

youkobo ART SPACE



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Annual Report 2011

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

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1. Introduction to the Annual Report 2011

2011 was a year layered with many different meanings. This was a very significant year in which we were led to reconsider the things we take for granted around us. And while Youkobo reflected upon ten years of activity, it has come to appreciate its growth, cultivated through a rich dialogue with a great many artists and art professionals.

2011 marked the tenth anniversary since the start of activities under the name of "Youkobo Art Space", founded in 2002, and in celebration of this achievement Youkobo organized a wide range of commemorative programs. The gallery program was host to the exhibitions of seven artists and three groups, while the residence program received thirteen international artists. To mark the occasion of its tenth anniversary Youkobo also gave focus to a program of "returning artists", once again welcoming artists who had stayed at Youkobo over its ten-year history, providing a good opportunity to reflect upon what has been achieved over these years. In February artist Etty Horowitz returned to Youkobo for the first time in 20 years, while in March a group of Dutch and London-based artists began their residence. But upon the commencement of their stay they witnessed, along with the Japanese population, a great earthquake the likes of which many had never been experienced before. After the disaster of 3.11 many residence artists returned home and various programs were cancelled, however from May using the studio as a temporary gallery space for the presentation of work by young artists, Youkobo gradually returned to its daily activity. The open air exhibition held in Zempukuji Park "Trolls in the Park" also marked ten years since its initiation by Youkobo, bringing an Autumn of intense activity. With the impact of the earthquake combined at the same time with various events marking Youkobo's tenth anniversary it has been a thought-provoking year and as it progressed we have come to strongly appreciate once more, along with other artists, the importance of the contribution of art to society.

This year we were able to work closely with many artists through the support and understanding of various overseas institutions, art organizations and arts professionals.

We would like to thank the following groups:

Embassy of the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg, The Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg Ministry of Culture-higher Education and Research, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Australian Embassy, Embassy of Finland, Finnish Institute in Japan, Scandinavia-Japan Sasakawa Foundation, Arts Council of Finland, Arts Council of Oulu, Japan -Myanmar Friendship Association, Res Artis, Asian Cultural Council, Japan Foundation – Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths “JENESYS” Programme, The Japan-United States Friendship Commission, International House of Japan, Geidai Taito Sumida Sightseeing Art Project, BankART1929, Tokyo University of the Arts, Joshibi University of Art & Design, Toyo Institute of Art & Design, Abiko International Outdoor Art Exhibition, Trolls in the Park Organizing Committee, Zempukuji Park, Momoshi Elementary School, Shin Machi Shoeikai, Radio Pachipachi and many more.

Furthermore EU Japan Fest Japan Committee provided support towards the general activities of Youkobo, while the Japan Cultural Affairs Agency provided support towards Youkobo's artist-in-residence program. We are highly grateful for such support.

While receiving the encouragement and support of large organizations we are also greatly indebted to many individuals including volunteers and artists. We thank you all most sincerely.

Youkobo Art Space Co-director
Hiroko Murata

2. Youkobo Vision, Core Values and Mission

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

Vision

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

Core values

- Openness and exchange:
We believe that art should be open to everyone, and that it is an essential tool in fostering communication and understanding between people of different cultures.
- Flexibility:
We recognize that the nature of art and the work that artists do requires a flexible approach in the way that we maintain our activities.
- Autonomy:
While recognizing the importance of maintaining strong networks with the community and other institutions, we also believe in individuality and diversity both in artists and our own institution.

Mission

- Supporting artists who have a genuine commitment to their practice. (AIR program and gallery program)
- Encouraging dialogue and mutual understanding between overseas, local artists and residents, and building a society more open to diversity. (Artist talk and events).
- Building strong networks with other AIR centers and art spaces in order to increase accessibility to and promote a greater appreciation of art. (Res Artis, J-AIR Network, AIR-J, 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:

Co-directors: Hiroko Murata, Tatsuhiko Murata

Staff members: Mika Harigai, Yuuri Kabata, Jaime Humphreys, Keiko Suzuki, Utako Shindo, Yoshie Sasaki, Emma Ota

3. Summary of Activities

3-1 Tenth Anniversary and the Earthquake

•Welcome Back Project (Special Invitation)

The 2011 AIR program included the realization of a special program organized in consideration of the tenth anniversary which involved the invitation of 16 overseas artists (13 artists actually joined the program). The first half of the program encouraged the return of artists who had previously been in residence at Youkobo with the aim of giving us the opportunity to reflect on the activities which have taken place at Youkobo over the past ten years. In February, Etty Horowitz traveled from Texas, America to revisit Youkobo for the first time in twenty years, her first residency having taken place in the same year as the outbreak of the Gulf War (1990) at a time when she was a student at the Institute of Engineering in Israel. After her first residency, she crossed over to America where she began activities as an artist and this time returned to Youkobo after marrying and becoming a mother of two. During her second residency, she organized a very active program of events including a collaboration with local sixth grade elementary school students in the Youkobo studio. In March Nicky Coutts & Liz Murray (UK) returned to Youkobo but due to the disaster of 3.11 they returned to the UK and hope to participate in Youkobo's residence program again in the future. Furthermore, as a result of the earthquake Almut Rink (Austria) was unable to join the residence but plans to return in 2012. Youkobo was happy to welcome back artists Leo van der Kleij (Netherlands) in September and Katrin Paul (Germany), and Antti Ylonen (Finland) and Jak Peters (Netherlands) in October. The artists warmly pursued their creative practice and many have been able to lay the foundations for their next projects through their stay at Youkobo.



Etty with a student of the elementary school



Antti and Yoshiko Maruyama preparing to install their work



Jak along with volunteers prepares materials

•Tenth Anniversary Special Projects

<Youkobo History Exhibition>
From "Studio Youkobo" to "Youkobo Art Space"

*"The last ten years, this the tenth anniversary, and the future"
A wealth of exchange has been nurtured until now.
All our past trials are stored here.
Today, our future is beginning.....*



The construction of the site of Youkobo
60 years ago

The contents of the Youkobo activities have as their central axis the artist residence program where domestic and overseas artists stay and make work. Initiated in 1989 as "Studio Youkobo" with the residence of Gorun Ozsen (Turkey) who was an architect invited through the Matsumae Foundation, it has continued for over twenty years. In 2002, the name was changed to "Youkobo Art Space" and, as a multi-functional art facility equipped with studio, gallery and residence space, the program of activities officially started, going on to celebrate its tenth year in 2011. The gallery provides a space for young artists to experiment with the presentation of their work, and to date there have been over 150 exhibitions. We are also actively carrying out art activities which involve local residents to promote the popularization of art.

<Youkobo Collection Exhibition – “Ten Years Past, the Present, Ten Years from Now”>

After undergoing repair following 3.11, the totally transformed new gallery was host to the Youkobo Collection Exhibition from October 9th (Sun) to 16th (Sun). Running parallel to a sorting of the archives in preparation for the ten-year publication, a sort-out of the Youkobo collection of artworks also took place, giving a chance to look back on the last ten years of activity. The 120 plus works donated by artists previously joining the residence program have gathered to form a mountain, from which ten works were selected for display. The structure of the new gallery allows the space to be split into two with one forming the main gallery and the other a flexible subspace. This exhibition from the collection was held in the main gallery.



Youkobo Collection Exhibition

<The Tenth Anniversary Exhibition>

An exhibition was held in all spaces of Youkobo Art Space as the first step into “the next ten years”, running concurrently with the open air art exhibition “Trolls in the Park” held in the local Zempukuji Park between November 3rd (Thurs, national holiday) and November 23rd (Wed, national holiday).

① Tamaki Shindo & Naoko Tamaki “Forest of Memory” @Youkobo Gallery

The exhibition “Forest of Memory” by Tamaki Shindo and Naoko Tamaki was organized as the first departure in the gallery program following the unavoidable remodeling of the gallery due to the effects of the earthquake. Adopting collage as the method of their artistic practice, it is perhaps a method suiting both artists in the way that visual materials can be changed from an uncertain state to one with more definition. The appearance of each artist’s work is completely different, but it is clear that the work was made through a deep investigation. The work of both artists capitalized on the new gallery space, harmonizing with its altered appearance while also asserting their own way of looking at the world.



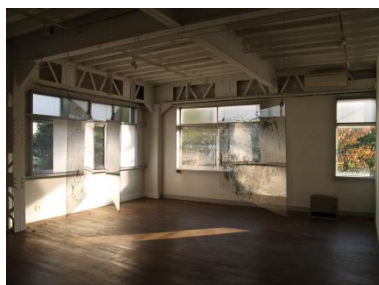
Naoko Tamaki



Tamaki Shindo

② Yuuri Kabata “Defrosted Time” @Studio 2

Yuuri Kabata’s solo exhibition “Defrosted Time” was a reconstruction of an earlier plan for a solo show which was cancelled in March. Involving an installation whose optical effect was transformed depending on the movement of sunlight, the images cast through the acrylic panels of the artwork which were hung to fit the window would appear to switch between positive and negative according to the time of day. Suggestive of the relationship between day and night, the strange one-directional effect of this work where the conditions during the day would draw the attention of the viewer only to lose their attraction at night left a strong impression.



Yuuri Kabata



③ Antti Ylonen, Yoshiko Maruyama, Tokio Maruyama "Silence" @Studio 1

The common underlying theme of the collaboration work "silence" by Antti Ylonen and Tokio and Yoshiko Maruyama revolves around the 3.11 disaster, and the nuclear disaster in Fukushima in particular. The respective interpretations of each artist were woven together in the compact studio of Youkobo, silently channeling their despair and hope into a display of absolute "silence".



<AIRs vol. 2 Open Talk about Artist in Residencies>

With the aim of developing the human resources of artists to make full use of the system and network of AIR programs, and to contribute to the career development of artists, the second talk and discussion event of its kind in which artists talk personally about their experiences of AIR programs for the benefit of other artists who are considering to participate in AIRs was held on December 23rd (Fri, national holiday) (The first talk session was held to mark the fifth anniversary of Youkobo in 2007). In the first session, artists Fumiko Kobayashi and Tatsuo Inagaki prepared reports according to the theme "Participation in AIRs" in which they talked openly about their activities on artist residence programs, and the relation of AIRs to the development of their careers. There was also a presentation by Yoshino Ritsu from the Asian Cultural Council about the role of ACC as a funding organization providing support to artists joining AIR programs, and the benefits of participating in AIRs from the perspective of a support-giving institution. In the second session, with the theme of "Artist-run AIRs", an introduction to research currently being carried out by Youkobo into the unique, small-scale activities of global AIRs (classified as 'micro-residences') was given, with examples from Shih Yun Yeo (INSTINC director/ Singapore) and Matsuzaki Hirofumi (Studio Kura director/ Fukuoka) who explained their programs, and a mutual exchange program which took place between them. During this event, resident artist Stina Fisch (Luxembourg), and Kyogo Matsumoto, who was using the gallery space as a studio in preparation for an exhibition in January, also held a mini talk session about their projects.

On December 24th (Sat), a closed micro residency network meeting was held with four participants (Youkobo, Studio Kura, INSTINC, and Nha San Studio (Vietnam)), in which each member made presentations about the activities, management structure, the actual conditions, issues and objectives of their organizations. A discussion then followed about the methods through which a realistic network best fitting its respective members could be realized.



Image: The events on 12/23 and 12/24

• Effects of the Earthquake and Restoration

In March, two pairs of artists from Holland and the UK started residencies at Youkobo, but soon after the Tohoku Earthquake struck. It was the first time for Japanese to experience an earthquake of such magnitude, and with the constant flow of information about the escalating situation of the nuclear disaster, Tokyo was paralyzed in its role as capital city. As a result, we made every effort for the safety of the resident artists to have them return to their home countries as soon as possible.

In addition, cracks ran through the walls of the Youkobo building which has stood for sixty years, leaving us no choice but to make the decision to cease activities. With the agony of contemplating the total stop of our activities, we sought the consultation of a number of architects, which then led to an investigation of the possibility of adding anti-earthquake enforcement by stripping

the interior walls. After checking there was no damage to the framework itself, a new white cube gallery with the rivet construction left bare was created. This year has given us a stronger awareness of our place in society which is built through the art activities which we will continue to develop together with artists.



Image: Image of the bare framework on the ground floor during construction

3-2.AIR Program

It is one of Youkobo's lasting objectives to provide flexibility to all artists joining the artist in residence program in the pursuit of their creative activities. The transient and ever changing nature of contemporary art practice requires that art centers and residency programs also take an adaptable approach to the running of their programs in order to support the diverse needs of artists.

In 2011 sixteen artists participated in the AIR program. Amongst these were four "returning artists" who had previously stayed at Youkobo and returned to celebrate its ten-year anniversary. Furthermore as a result of the disaster of 3.11, two groups of artists ended their residency and returned to their homes, and the residence program was put on hold for three months until June. It was re-opened again in July. Amongst fears of radiation, artists returned to Youkobo to carry out their creative production with passion, giving Youkobo much strength and encouragement.

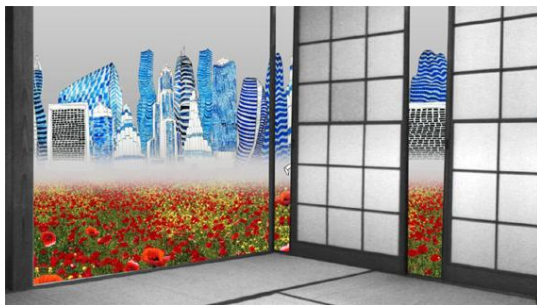
The majority of artists focused upon their studio work presenting the results through exhibitions and talk events, while others also used their residence as a time for research and a time to recharge their batteries. This year there were a particular number of artists participating in other outside events and exhibitions as well as joining workshops and production processes which involved the local community. In order to carefully correspond Youkobo's support to the needs of the artists this year we consciously held regular meetings, welcome parties and various events allowing exchange and dialogue with other creatives. As a result the visiting artists were able to form relationships with volunteer staff, local artists and various other arts professionals.

Below is a simple outline of the activities of the artists participating in the 2011 program:

Marte Kiessling (Germany)

1.12.2010-31.1.2011 Residence 1

Marte creates videos based on drawing and computer graphics. During this residence she created a work inspired by her own imagination and dreams, mixed with the urban spaces of Tokyo and the architecture of Youkobo's residence space and presented this in her final open studio exhibition.



Tuomas Laitinen (Finland)

1.1-28.2.2011 Residence 3

Tuomas rigorously engaged in research and filming for his video work. On 10th February he presented an artist talk and screening introducing his video and installation work which incorporates light, sound and various machinery.



Still image from video work "rising"

Etty Horowitz (Israel/USA)

1.2-28.2.2011 Residence 1 + studio 1

Etty returned to Japan as a contemporary artist after twenty years since her last visit, when she previously stayed as an architect at Youkobo in its early days as an artist studio. This time Etty facilitated a workshop with the neighbouring elementary school in addition to presenting an installation within the local neighbourhood and holding an open studio event, actively pursuing a wide range of engagements.

**Bart Benschop & Leontine Liefvering (Netherlands)**

2.3-15.3.2011 Residence 1 + Studio 1

The two artists had planned a program developing work upon the scenes from highways, but due to the disaster of 3.11 they returned home, planning to join the residence program again in 2012 to complete their project.



work in progress (Left : Bart, Right : Leontine)

Nicky Coutts and Liz Murray (UK)

3.7-3.15.2011 Residence 3

The two artists returned to Youkobo as part of the ten-year anniversary celebrations and had planned to undertake research and filming in preparation for a video screening in addition to becoming guest artists for the Trolls in Spring Exhibition at the local elementary school, but returned home due to the 3.11 disaster. They are now considering when to return to Japan.

Hamish Carr (Australia)

1.7-31.8.2011 Residence 1 + Studio 1

Working towards the exhibition "Immanent Landscape" held at Oyama City Kurumaya Museum of Art, Hamish stayed at Youkobo for two months developing new works of various scales based on the mapping of inner and outer landscapes, which were also presented in an open studio.

**Nge Lay (Myanmar)**

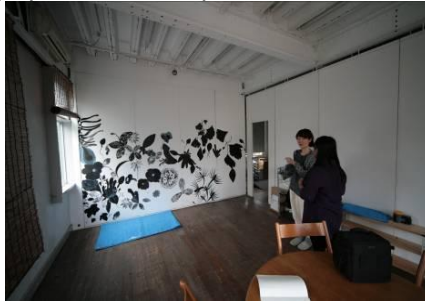
1.7-22.9.2011 Residence 3 + Studio 2

Nge Lay was invited to Youkobo as part of the Japan Foundation's JENESYS Programme: Invitation Programme for Creators (The Japan –East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths). In addition to developing new work in the studio she joined a symposium in Koganecho Art Bazaar, presented a Lecture at Joshibi University, and joined in a collaboration with a performance group. In her exhibition to mark the end of

her residence she presented a series of photographs and a sculptural installation along with a catalogue.



Open Studio Exhibition



Open Studio



Participating in the
"mai mai house project"

Leo van der kleij (Netherlands)

2.9-1.10.2011 Residence1 + Studio1

Leo returned to Youkobo as part of its ten-year anniversary celebrations. As part of his residence he held workshops at the neighboring elementary school, and also produced new photographic work which was presented in an artist talk and open studio comparing his latest work with work he has developed over twenty years of visiting Japan.



Opening of open studio



Critique Session



Exhibition of collaborations with pupils of
Momoshi Elementary School (Trolls in the
Park 2011

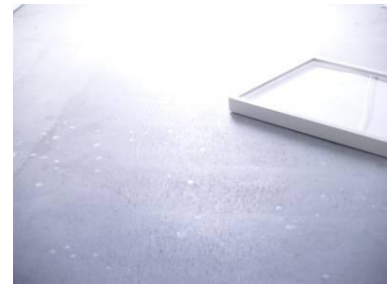
Katrin Paul (Germany)

9.14-11.24 2011. Residence 2 and outside residence

As part of Youkobo's 10th Anniversary Celebrations German artist Katrin Paul returned to Japan to participate in the artist in residence program. She also held an exhibition "Zusammenfassen" in the gallery's new extension space between 10th to 16th of September, and participated in Trolls in the park 2011. Here she created a poetic world through the interaction of light, surface and residue. Furthermore she presented her solo exhibition at Hakone Museum of Photography.



Exhibition in Youkobo Sub Gallery Space



Antti Ylonen (Finland)

1.10-30.11.2011 Residence 1

Antti was also a returning artist as part of the ten-year anniversary celebration program, further commemorated through his collaboration with Yoshiko Maruyama and Tokio Maruyama, who he first met in Finland during their participation in a residence program. Furthermore he also presented work as part of "Trolls in the Park 2011."



Jak Peters (Netherlands)

1.10-30.11.2011 Residence 2

Jak was also an artist returning to Youkobo as part of the ten-year celebrations, which included a screening of his animation “CAPER-PUT” and other short stop motion animation works on the outer wall of the building as part of a commemorative exhibition to mark this event. Furthermore, he actively participated in the GTS program (Geidai, Taitoku, Sumida Sightseeing Art Project, run by Tokyo National University of the Arts) as well as Trolls in the Park.



Screening outside of Youkobo

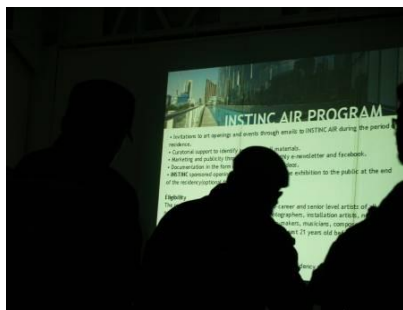


Trolls in the Park 2011

Shih Yun Yeo (Singapore)

7.12-30.12.2011 Residence 2

Shih Yun Yeo, director of residence program INSTINC in Singapore, joined the residence program to undertake research into artist studios and residence facilities in Tokyo. She also contributed to Youkobo's events “AIRs vol.2 Open Talk about Artist in Residencies” and a discussion about the development of a microresidence network.



Stina Fisch (Luxembourg)

1.12.2011-31.1.2012 Residence 1 + Studio 1

Stina is an illustrator who was invited to undertake a residence in Japan by the Embassy of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. During her residence she held workshops at the local elementary school, collaborated with a local screen printing studio, Kuriya Graphic, and held an exhibition at the Embassy of Luxembourg.



3-3. Gallery Program

The Youkobo gallery program focuses mainly upon Japan-based artists, aiming to provide them with the opportunity to experiment and present new work at minimum cost, while also encouraging exchange with the overseas artists joining the AIR program and members of the local community.

In 2011, eleven groups of artists held exhibitions as part of the Youkobo gallery program. These included young Japan-based artists as well artists returning to Youkobo as part of the tenth anniversary celebrations, a strong variety of artists of different backgrounds, as well as special programs such as the ten-year anniversary exhibition “Ten Years Past, the Present, Ten Years from Now” as well as the ten-year celebrations of Trolls in the Park.

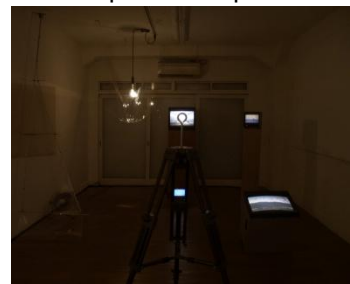
Due to the disaster of 3.11 the gallery was closed and instead studio 1 was used as an exhibition space. Between June and August the gallery was renovated and reopened in October, setting out upon a new direction aiming towards a program which can bring artists together.

Below is an outline of the exhibitions presented in 2011:

Manabu Kanai “observation and description”

27.1-13.2.2011

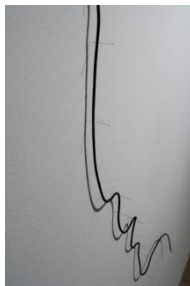
As a development from his solo exhibition in 2009 in which he presented an installation with multiple video monitors, in this exhibition he also added other materials such as drawing and lighting in an experiment which diligently sought out the process of creating, taking the sense of vision as its point of departure.



Linda Dennis “pressions”

2.23-12.3.2011

Linda, an artist based in Tokyo, presented an exhibition of video work based upon the action of her family piling their hands one on top of the other, filmed during her return to her home country of Australia, alongside a wall drawing created from shoelaces, pursuing an expression of physical connection, linking one thing to another.



Sumi Kanazawa “38curtain”

5.5-22.5.2011

Kanazawa, a third generation Korean Japanese, visited the northern 38th parallel and based upon a diary she kept of this travel she created an installation using the motifs of a map, red line and green curtain. In this space she uncovered a highly complicated and pressurized sense of the world formed in the bringing together of the map and the real experience of the 38th parallel.



Mitsumasa Kadota “Mitsumasa Kadota Solo Exhibition”

25.5-12.6.2011

Kadota is an artist who approaches painting not in the context of a Western art form, but rather as a medium of Japanese art, questioning how to express an original Japanese perspective. Here he presented a variety of paintings of different scale in Studio 1 which result from his critical examination of this area as a painter.



Edward Stocker “Bridge to the Outside”

25.5-29.5.2011

The sound artist and composer Edward Stocker returned to Youkobo in celebration of its tenth anniversary and created a sound installation in Youkobo's garden made from the various glass and stones collected there over ten years and their interaction with the wind and light. As part of this exhibition he made a collaboration with dancers and musicians to give a public performance based on Japanese “gagaku” ancient court music.



Youkobo Collection Exhibition – “Ten Years Past, the Present, Ten Years from Now”

10.9-16.10.2011

*Please refer to (3-1 > 10th Anniversary Special Projects) for further information and images.

Youkobo the Tenth Anniversary Exhibition

3.11-23.11.2011

*Please refer to (3-1 > 10th Anniversary Special Projects) for further information and images.

Antti Ylonen, Yoshiko Maruyama, Tokio Maruyama “Silence”, Studio 1

Tamaki Shindo / Naoko Tamaki “Forest of Memory”, Gallery

Yuri Kabata “Defrosted Time”, Studio 2

Takumi Kato “Workspace”

1.12-18.12.2011

Kato is an artist based in Nara searching for a form of expression in painting which can reflect a particularity and possibility as a Japanese artist. In this, his first solo exhibition he presented both past and recent work which pursue such a theme.



3-4. Studio Program

Youkobo provides a studio on a monthly rental basis to artists who wish to capitalize on the unique environment in which Youkobo Art Space is located. However, priority for use of the studios is given to the annual schedule of the other programs, with its use only being possible when there are availabilities.

Yuuri Kabata and Chihiro Kabata

1.1-11.3.2011

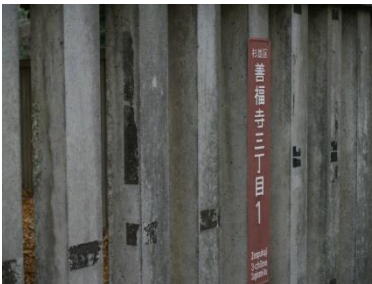
The two artists planned to use Studio 2 as their shared base for creative production as well as for regular open studio events and exhibitions over a twelve-month period. Chihiro Kabata presented new work created in this large open space at Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, while Yuuri Kabata was working towards a body of work for a solo exhibition to be presented in March. However due to the earthquake of 3.11 the building required renovation and the studio program had to be stopped.



Kyogo Matsumoto

23.12.2011-13.1.2012 (Exhibition 14.1-29.1.2012)

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



3-5 Events (Artist Talk, Critique Session, Symposium etc)

Youkobo regularly holds talk events throughout the year, aiming to facilitate communication and exchange between domestic and overseas artists and the wider community. In 2011 a wide range of talk events were held as artist talks, discussions, symposia and lectures, reflecting the development of the residence, gallery and network program. As a new addition to its program of talk events Youkobo initiated in 2011 a “critique session” in which artists participating in the gallery, studio and residence programs are provided with the opportunity to receive honest feedback from Youkobo staff and associated artists, as well as other arts professionals.

<Artist Talk>

- 21.5.2011 Sumi Kanazawa (Gallery)
- 10.2.2011 Tuomas Laitinen (Studio 1)
- 9.9.2011 Nge Lay (Studio 2)
- 24.9.2011 Leo Van der Kleij (Gallery)
- 12.11.2011 Tamaki Shindo, Naoko Tamaki, Yoshiko&Tokio Maruyama, Antti Ylonen (Gallery, studio 1+2)

<Discussion>

- 28.5.2011 Mitsumasa Kadota (Exhibiting artist) x Jun Teshigahara (art critic) (studio 1)
- 3.12.2011 Takumi Kato (Exhibiting artist) x Atsushi Miyata (writer) (gallery)



Mitsumasa Kadota and Jun Teshigahara



Leo Van der Kleij Artist Talk

<Critique Session>

- 29.1.2011 Gallery Exhibition + Residence Exhibition
Manabu Kanai (exhibiting artist), Marte Kiessling (residence artist), Youkobo staff
- 22.5.2011 Gallery Exhibition
Sumi Kanazawa (exhibiting artist), artist assistant, Youkobo staff
- 12.6.2011 Gallery Exhibition
Mitsumasa Kadota (exhibiting artist), Philip Brophy (artist, critic, curator),
Sumi Kanazawa (artist), Yuichiro Kurono (artist), Youkobo staff
- 28.8.2011 Residence Program
Hamish Carr (residence artist), Hisaharu Motoda (artist), Shohei Iida (Director of Oyama City Museum Kurumaya), Hanae Nakao (Curator of Oyama City Museum Kurumaya), Youkobo staff
- 18.9.2011 Residence Program
Nge Lay (residence artist), Manabu Kanai (artist),
Chiharu Shizuno, Kanako Takagi (Trolls in the Park volunteers), Youkobo staff
- 26.9.2011 Residence Program
Leo Van der Kleij (residence artist), Katrin Paul (artist), Kou Iwama (architect), Youkobo staff
- 19.11.2011 Ten-year Anniversary: Trolls in the Park & Youkobo Art Space
Jak Peters (residence artist), Antti Ylonen (residence artist), Yuichiro Kurono (artist),
Yuuri Kabata (exhibiting artist), Naoko Tamaki (exhibiting artist), Youkobo staff
- 17.12.2011 Gallery Exhibition
Takumi Kato (exhibiting artist), Keishin Nakaseko (art director), Shih Yun Yeo (residence artist),
Stina Fisch (residence artist), Youkobo staff



Marte Kiessling (AIR artist), Manabu Kanai (exhibiting artist)



Mitsumasa Kadota (exhibiting artist), Philip Brophy (artist, critic, curator)

<Symposium>

18.7.2011 Zempukuji Pond Project (gallery)

(Marcos Fernandes, Keiko Torigoe, etc)

To commemorate "World Listening Day" this event was held in Zempukuji Park and Youkobo's gallery space (which was under construction at the time). In the park a workshop was held, while in the gallery the results of this were presented as a performance.



17.9.2011 Immanent Landscape Symposium (gallery)

Hamish Carr (Youkobo artist in residence)

Utako Shindo, Ai Sasaki, Nobuaki Ohnishi, Hisaharu Motoda, Kiron Robinson, Jeremy Baker, Atsunobu Katagiri (artist)

Hisako Hara (curator), Hanae Nakao (Curator of Oyama City Kurumaya Museum of Art), Senichi Naganawa (Nizayama Forest Art Museum), Miyoko Hoshino (Kawasaki City Museum Education Department), Shima Ozawa (Echigo Tsumari Triennale staff, translator) etc

The symposium was held to celebrate opening "Immanent Landscape" Exhibition (17.9-27.11) at Oyama City Kurumaya Museum of Art and to discuss ways to cultivate the art field by providing flexible collaboration between artists, systems, art workers and society.



23.12.2011 AIRs vol. 2 Open Talk about Artist in Residencies

Fumiko Kobayashi, Tatsuo Inagaki, Ritsu Yoshino (Asian Cultural Council, Tokyo),

Shih Yun Yeo (Director, INSTINC, Singapore), Hiroshi Matsuzaki (Director, Studio Kura, Fukuoka)

Please refer to <10th Anniversary Special Projects> in the section 3-1.

<Lecture>

•Date: 7.8.2011
•Organizers: BankART 1929
•Event: Shin Minatomura, A Small City of the Future, BankARTLifeIII, Yokohama Triennale 2011, Special Program
•Venue: Shinko Pier, Yokohama
•Theme: "Artist in Residencies Today"
•Presenters: Mario Caro (Res Artis), Tatsuhiko Murata

•Date: 27.8.2011
•Organizers: Franco Japon de Gunma
•Event: Art project Maebashi
•Venue: Maebayashi Studio Annexe, Maebayashi
•Theme: "Youkobo Art Community—Big possibilities of a small multiple space"
•Presenters: Tatsuhiko and Hiroko Murata

•Date: 12.9.2011
•Organizers: Taiwan Artist-Residence Interchange Association
•Event: Tainan Culture and Arts Forum
•Venue: Municipal Culture Center, Tainan City

- Theme: "Res Artis - Worldwide Network of Artist Residencies and Youkobo now"
- Presenters: Tatsuhiko and Hiroko Murata
- Date: 13.9.2011
- Organizers: Dept. of Cross Disciplinary Art and Design, Joshibi University of Art & Design Lecture
- Event: Field of Media Art and Design
- Venue: Joshibi Suginami Campus
- Theme: Youkobo Art Space, Open Air Exhibition "Trolls in the Park", the work of Myanmar female artists
- Presenters: Tatsuhiko and Hiroko Murata, Nge Lay, Jaime Humphreys



- Date: 22.9.2011
- Organizers: Association for Culture Suginami
- Event: Suginami Art Meeting
- Venue: Suginami Ward Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Suginami, Tokyo
- Theme: Artist in Residence and Community Engagement – the activities of Youkobo
- Presenters: Tatsuhiko and Hiroko Murata

- Date: 18.10.2011
- Organizers: Dept. of Cross Disciplinary Art and Design,
- Event: Joshibi University of Art & Design Lecture, Field of Media Art and Design
- Venue: Joshibi Suginami Campus
- Theme: Introducing her work as artist in residence at Youkobo, presenting work of female artists in Germany as well as wider German art scene
- Presenters: Katrin Paul

- Date: 22.10.2011
- Organizers: International House of Japan Arts Program
- Event: Seminar on Grant Writing for Artists
- Venue: Iwasaki Koyata Memorial Hall, International House of Japan, Roppongi, Tokyo
- Them: The Condition of International AIR
- Presenters: Tatsuhiko Murata

- Date: 10.11.2011
- Organizers: Painting Department, Toyo Institute of Art & Design
- Event: Art Management Lecture
- Venue: Painting Department, Toyo Institute of Art & Design, Shinjuku, Tokyo
- Theme: "Youkobo Art Community—Big Possibilities of a Small Multipurpose Space"
- Presenters: Tatsuhiko Murata

3-6. Internship - GIP: Global Internship Program

Utako Shindo January-March 2011 (3 months)

Utako Shindo joined the GIP program after returning to Japan, having spent nine years in Melbourne, Australia, where she had undertaken her BFA and MFA at the faculty of Victorian College of the Arts, Melbourne University while at the same time pursuing her personal artistic practice. Shindo had also formally joined the Youkobo studio program in 2010. As a GIP member she helped in the production of Youkobo's annual report, publicity (including the editing of Youkobo's magazine "be遊" and various other activities in her training.

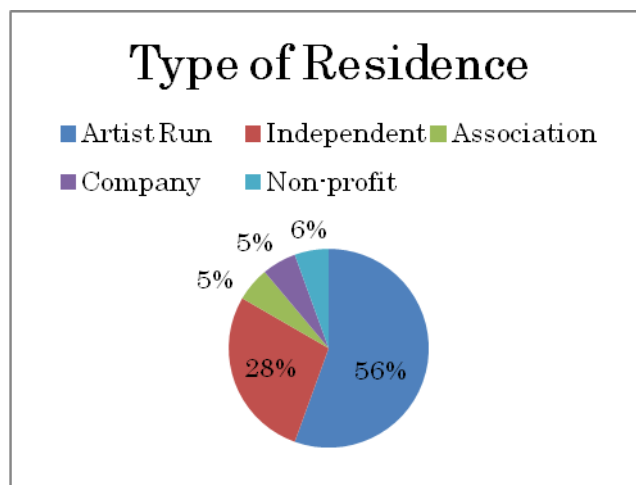
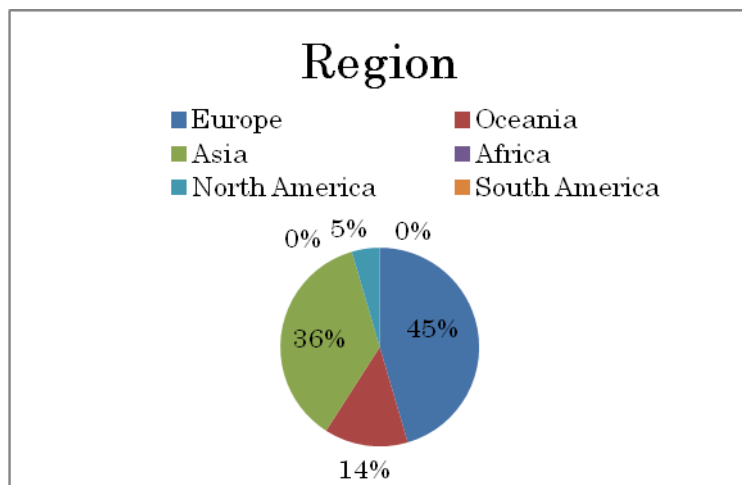


(Note: The publication of "be遊" was unfortunately halted by the impact of 3.11)

Emma Ota June-December 2011 (7 months)

From May 2011 Emma Ota joined the Global Internship program, after having participated as volunteer in the Spring Trolls in the Park project working with the children of Momoshi Elementary School. Ota graduated from the Masters Course in Fine Art at Nottingham Trent University (UK) as well as the MA course in Imaging Arts and Sciences at Musashino Art University and has since worked as an art coordinator in Tokyo. She is also the leader of "dislocate" an annual project examining the relation of art, technology and locality. After cataloguing Youkobo's AIR archive Emma helped in the analysis of data received from Res Artis, of which Tatsuhiko Murata is vice-chairman, researching the various different residencies which make up Res Artis' 600-strong membership, examining for example the numbers of residencies in each region and country, the budget of each residence and form of organization, as well as assessing the condition of unpaid membership fees. This information was collated and then fed back to the Res Artis board.

Following this analysis it became clear that the majority of Res Artis members were small-scale residencies (in terms of budget) inspiring Youkobo to push their idea for a microresidence network catering for the needs of small-scale and independent artist-run residence programs.



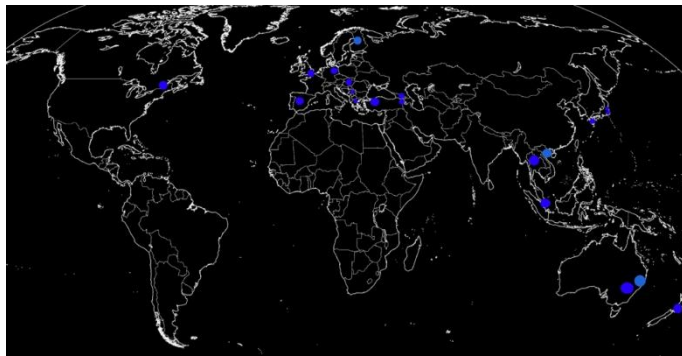
Data analysis of Microresidencies responding to a questionnaire showing the distribution of members around the world and the number of members identifying themselves as artist run and independent.

3-7 Research - The Possibility of a Micro-residence Network

A new initiative of Youkobo in 2011 was the Micro-residence Network. Defining a micro-residence as an independent (often artist-led) small-scale residence program which maintains a flexibility and readiness to accommodate the needs of each individual artist, Youkobo has long felt the need to reach out to other similar residencies, not only in Japan but also internationally and create a support platform in which advice and experience may be shared and new collaborations may be formed. The development of this network is still in its early days but through researching national and international residence listing sites and contacting over 160 organizations to conduct a survey of their structure and activities, we have had positive feedback from 22 organizations worldwide and having analyzed their data and opinions we have come to realize the range and diversity of micro-residencies as well as their common concerns. We are currently developing discussion between these organizations through facebook and ustream and have facilitated our first meeting session “Micro Possibilities” which brought together Youkobo, Studio Kura (Fukuoka) and INSTINC (Singapore), as well as contributions from Nha San Studio (Hanoi) via skype. Here we examined the various different conditions of each residence while discussing how to concretely develop the network in a way which will benefit all members. As a result of these discussions it is planned to continue with further research into the phenomenon of micro-residencies, while building an online platform for the exchange of information and resources which will lead to extended exchange and support throughout the network. We aim to present the developments of this network at the upcoming Res Artis general meeting in Tokyo in October 2012.



Micro-residence Discussion Event



Micro-residence MAP

4. Network Development

4-1. Res Artis (Worldwide Network of Artist Residencies)

Tatsuhiko Murata became the deputy head of Res Artis, a Worldwide Network of Artist Residencies in 2011, which Youkobo has been a member of for many years. As a result of the 3.11 disaster Murata was unable to join the annual regional meeting but contributed to the Res Artis newsletter with reflections upon the current state of residence programs in Japan and the clear importance of networks in times of crisis.

In August the director of Res Artis Mario Caro visited Japan and in collaboration with Youkobo held a lecture at “Shinminatomura: A Small City for the Future (BankART LIFEIII)”, an associated event of the Yokohama Triennale for which he presented upon the theme of “Evolving Forms: The World of Artist in Residencies” to an audience of artists and general public.

From now on Youkobo intends to develop its residence program, and while pursuing research into microresidencies, we intend to make a substantial contribution to the world wide network.



4-2. JENESYS Programme: Invitation Programme for Creators (The Japan –East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths)

Following on from last year Youkobo was again host to artists as part of the Japan Foundation’s “JENESYS” program (Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths). This year the Yangon-based female artist Nge Lay stayed for two and a half months. While actively pursuing the production of new work to be presented in an exhibition, Nge Lay also joined other events and projects outside of Youkobo, forming a wide network. Nge Lay as a representative of Myanmar’s second generation of artists, has participated in exhibitions in art museums in Korea and Singapore, as well as organizing a grass roots art festival with her partner, who is also an artist. Through Nge Lay’s network and the introductions of Youkobo, local artist Takuro Kotaka was also able to participate in a performance festival in Myanmar in Autumn 2011. From now on Youkobo looks forward to developing links between its own community and that of Nge Lay, and hopes for further opportunities of cooperation.



Dislocate Symposium at 3331 Arts Chiyoda



Performance at NIPAF



Youkobo Open Studio

4-3. GTS Sightseeing Art Project

GTS (Geidai Taito Sumida) Sightseeing Art Project is a program being facilitated by Tokyo University of the Arts with Taitoku and Sumidaku with the support of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. Continuing on from last year a resident artist of Youkobo again joined this program with the contribution of Jak Peters (Netherlands) who presented work in the “Sumida River Art Bridge 2011” exhibition, as well as presenting a musical performance on the opening night. Through his participation, exchange with participating artists, professors and students of Tokyo University of the Arts, and local people was deepened.



GTS Opening Presentation



Opening of Esupuri Exhibition



Exhibited Work

4-4. "Shin Minatomura" Project (BankARTLifeIII, an associated program of the Yokohama Triennale2011)

Youkobo Art Space joined the Japan Art Initiative section of the "Shin Minatomura, A Small City for the Future" organized by BankART 1929, as an associated event of the Yokohama Triennale. From 6th August to 6th November Youkobo presented an information booth, introducing the range of its activities, while Youkobo staff and resident artists attended in person once a month to meet with visitors to the site, sharing in dialogue with many artists and the general public.

Youkobo co-director Hiroko Murata also directed the exhibition of artist Sumi Kanazawa "Border Curtain" which was presented in the "wakan" of Shin Minatomura between 14th October-6th November. This impressive historic building, well known for its exchange between Japan and Korea, was used as the site of 3rd generation Korean Japanese artist Kanazawa's installation. The presentation of the secret garden of the 38th parallel was a significant event in the context of an international art festival.

Furthermore on 5th November Youkobo participated in the AIR Coordinator Meeting 01 – AIR from now on (organized by ARCUS Project), focusing upon the role of artist in residence coordinators. Here many of those involved in artist residence programs came together to discuss the condition of Japan artist in residencies since 3.11 and what can be done in this situation.



Hamish Karr mingling



Sumi Kanazawa 「Border Curtain」



AIR Coordinator Meeting 01

4-5. International and Domestic Research Activities

<International Research Trips>

In November Youkobo was invited to participate in a meeting of residence programs in Tainan city, Taiwan, where the directors were able to consider the possibilities of artist in residence programs and observe the Tainan art scene. Members from Australia and Singapore (Shih Yun Yeo) also joined along with cultural and local government officials, in a diverse sharing of ideas. After this, Youkobo engaged in individual dialogue with Shih Yun Yeo with regard to the possibilities of a microresidence network, later realizing a discussion event together.

<Researchers' visits to youkobo ART SPACE>

On October 2, Zara Stanhope, an independent curator living in Melbourne who participated in the 7th Meeting for Asian Curators organized by the Japan Foundation, visited Youkobo for the purpose of her research. In addition to viewing the Youkobo facilities, with the theme of "people+place+art developing a public" she introduced the activities of a number of artists in the public spaces of Melbourne City.



On December 22, British curator Keith Whittle who is engaged in projects based on the theme of art in localities, visited Youkobo to interview Youkobo directors Tatsuhiko and Hiroko Murata. An exchange of information about the residence program, Trolls in the Park, and art kids program, and the guiding principles behind these activities were shared, along with an exchange of opinions.

<Domestic Research Trips>

In May the directors of Youkobo visited Fukuoka and Kumamoto in Kyushu. As Youkobo had already been in dialogue in relation to the activities of microresidencies, the directors called upon Hirofumi Matsuzaki of Studio Kura. They also visited the active photographer Masako Imaoka and attended her solo exhibition at Tsunagi Art Museum, Kumamoto.

In August the directors travelled to Hokkaido. Here they visited the studio owned by Ryoji Ikeda in Ochiishisaki, on the Eastern edge of Hokkaido. Here the directors spoke with Ryoji Ikeda, Toshiya Takahama, Sotaro Ide and other artists working there. Here the directors were able to appreciate conditions of activity which are often difficult in the hot environment of Tokyo in summer. The directors also called upon the studio of Masami Aihara, who is actively working in Obihiro.

In Maebayashi city as part of a Japanese-French exchange program, we observed the activities of a group of French artists in a disused building, the further development of which is highly anticipated.

In November in order to research for possible participation in the Niigata Water and Land Festival 2012 Youkobo directors along with residence artist Jak Peters visited the site of the festival. After this they submitted an application to the event.

In December the directors met with Mark Dunhill and Tamiko O'Brien, former residence artists of Youkobo, at Kyoto Seika University where they were participating in an exchange program, presenting "STONE APPRECIATION, Dunhill & O'Brien". Here details of the exchange program between London and Kyoto were discussed, while the trip also provided the opportunity to learn more about the collaborative work of the couple.



Ochiishisaki, Hokkaido



Masami Aihara's Studio



Tainan City, Taiwan

<Network Development through the programs of Youkobo>

In addition to continuing dialogue with artists participating in the AIR program after they have returned home, relations are further developed through associated artists of Youkobo and Youkobo staff visiting to the artists in their own countries, deepening ties with Youkobo and forming a network which will lead to even further cooperative activities. This year Youkobo further developed its network in the UK, Germany, Finland, Turkey, Australia, Myanmar and Laos, through the face-to-face interactions between both networks of staff and artists including Takahiro Ishii (artist), Takuro Kotaka (artist), Utako Shindo (artist/Youkobo staff), Yoshie Sasaki (Youkobo staff) and Emma Ota (Youkobo staff), all contributing to the widening and deepening of international exchange.



Caravansarai, Istanbul



Vientiane, Laos

5. Activities relating to the surrounding community

5-1. Tenth Anniversary of "Trolls in the Park"

The open air art exhibition Trolls in the Park has formed the center of Youkobo's program of community-based activities, bringing both overseas and domestic artists, a number of local groups and performers, and children of Momoshi Elementary School together to participate in art events which have brought new energy to the area.

Together with Youkobo, the Trolls in the Park exhibition also celebrated its tenth anniversary in 2011, developing a program of events fitting this important bench mark. In addition to an exhibition of work by sixteen artists from Japan, the UK, Germany, Holland, and Finland, this year again involved a series of performances by eight local groups and artists on a purpose-built stage, a development to the program made in the 2010 exhibition.

New to this year was the inclusion of five collaboration projects led by artists who worked with students of Momoshi Elementary School. Momoshi students have taken part for a number of years in a special art class where they have a chance to view the exhibition and communicate with participating artists. However, the school went on to have a more active role this year, with students from all grades taking part in the various collaborative projects, and the opening of the event being held in the school gymnasium. With the participation of a great number of local residents in this the tenth anniversary of the event, it seems to be making even stronger roots in the community.



5-2. Trolls in Spring Exhibition / Support for Minamisoma City in Fukushima

The "Trolls in Spring Exhibition" is an annual project giving fourth grade students of Momoshi Elementary School the opportunity to work closely with an artist to produce artwork which is shown in Zempukuji Park for a limited period in May. In 2011, the seventh consecutive year of this activity, Japanese artist Emi Otaguro was invited to lead the project. With the theme 「 気 の せ い ? 木 の 精 ? 」 ("Ki no sei? Ki no sei?" , meaning "tree spirits, or just your imagination?"), the students were challenged to use their imagination in depicting mysterious or memorable events relating to trees. The end result was a truly colorful exhibition bringing the trees of a normally overlooked part of Zempukuji Park to life.

This year, Emi Otaguro also made an appeal for art materials to exhibition visitors and the school community to be sent to Minamisoma in the disaster-hit area of Tohoku. Accompanied with an artwork and messages from momoshi students, boxes full of crayons and other materials were sent to three elementary schools (eleven schools in total as they currently share school buildings) in Minamisouma City. This activity was realized by the generous support from Mr. Kaneko, former staff of Minamisouma City, who also supported Youkobo residency artist Antti Ylonen from Finland in 2002.



5-3. "Art Kids" - Children's Workshop

Art Kids is an 'art workshop' taking place once a month at the neighboring Momoshi Elementary School. Reaching its tenth year in 2010, a total of 25 artists and creators have taught the children over the years, giving the children opportunities to explore their own creative potential through a number of art activities. The workshops have taken many themes and forms over the years, utilizing a wide range of media from music and performance, to calligraphy and handicrafts.

Continuing from last year, UK artist Jaime Humphreys continued to lead the workshops in 2011, focusing again on a series of experimental drawing and sculpture workshops. Special to this year, the "Art Kids" participants had a unique opportunity to collaborate in the making of a video work which was shown in the "Trolls in the Park 2011" Exhibition. Using the chalkliners usually reserved for use by teachers in preparation for sports events in the playground, the students made a dynamic chalk drawing which was filmed from the roof of the school building. This year also welcomed Mika Sato as guest artist to lead a workshop in September in which the participants made a city nightscape using cardboard boxes and small lamps.





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6. 2011 Overview

Month	AIR•Studio Program				Exhibition		Events		Networks	Community			
	S1	R1	S2	R2	Gallery	Outdoor	Artist talk/C.S.	W.S.		Trolls	A.K.		
1	5	Marte Keissling (Germany) 12.1.2010 – 1.30.2011 O.S. 1.27–1.30		Tuomas Laitinen (Finland) 12.12.2010–2.28.2011	winter break		1.28 Manabu+Marte				1.14		
	15												
	20				Manabu Kanai 1.27 –2..13		2.1Tuomas Laitinen	Etty		2.11			
	25												
	31												
2	5	Etty Horowitz (USA) 2.1.–2.28 O.S. 2.25	Yuuri&Chihiro Kabata (Studio Program) 2.1–3.14*	Nicky Coutts (England) 3.1–3.14*	Linda Dennis 2.23–3.12			Linda 3.9.	3.9 Art				
	10												
	15												
	20												
	25												
3	5	Bart Benschop&Leontine Lifferring (Netherland) 3.1–3.14*											
	10												
	15												
	20												
	25												
4	5	Closed to the public due to March 11 Disaster											
	10												
	15												
	20												
	25												
5	5	Sumi Kanazawa 5.5–5.22 Mitsumasa Kadota 5.25–6.12	Assessment of the building conditions after the disaster, and plans for repairs									Trolls in Spring 4.29 – 5.5	5.14
	10												
	15												
	20												
	25												
6	5				Renovation and Repairs		Edward Schoker 5.25–28	5.21 Sumi		Studio Kura Visit			
	10												
	15												
	20												
	25												
7	5	Hamish Carr (Australia) 7.1 – 8.31 O.S. 8.24–8.28	Nge Lay (Myanmar) 7.1 – 9.22					5.28 Mitsumasa		JENESYS Programme 7.1–9.22		7.9	
	10												
	15												
	20												
	25												
8	5	Leo Van der Kleij (Netherland) 9.1 – 10.1 O.S. 9.24–9.30	O.S. 9.7–9.18					6.12 Mitsumasa		Shin Minato Mura 8.6–11.6 (Sumi Show 10.14–11.6)			
	10												
	15												
	20												
	25												
9	5	Antti Ylonen (Finland) 10.2–11.30	Katrin Paul (Germany)	Jak Peters (Netherland) 10.1 – 11.30	Youkobo History Exhibition	Jak Peters 10.16 – 29		9.17 Symposium	Leo	Tainan AIR Meeting 9.10–12		9.1+8	
	10												
	15												
	20												
	25												
10	5	Maruyamas (Japan) + Antti Ylonen (Finland) 11.3–11.23	Yuri Kabata 11.3–11.23		Youkobo Collection Exhibition			9.24 Leo		GTS Exhibition 10.22 – 10.29		10.8+22	
	10												
	15												
	20												
	25												
11	5	Stina Fisch (Luxembourg) 12.2 –1.30 O.S. 12.23		Shi Yun Yeo (Singapore) 12.2–12.30	Takumi Kato 12.1 – 12.18			11.12 talks			Trolls in the Park Exhibition (Zempukuji Park+Momoshi School) 11.3 – 11.23		
	10												
	15												
	20												
	25												
12	5				Kyogo Matsumoto 12.23–1.30 (O.S. 12.23)			12.18 Takumi		12.24 Micro Residencies		12.1	
	10												
	15												
	20												
	25												

S1=Studio 1, R1=Residence1, S2=Studice2, R=Residence2, O.S.=Open Studio, C.S.=Critique Session, W.S.=Workshop, A.K.=Art Kids

*= suspended due to March 11 Disaster