

# Ryuichi Sakamoto | seeing sound, hearing time

December 21, 2024 - March 30, 2025



01 Ryuichi Sakamoto | seeing sound, hearing time – Exhibition Poster

Contact **Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo**  
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\* All Programs are subject to change.



Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo is pleased to present the exhibition **Ryuichi Sakamoto | seeing sound, hearing time**.

A composer and an artist, Ryuichi Sakamoto (1952-2023) continuously paved the way for his era through his diverse and cutting-edge artistic activities. Since the 2000s, he devoted himself to creating three-dimensional sound installations in exhibition spaces, which he developed and realized in collaboration with various artists. Focusing entirely on large-scale installation works, this first comprehensive exhibition in Japan looks back on Sakamoto's pioneering, experimental creative artworks, including some of his most well-known previous pieces, and new works that he envisioned for this particular occasion before his passing, which will be dynamically constructed in and around the museum building.

**Collaboration artists** | Shiro Takatani, Daito Manabe, Carsten Nicolai,  
Apichatpong Weerasethakul, Zakkubalan, Toshio Iwai

**Special collaboration** | Fujiko Nakaya

## List of Works

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### ■ Exhibition Gallery, 1<sup>st</sup> floor

Ryuichi Sakamoto + Shiro Takatani,  
*TIME TIME*, 2024

Ryuichi Sakamoto + Shiro Takatani,  
*water state 1*, 2013

Ryuichi Sakamoto with Shiro Takatani,  
*IS YOUR TIME*, 2017/2024

Carsten Nicolai, *PHOSPHENES, ENDO EXO*,  
2024 Music: Ryuichi Sakamoto



02 Ryuichi Sakamoto with Shiro Takatani, *IS YOUR TIME*, 2017/2023, installation view of "Ryuichi Sakamoto | SOUND AND TIME" at M WOODS (People's park), Chengdu, 2023 Image courtesy of M WOODS

### ■ Exhibition Gallery, B2 floor

Ryuichi Sakamoto + Apichatpong Weerasethakul, *async—first light*, 2017

Apichatpong Weerasethakul, *Durmiente*, 2021

Ryuichi Sakamoto + Shiro Takatani, *async—immersion tokyo*, 2024

Ryuichi Sakamoto + Zakkubalan, *async—volume*, 2017

Ryuichi Sakamoto + Shiro Takatani, *LIFE—fluid, invisible, inaudible...*, 2007

Ryuichi Sakamoto × Toshio Iwai, *Music Plays Images X Images Play Music*, 1996–97/2024

\*Special Exhibit from Archive - New installation work reenacting a performance from 1996–97

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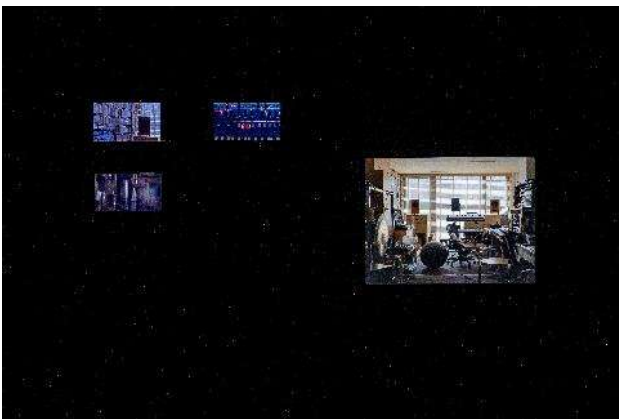
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03 Ryuichi Sakamoto + Shiro Takatani, *LIFE–fluid, invisible, inaudible...*, 2007/2023, installation view of “Ryuichi Sakamoto | SOUND AND TIME” at M WOODS (People’s park), Chengdu, 2023 Image courtesy of M WOODS



04 Ryuichi Sakamoto + Shiro Takatani, *async–immersion* 2023, 2023, installation view of “AMBIENT KYOTO 2023”, Kyoto Shimbun Building B1 floor, 2023. Photo by Satoshi Nagare



05 Ryuichi Sakamoto + Zakkubalan, *async–volume*, 2017, installation view of “Ryuichi Sakamoto | SOUND AND TIME” at M WOODS (People’s park), Chengdu, 2023 Image courtesy of M WOODS



06 Ryuichi Sakamoto + Apichatpong Weerasethakul, *async–first light*, 2017, installation view of “Ryuichi Sakamoto | SOUND AND TIME” at M WOODS (People’s park), Chengdu, 2023 Image courtesy of M WOODS

## ■Courtyard

Ryuichi Sakamoto + Daito Manabe

*Sensing Streams 2024–invisible, inaudible (MOT version)*  
2024



07 Ryuichi Sakamoto + Daito Manabe, *Sensing Streams 2021–invisible, inaudible*, 2021, installation view of “seeing sound, hearing time” at M WOODS HUTONG, Beijing, 2021. Photo by M WOODS photography team

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**■Sunken Terrace**

Ryuichi Sakamoto + Fujiko Nakaya + Shiro Takatani

*LIFE–WELL TOKYO*, Fog Sculpture #47662**\*Special collaboration**

08 Fujiko Nakaya, *London Fog*, Fog Performance #03779, 2017,  
Installation view from "BMW Tate Live Exhibition: Ten Days Six  
Nights," Tate Modern, London, UK  
Collaboration: Min Tanaka (Dance), Shiro Takatani (Lighting),  
Ryuichi Sakamoto (Music). Photo by Noriko Koshida

**Ryuichi Sakamoto**

Ryuichi Sakamoto was born in Tokyo in 1952. Making his debut in 1978 with the album *Thousand Knives*, Sakamoto's diverse résumé includes pioneering electronic works in the legendary techno group *Yellow Magic Orchestra*, producing pop albums and numerous classical compositions, two operas, and nearly 45 original film/TV scores. His film soundtracks have won prestigious awards, including an Academy Award, two Golden Globes, a Grammy, and many more. As an activist for many decades, Sakamoto's efforts focused on environmental conservation and world peace, including founding the forest preservation organization "more trees", and the "Tohoku Youth Orchestra" to support the victims of the Tohoku Earthquake through music. Sakamoto also made considerable contributions to the art world with his work exhibited in galleries and museums worldwide. Recently, M WOODS, in China, presented the largest and most comprehensive collection spanning 30 years devoted to Sakamoto's artworks in various media, centering around 8 large-scale sound installations (Beijing, 2021; Cheng-du, 2023). He continued to cross borders into the art world even after death, with the ground-breaking mixed reality concert piece, "KAGAMI," touring New York, Manchester, London, and many future locations. Sakamoto passed away in March 2023 at the age of 71.

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## Information

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Exhibition Period	Saturday, 21 December 2024 - Sunday, 30 March 2025
Opening Hours	10 AM – 6 PM (Tickets available until 30 minutes before closing.)
Closed	Mondays (except 1 Jun., 24 Feb.), 28 Dec.- 1 Jan., 14 Jan., 25 Feb.
Venue	Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, Exhibition Gallery 1F/B2F
Admission	Adults - 2,400 yen / University & College Students, Over 65 - 1,700 yen High school & Junior High School Students - 960 yen Elementary School Students & Younger – free
Organized by	Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo operated by Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture / The Asahi Shimbun / TV Asahi
Sponsored by	Kakaku.com, Inc. / Digital Garage, Inc. / TOHO LÉO Corporation / Nissha Co., Ltd. / New Balance Japan Co., Ltd. / Yamada Bee Company, Inc.
Specially cooperated by	KAB Inc. / KAB America Inc. / Dumb Type Office Ltd. / Avex Entertainment Inc. / K Garage LLC / TAKENAKA Co Ltd / TOHO LÉO Corporation / HOT STUFF PROMOTION Co., Ltd. / UNIQLO
Cooperated by	J-WAVE
Supported by	The Agency for Cultural Affairs, Government of Japan in the fiscal year of 2024
Special cooperation with equipment	EASTERN SOUND FACTORY CO., Ltd.
Technical cooperation	HEXOGON JAPAN INC.
Cooperation with equipment	ARTWIZ Inc. / COLOR KINETICS JAPAN / Bricks & Company
Guest Curator	Sachiko Namba
Curator	Tomoe Moriyama (Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo)
Assistant Curator	Mio Harada (Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo)
WEB	<a href="https://www.mot-art-museum.jp/en/exhibitions/RS/">https://www.mot-art-museum.jp/en/exhibitions/RS/</a>

## Also on view

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December 14 – March 30, 2025

- MOT ANNUAL 2024 on the imagined terrain
- MOT Collection

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