

Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM]

Shota Yamauchi + YCAM

Monument of Odour – Forgotten Eros

January 11/12/18/19 , 2025 - One performance per day (see Page 4)

Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM], Studio B

New performance and installation by the artist who have pioneered new possibilities for technology and physical expression

Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM] will host “Monument of Odour – Forgotten Eros”, a new performance and installation by artist Shota Yamauchi.

In recent years, Yamauchi has presented stage work and installations focusing on smell. “Monument of Odour”, a piece made in collaboration with YCAM, is a performance and installation which makes the audience think about the relationship between individuals and society through body odour.

This performance depicts a speculative world that can be described as an “odourless society”, emerging as a result of excessively limiting smell produced by humans or objects. In this world, there is no fragrance to express oneself or smell to recall memory. How can people commemorate lost scents in such an environment?

The existence of scent brings about an unconscious boundary between people, despite today’s communities often requesting tolerance to accept others. “Monument of Odour” will share hints to think deeply about technology and ways of communication in our contemporary society through a unique experience designed around odour.



Main visual by Shota Yamauchi

For any inquiries for an interview or press photos, please contact us at the following address.

INQUIRIES

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YCAM: Updating Performing Arts — A Continued Focus on Cutting-Edge Expression



Prometheus Bound, 2021

Photo: Shintaro Yamanaka (Qsyum!)

Dance, films, and performing arts, such as dance and theatre play, are at the core of YCAM activities. Since its opening, YCAM has introduced cutting-edge performing arts from in and out of Japan while creating new pieces that apply media technology in collaboration with various artists. The focus has been on expressions that challenge and may update the performing arts as a genre, especially expressions (which) question stages as a space, and the ways of the body through media technology.

Outstanding works have been introduced at YCAM, such as “Prometheus Bound” by Meiro Koizumi, an experiential theatre piece using VR performed in 2021, and “The Shadow Whose Prey the Hunter Becomes” by Back to Back Theatre, an Australian theatre company mainly formed by actors with intellectual disability.

For “Monument of Odour”, YCAM collaborated with Shota Yamauchi. Yamauchi has consistently been creating and exhibiting works that combine digital imagery like VR and 3DCG with the human body, as if sculpting with clay. His works, which examine the relationship between technology and humans, have been acknowledged internationally.

In recent years, Yamauchi has turned his focus to "smell." His first theatrical work made in collaboration with Maki Ueda, "Sweaty-oily Sour-cheesy Juice" (2023, KYOTO EXPERIMENT), caught the attention of many for its theatrical direction directly stimulating the audience's sense of smell. Following in this line of work comes his new piece, "Monument of Odour – Forgotten Eros."

■ Shota Yamauchi

Born 1992. Yamauchi aims to clarify, through various methods, the relationship between the self and the world, as well as the rift between reality and imagination. Using diverse mediums of expression that include video, sculpture, VR, and performance, he created works that juxtapose raw physicality and human emotions with contemporary technology. Solo exhibitions include “Medium and Dimension: Apparition” (2023, AOYAMA | MEGURO), group exhibitions include “Roppongi Crossing 2019: Connexions” (2019, Mori Art Museum), “Ars Electronica 2022: Welcome to Planet B” (2022, Ars Electronica Festival).



Sterilization, Masking, Elimination – Where will the “zero odor” obsession lead society to?



"Monument of Odour – Forgotten Eros"
Venue plan by Shota Yamauchi

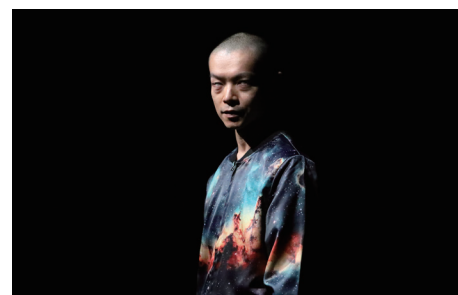
This installation and performance piece stems from Shota Yamauchi's recent fascination with "smell," exploring the tension between reason and sensory experience, as well as the relationship between individuals and society. In his theatrical debut, "Sweaty-oily Sour-cheesy Juice" (KYOTO EXPERIMENT), Yamauchi created a stir by collecting sweat from the audience's armpits during the performance and distilling it into a "scent juice," which was then sprayed on both performers and audience members to provoke visceral reactions to odour.

Building on this previous work, Yamauchi and YCAM developed a unique narrative which combines chemistry and fiction, centred around the theme of "odour." The piece features co-direction with choreographer and dancer Pijin Neji, adding another compelling dimension to the work.

For this project, Yamauchi collaborated with YCAM's research and development team, YCAM InterLab, to study the mechanisms of odour by examining the relationship between sweat and the bacteria living on our skin. The exhibition space features various "monuments," including garments permeated with odour and a special installation where resident bacteria are cultured in real-time with sweat, creating an evolving olfactory experience of intensifying odour, which tends to be perceived as a bad smell. Following the performances, post-show talks will be held featuring YCAM InterLab staff members and Takashi Suzuki, a researcher in olfactory culture, discussing the work's themes through the lenses of biotechnology and cultural history.

■ Pijin Neji

Dancer/choreographer. Represents neji&co. He danced in the butoh company Dairakudakan directed by Maro Akaji until 2004, and developing on his physicality based on butoh, he started to create solo dances with microscopic approach to his own body and choreographic works with materialist approach to the bodies of the dancers. He creates dance works that focus on gestures that have no purpose and disappear the moment they move, the space of the theater and the time of the performing arts that integrates these into a work. He received the Yokohama Dance Collection EX Jury Prize and was selected in the Festival/Tokyo's Emerging Artists Program for F/T Award in 2011. In 2016, he curated "Our Masters – Hijikata Tatsumi <방연 /glossolalia>" at the Asia Culture Center in Gwangju, Korea. 2021-2023 THEATRE E9 KYOTO associate artist. 2022-2024 The Saison Foundation Saison Fellow II .



Kai Maetani

■ Tatsunori Imamura

Dancer/Choreographer. Graduate of the Department of Earth Sciences and Biology, Faculty of Science, Ehime University, specializing in sedimentology. Based in Kyoto. Imamura performed in works by akakilike, ANTIBODIES Collective, blue egonaku, contact Gonzo, Monochrome Circus, Sung Yong Kim, shitatame, Junnosuke Tada, Tsuyoshi Shirai, Takehito Koganezawa, Soichiro Murata, among others. Imamura is also the creator of works including "Apnea," which features dancing without breathing, "Joint speech," exploring the sounds of cracking joints, and "a presense here and there", a piece about dancing with the memories of a great-grandfather. Their ongoing daily performance project "Today's apnea dance," where they dance while holding their breath somewhere each day, marks its eleventh year since beginning.



Kai Maetani

開催概要

Shota Yamauchi + YCAM Monument of Odour – Forgotten Eros

January 11 (Sat) 19:00-, 12 (Sun) 15:00-, 18 (Sat) 19:00-, and 19 (Sun) 15:00-, 2025

Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM], Studio B

Admission free

*Doors open 15 minutes prior

Organized by Yamaguchi City, Yamaguchi City Foundation for Cultural Promotion
Supported by, Yamaguchi City Education Committee
Supported by the Agency for Cultural Affairs, Government of Japan, Fiscal Year 2024
Cooperation with KYOTO EXPERIMENT, Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture, Arts Council Tokyo [TAAP], Takasago International Corporation, Yamaguchi Prefectural Industrial Technology Institute, Ube Scientific Analysis Laboratory, Inc., Yoshihiko Akakabe, Mika Shirasu, Higuchi Takaya
Developed with YCAM InterLab
Produced by Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM]

Related Programs

Post-Performance Talk #1

January 12, 2025 / following the performance

Venue: Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM] Studio B

Speakers: Shota Yamauchi, Takashi Suzuki (former perfumer, olfactory culture researcher)

A discussion exploring the sense of smell and scent

*Performance ticket required

Post-Performance Talk #2

January 18, 2025 / following the performance

Venue: Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM] Studio B

Speakers: Shota Yamauchi, Kazutoshi Tsuda*, Hazuki Ohta* (*YCAM staff)

An event presenting the process of investigating odor through sweat and skin microbiota

*Performance ticket required

After-Hour Café

January 11 & January 19, 2025 / following each performance

Meeting point: 2nd Floor Gallery

Free admission / Free drop in and out

An informal gathering where audience members can share their thoughts about the work over drinks

Concurrent Exhibition

Wendelin van Oldenborgh

Dance Floor as Study Room

November 30, 2024 - March 15, 2025, 10am-7pm

Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM] Studio A

Free admission

Ticket information

Please visit the website for purchase.

Website:

www.ycam.jp