuurri Kauppila Art Center
- ArtBreak (Ii, Finland): Survey and research in preparation for a new program in 2017
- KAIR (Kosice, Slovakia): Realization of a reciprocal two-month artist residency in the autumn of 2016.
- OPEN AiR/ DEPO 2015 (Pilsen, Czech Republic)
- Acme Studios (London): Reciprocal exchange between ASP and Central Saint Martins in London, and Geidai and Youkobo in Tokyo. 2016 was the second year of the program and welcomed four participants.

2. Organizations that support AIR

New

- Union of Finnish Writers (Helsinki): Agreement signed in 2016 to host Finnish writers.
- Finnish Artists' Studio Foundation (Helsinki): Agreement signed for a reciprocal exchange program commencing 2017.

Ongoing

- EU Japan Fest: Sharing of information about AIR in new and former ECOC designated cities.
- The Luxembourg Ministry of Culture and Embassy of Luxembourg: 2016 was the fourth year to host a Luxembourg artist.
- Asia Link (Melbourne, Australia · VCA): Hosted a recipient of Asia Link grant in 2016
- Asia New Zealand Foundation (New Zealand): Hosted a recipient of Asia New Zealand grant in 2016

3. Art universities and other Educational and research organizations

New

- Lapland University: Agreement signed for exchange program with locally based AIR in 2017

Ongoing

- Domestic universities of art, art departments: Y-AIR research meetings
- Reciprocal Exchange program between ASP and CSM in London, and Geidai and Youkobo in Tokyo. Initiated in 2015, eight participants to date.
- Faculty of Art, University of West Bohemia: Dispatch program for ArtCamp (participants, researchers, tutors). Initiated in 2013. Two tutors, two researchers and 20 participants have been dispatched to date.

4. Other organizations

New

- *Museum in the Sky* (Tomi City, Nagano): Support for AIR activities

Ongoing

- Saitama Triennale (Saitama City): Artist recommendation for Home Base Saitama, Daniel Gottin
- Suginami Art Project
- *3331 Art Fair 2016 -Various Collectors Prizes* (3331 Arts Chiyoda)

5. AIR network organizations

- Res Artis (Amsterdam): International network of artist residencies. A full member since 2000
- Microresidence Network (Tokyo): Site disseminating the activities of microresidencies. Launched in 2012.
- Trans Artists (Amsterdam): The world's largest AIR database
- Trans Cultural Exchange (Boston): Network of US-based AIR.
- AIR-J (The Japan Foundation): Domestic AIR database
- Move Arts Japan (3331 Arts Chiyoda): Site supporting the mobility of artists in Japan
- J-AIR (Tokyo): Domestic AIR network
- AIR Network Japan (Tokyo): Domestic AIR network

2-4 Community Art

Art Kids - Children's Innovative Art Workshop

Art Kids is an innovative "art workshop" for children which takes place at Momoi No.4 Elementary School next to Youkobo Art Space. Reaching its 16th year in 2016, the workshops have taken many themes and forms over the years, utilizing a wide range of media from music and performance, to calligraphy and handicrafts. In 2016, Tokyo-based UK artist Jaime Humphreys again led the workshops, which also included a number of guests, such as Asobi Antenna, an art unit consisting of three students of Joshibi University of Art and Design. Continuing their participation from last year, this year they organized a workshop.

2016.07.09 Fun with Rolling! with Asobi Antenna (an artist unit consisting of students from Joshibi University of Art and Design)

2016.12.10 Strange Creatures



Trolls in the Park

Trolls in the Park is an international open-air art exhibition that takes place for a three-week period in the metropolitan Zenpukuji Park. Initiated in 2002, it was held for the 15th time in 2016. Adopting the theme Outdoor × Art × Townscape, from 2013 the exhibition expanded to include the JR Nishigogikubo station area, involving exhibitions in cafes, performances in a natural food restaurant and billiard hall, and a walking event tracing the history of the town.

In 2016, Outdoor x Art came to encompass dynamic installations in Zenpukuji Park, outdoor workshops taking place on national holidays and Sundays, and an outdoor theater where a variety of expressive forms could be enjoyed. 27 artists and units filled the exhibition program in 2016. Art x Townscape referred to a program that connected Zenpukuji Park to the Nishigogikubo town through art activities, involving ten groups in a mixture of exhibitions and performances.

From Youkobo Art Space, Almut Rink and Corola Platzek (Austria) developed installations at two sites; Zenpukuji Park and the Youkobo gallery. Additionally, open studios were held both in studio 1 by Radek Brousil (Czech Republic), who was participant in the KAIR exchange program, and in studio 2 by Vanessa Godden (Australia).

Almut Rink & Corola Platzek

2016.11.03 - 2016.11.23 「Orientation as Gardening」

A series of arrangements have been developed: Eight Assemblage Boards and eight pieces of text will be installed in the Zenpukuji Park and the gallery of Youkobo Art Space. Based upon classic Shohin displays small scale indoor shelves for plants and stones the boards have been enlarged to human scale and transferred into public space. Frame and furniture in one, they have been adapted to the specific conditions of their respective environments in the park. These eight sites compose an array of perspectives and represent at the same time an infinite number of possible further options. In addition, eight texts have been developed: From eight different books, one essential word has been filtered and subsequently a poem developed out of it. Only one board at a time will be present in the park. All the parts that are not in use outside, will be stored and displayed in Youkobo Art Space. They are exhibition, archive, and storage at once.

Orientation as Gardening is an arts-based research project by Corola Platzek and Almut Rink at the Academy of Applied Arts in Vienna, funded by the Austrian Science Fund (FWF/PEEK AR 325). In this project we engage with structural questions of order, orientation, composition, and forms of subject vision.

【Art in the Park】



【Art in the City】



【Art in the Park】

Malin Kivelä & Hannele Mikaela Taivassalo

2016.11.13 - 2016.11.13 「Ninjas in the Park」

【Art in the City】

Radek Brousil

2016.11.23 - 2016.11.27 「Kodak over Fuji unless you want Fuji」

Vanessa Godden

2016.11.23 - 2016.11.27 「Embodying Entanglement」



2-5 Research

Youkobo continues to carry out research through reciprocal visits to partner art spaces based on face-to-face dialogue, study meetings, and public forums and symposiums. Youkobo aims to share information through the publication of reports among other methods.

Survey visits

2016.01.19 - 01.26 London (A meeting for London/Tokyo Y-AIR Exchange Program2016) Tatsuhiko & Hiroko Murata, Makiko Tsuji
2016.06.14 - 06.21 Armenia (Microresidence Network Forum) Tatsuhiko & Hiroko Murata
2016.08.24 - 09.02 Finland (Microresidence Network) Tatsuhiko & Hiroko Murata
2016.12.04 Gojome City, Akita (Y-AIR ArtCamp) Tatsuhiko & Hiroko Murata, Makiko Tsuji

Study Meetings

2016.6.15 ACOSS, Armenia, Tatsuhiko & Hiroko Murata
2016.8.31 Hiukkavaara Artist's Studios, Finland, Tatsuhiko & Hiroko Murata

Forums and symposiums

2016.05.15 *Alternative Space Forum-Make an own space*, Makiko Tsuji (3331 Arts Chiyoda)
2016.12.03 *ArtCamp2016 Report - A Trial project of ArtCamp from Czech to Akita*, Tatsuhiko, Makiko Tsuji (Akita University of Art)

Open Talk about Artist in Residence

2016.03.05 *AIRs Vol.12 Art and life in Serbia and Nantong, China*, Mariko Hori, Tina Wang
2016.07.16 *Presentation about Research in Armenia and Taiwan*, Tatsuhiko Murata, Makiko Tsuji
2016.12.23 *AIRs Vol.13 AIR Experiences*, Kyogo Matsumoto, Nozomi Watanabe, Jaime Humphreys



2-6 Archives

Youkobo shares in the form of activity reports the results of surveys it conducts into activities related to AIR, seeking to bring greater visibility to microresidencies and explore the infinite possibilities offered by collaborations between AIR and universities of art. In addition, the information it gathers about AIR is stored in an archive together with documentation of activities by artists joining Youkobo's residency program. These archives are made available to the public, while Youkobo also provides consultation for artists wishing to participate in AIR, or those who wish to establish an AIR or connect with existing networks. Through research and surveys into AIR programs, Youkobo is working to disseminate the activities of AIR and microresidencies with the hope that, along with the activities of artists, they will gain greater visibility within society.

• Publications, Articles

1. Publications

Catalog

-MICRORESIDENCE!2015 Case Examples of Y-AIR in Japan vol.1

Booklet

-Y-AIR Case Study, London/Tokyo Y-AIR Exchange Program2015

-European Capital of Culture, ECoC 2015 Pilsen - Activity Report Part 4 AIR Exchange Program between Youkobo and ECoC

-Japanese Participation in Czech Republic's ArtCamp

-ArtCamp in Pilsen, Czech RepublicJapanese Participation of these four years

2. Movie

Recording of activities "Orientation as Gardening" I Almut Rink & Carola Platzek

3. AIR Exhibition Catalogs, Invitation Cards

Data	Title/Artist	Media
2016.02.20 - 2016.02.26	Feminist Fan in Japan and Friends Kate Just, Kotoe Ishii, Megumi Igarashi, Kasumi Iwama, Yoshiko Shimada, YU Shuk Pui Bobby, The Tomorrow Girls	Invitation Card Catalog
2016.03.23 - 2016.03.27	[Green Surface] and [Pink Fall] Wataru Ozu, Shiori Higashiyama	Invitation Card
2016.03.23 - 2016.03.27	sKinHouse. ed 2 Karien Vandekerckhove	Invitation Card
2016.06.05 - 2016.06.12	"buzz" Atsuko Kusano, Ryunosuke Goji, Rintaro Fuse, Jesse Hogan, Kei Murata, Issei Yamagata	Invitation Card
2016.06.05 - 2016.06.12	Sean Lavelle Sean Lavelle	Invitation Card
2016.07.20 - 2016.07.25	Young wood is restless Deanna Dowling	Invitation Card Catalog
2016.07.20 - 2016.07.25	How to fill in the time Eleanor Turnbull	Invitation Card
2016.09.21 - 2016.09.25	LOOK AT ME! SUMO	Invitation Card Catalog
2016.10.26 - 2016.10.30	in the moment Leoni Andrews	Invitation Card Catalog
2016.11.13 - 2016.11.13	Ninjas in the Park Malin Kivelä & Hannele Mikaela Taivassalo	Flyer
2016.11.03 - 2016.11.23	Orientation as Gardening Almut Rink & Carola Platzek	Flyer, Catalog
2016.11.23 - 2016.11.27	Kodak over Fuji unless you want Fuji Radek Brousil	Invitation Card Catalog

4. Articles

- ・ Magazine 「ONBEAT」 vol.05 _Flora Mar's activities at Youkobo Art Space
- ・ Magazine 「GINZA」 _Introduction of AIR and Youkobo Art Space
- ・ Magazine 「A2 magazine」 _Interview with Michal and Mr.Tetsuo Kogawa
- ・ Magazine 「東京人 Tokyo-Jin」 Trolls in the Park (Advertising)
- ・ Magazine 「散歩の達人 Sanpo no Tatsujin」 Trolls in the Park (Advertising)
- ・ Mook 「Tokyo Museum Guide」 Trolls in the Park (Advertising)
- ・ Local Magazine 「広報すぎなみ Suginami」 Trolls in the Park (Advertising)

- ・ Free paper 「PICNIC GOHAN」 Trolls in the Park (Advertising)
- ・ Free paper 「ぱど Pado」 Trolls in the Park (Advertising)

- ・ Newspaper 「東京新聞 Tokyo Shimbun」 Trolls in the Park (Advertising)

- ・ Website 「Spoon&Tamago」 Article of Feminist Fan in Japan and Friends and artists
- ・ Website 「CINRA.net」 Advertising of Feminist Fan in Japan and Friends
- ・ Website 「luxuriant」 Interview with SUMO
- ・ Website 「すぎなみLOVERS Suginami LOVERS」 Trolls in the Park (Advertising)
- ・ Website 「なみじやない杉並 Namijanai Suginami」 Trolls in the Park (Advertising)
- ・ Website 「FESTivaly」 Trolls in the Park (Advertising)
- ・ Website 「リビングむさしのWEB Living Musashino」

- ・ TV Show (in Luxembourg) 「Live Planet People by RTL」 SUMO

ART NAVI, Gekkan Gallery, Tokyo Art Beat

ArtCamp2016 Report

- A Trial project of ArtCamp from Czech Republic to Akita

In the first half of the ArtCamp 2016 Report, a review was made of the four years since the dispatch program was initiated with ArtCamp, together with reports from the participants in 2016. In the second half, senior members who were involved in the 2016 program (Kazuhiro Yajima, who joined ArtCamp as lecturer, and Takahiro Oguma, a locally based artist who was in charge of investigating and gaining an understanding of the structure of ArtCamp, and three university professors OJUN, Teiko Hinuma and Shoko Shimura who had taken responsibility for selecting students to be dispatched to ArtCamp). In addition, a report was given by Akita City planning and coordination manager Kazuhiro Saito about town planning in Akita in relation to art and culture, followed by a discussion about the possibilities for an international ArtCamp in Akita which was joined by the university secretariat.

Schedule: December 3rd: General Meeting, December 4th: Gojome Research Tour

November 3rd: General Meeting

- Report about participation in ArtCamp, International Summer School of Art
- Presentation by Makiko Tsuji (Youkobo Art Space) - *The Y-AIR Initiative by Youkobo and the Four-year Dispatch Program with Art Camp (Czech Republic)*
- Reports about ArtCamp by Kanata Hiraishi (4th grade student of Akita University of Art), Yi Yi Wang (Second grade student of Joshibi Women's University) and Mori Chisaki (artist)
- Panel Discussion - *The Possibilities for an Akita International Art Camp*
- Takahiro Oguma (director of Monokatari) - *Report about my experiences of ArtCamp and research into its management - Managing opportunities for "free expression"*

- Kazuhiro Yajima (architect) - *My Thoughts after Participating in ArtCamp*
 - Kazuhiro Saito (planning and coordination manager, Planning and Finance Division, Akita City) - *Town Revitalization Through Art and Culture - Revitalization Activities of Akita City*
 - OJUN (Tokyo University of the Arts), Teiko Hinuma (Joshibi University of Art and Design), Tatsuhiko Murata (Youkobo Art Space)
 Moderator: Shoko Shimura (Akita University of Art)

November 4th: Gojome Research Tour

- BABAME BASE visit
- Share Village visit
- Monokatari visit (tour and gallery talk by guest Kazunari Kitahara)

Participants: Shoko Shimura, Takeshi Ishii (Akita University of Art), Takahiro Oguma, Kazuhiro Yajima, Kanata Hiraishi, Yi Yi Wang, Chisaki Mori, Tatsuhiko Murata, Hiroko Murata, Makiko Tsuii

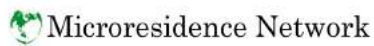
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Overview of 2016

	Space	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
AIR Program	Residence 1												
	AIR1		Josh Richardson & Josh Shackleton (Hildoceras)	Julia McInerney	Deanna Dowling <small>*Asia New Zealand Foundation</small>				SUMO <small>*Embassy the Grand of Luxembourg</small>	Radek Brousil <small>*KAIR</small>			Franck Lesbros
	Residence 2												
	AIR2		Anie Nheu	Karien Vandekerkhove	Jordan Madge	Sean Lavelle • Eleanor Turnbull <small>*London/Tokyo Y-AIR Exchange Program</small>				Leonie Andrews <small>*Asialink</small>	Vanessa Godden		
	Residence 3												
	AIR3		Kate Just	Ting Chaong Wen	Malin Pettersson Öberg	Sarah BertrandHamel & Brendon O'Neill	Mark Dunhill & Tamiko O'Brien	Hannu Väisänen • Tiina Lehtikoinen Malin Kivelä & Hannele Mikaela Talvassalo <small>*Finland Writers Union</small>					Naomi Reis

Reciprocal Exchange Program													
Dispatch Program													

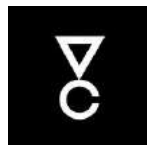
Self-funded
 Institutional Recommendation Program
 Y-AIR
 Event



AIR_J



: Double agents



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Edit : Youkobo Art Space
Zempukuji 3-2-10, Suginami-ku, Tokyo,
167-0041 Japan
TEL/FAX: 03-3399-7549
E-mail: info@youkobo.co.jp
URL: <http://www.youkobo.co.jp>
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