

The Tokyo Metropolitan Government and the Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture are carrying out this exhibition as part of the Tokyo Tokyo FESTIVAL.

Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo

rhizomatiks_multiplex

20 March – 20 June 2021

The Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo is pleased to announce a solo exhibition for Rhizomatiks on the occasion of its 15th anniversary in 2021.

Since their inception, Rhizomatiks have constantly explored the relationship between humans and technology. In addition to collaborating with internationally renowned artists such as Björk, Squarepusher, Perfume, kyogen theater master Mansai Nomura, and various researchers, the group has pursued new possibilities associated with technology and artistic expression through a diverse range of approaches to visualization and speculative projects, receiving international acclaim for their innovative articulations of time and space. This is Rhizomatiks' first large-scale solo exhibition at a museum, showcasing a multiplex of their ingenious experiments that seek out a sense of synchronicity with a constantly changing world through a hybrid, offline/online exhibition of new works and archival materials.

Rhizomatiks' artistic practice transcends the realm of so-called "media art": it has the power to influence society as well as businesses such as architecture, design, advertising, and entertainment, through research and development elements such as the visual design of data, for example. They are a full-stack collective whose team works cohesively on ideas, from hardware and software development to operations, and includes artists, programmers, and researchers among its members.

In today's mercurial, complex, and ambiguous world, our bodies oscillate between the virtual and the real. We are constantly looking for real-life points of contact that might help us to figure out how to grasp and understand what cannot be seen in our mass information society. Rhizomatiks have approached these situations from a variety of angles. Their collaborations with a diverse range of international performers, for instance, have created new visions of the body fused with technology, while their "research" collaborations with scientists and researchers, including neuroscientists and astronomers, have enabled what is invisible to come within our reach through the visualization of data.

As their first large-scale solo exhibition at a museum, this exhibition offers an overview of the interdisciplinary creations that Rhizomatiks have been developing, in addition to showcasing a variety of their new projects that exist in a state of critical synchronization with the "present." Against the backdrop of a digital, networked society, this exhibition presents the possibilities of a new kind of humanity and the unique appeal associated with Rhizomatiks' pursuit of hitherto unexplored visual horizons. A post-COVID-19 society demands that the world shift online, and new possibilities surrounding human communication are being explored. Rhizomatiks, which has been implementing numerous projects and technological proposals against this chaotic backdrop, will attempt to demonstrate the "new role of the artist" in the ever-shifting world of spring 2021.

Highlights

1 Data visualizations

Understanding, translating, and sharing the events that occur in a contemporary society riddled is an important role of art. On display are installations that visualize invisible network phenomena, based on the theme of emotions and data.

2 Physical performances, and the creation of a hitherto unknown body

Physical performances generated by exemplary visual design and programming, through collaborations with artists like ELEVENPLAY and Perfume, are transformed into a medium that connects the audience with movement and space, thereby bringing a hitherto unknown version of the body into being.

3 Systems for social distancing

Showcased are social platforms such as "Staying TOKYO," which Rhizomatiks have been working on since before the state of emergency was declared, and "Social Distancing Communication Platform," which fosters a renewed consciousness of one's sense of sound and distance, similar to that in a real space.

4 Installations where hardware, the image, and interaction coexist symbiotically

Rhizomatiks will construct hybrid installations that shuttle between the virtual and the real, which would not be possible if they had existed purely online or offline. These installations include new spatial works that deploy hardware controls, programs, and robots.

5 Critical proposals for our contemporary age, including new works and archival materials

Rhizomatiks will attempt to make a number of critical proposals, including sections that focus on the process of making their work and archival materials, the problem of personal data being collected through social media, an investigation of the idea of "admission sites/commons" derived from the notion of the border, and interactive and participatory works that deploy machine learning.

Information

Exhibition Period	Sat-National Holiday 20 March – Sun. 20 June 2021
Closed	Mondays (except 3 May), 6 May
Opening Hours	10:00 – 18:00 (Tickets available until 30 minutes before closing.)
Admission	Adults – 1,500yen / University & College Students, Over 65 – 900yen / High School & Junior High School Students – 500yen / Elementary School Students & Younger – Free
Venue	Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo Exhibition Gallery B2F
Organized by	Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo operated by Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture
Supported by	The Agency for Cultural Affairs Government of Japan in the fiscal 2020
Sponsored by	Bloomberg L.P.
In Cooperation With	Rhizomatiks co.,ltd. etc.
Curated by	Yuko Hasegawa
Exhibition Staff	Tomoe Moriyama (Curator, Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo)



Concurrent Exhibitions

"Mark Manders", "MOT Collection: Rewinding the Collection"
"Tokyo Contemporary Art Award 2019-2021 Exhibition"

Contact Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo
Public Relations Mihoko Nakajima / Chiako Kudo E-MAIL: mot-pr@mot-art.jp
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* All Programs are subject to change.



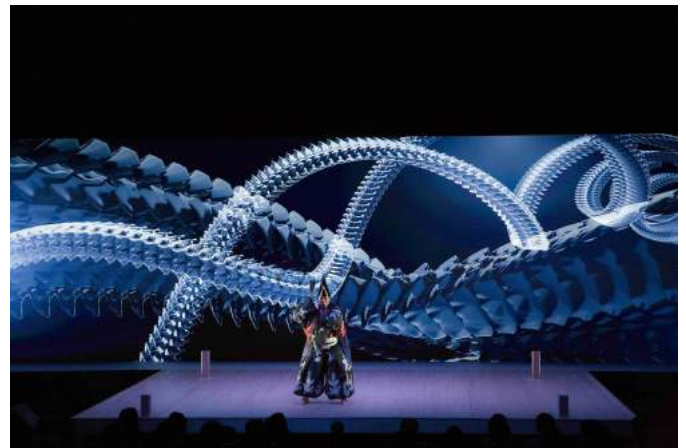
1 Daito Manabe + Yusuke Tomoto + 2bit, *chains*, 2016
Exhibition view: "GLOBALE: New Sensorium - Exiting from Failures of Modernization"
Courtesy of ZKM | Karlsruhe
Photo by Tobias Wootton and Jonas Zilius

Installation that involved developing a software that trades Bitcoin automatically, visualizing these trades and making them audible.



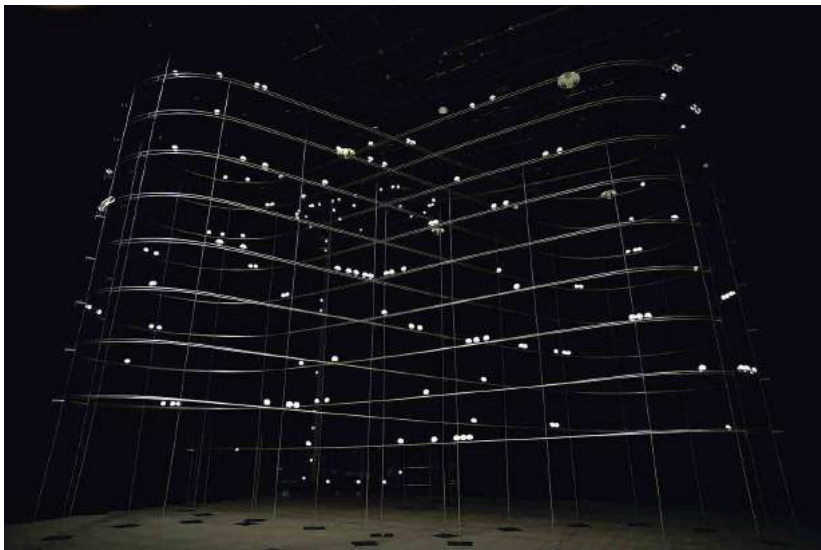
2 Ryuichi Sakamoto + Daito Manabe,
Sensing Streams - invisible, inaudible, 2014
Installation view at Sapporo International Art Festival 2014
Photo: Keizo Kioku
Courtesy of Sapporo International Art Festival Executive Committee

Daito Manabe's first collaboration with Ryuichi Sakamoto, which makes electromagnetic waves at the wavelength stipulated by the audience both visible and audible.



3 Mansai Nomura x Daito Manabe, *FORM*, 2-3 Jan. 2017
Tokyo International Forum
Photo by Hiroyuki Takahashi/NEP

A take on a traditional sanbaso dance performance by kyogen actor Nomura Mansai and Daito Manabe. Data on Nomura Mansai's movements is collected using 3D scanning, motion capture, and machine learning technologies, and this high-dimensional data is converted into 2D and 3D low-dimensional images in real time.



4 Daito Manabe + Motoi Ishibashi, *particles*, 2011
 Courtesy of Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media
 [YCAM]
 Photo: Ryuichi Maruo (YCAM)

An installation that uses the positional information of a ball running through a structure to create a three-dimensional image in mid-air with flashing LEDs. Winner of the 2011 Prix Ars Electronica Award of Distinction.



5 Perfume, *Reframe 2019*, 2019
 Photo: Yosuke Kamiyama

A conceptual live performance that analyzed data pertaining to the images, sound, choreography, and lyrics produced for Perfume and reconfigured it from a new perspective. This work was screened in theaters as a film in 2020.



6 Rhizomatiks Research × ELEVENPLAY × Kyle McDonald,
discrete figures Special Edition, 6 Oct. 2019
 Sapporo Cultural Art Theater hitaru
 produced by Sapporo Cultural Art Theater hitaru, Rhizomatiks
 ©kenzo kosuge

This collaboration with ELEVENPLAY and Kyle McDonald was an avant-garde dance performance that reinterprets the body and its movements through AI and machine learning.



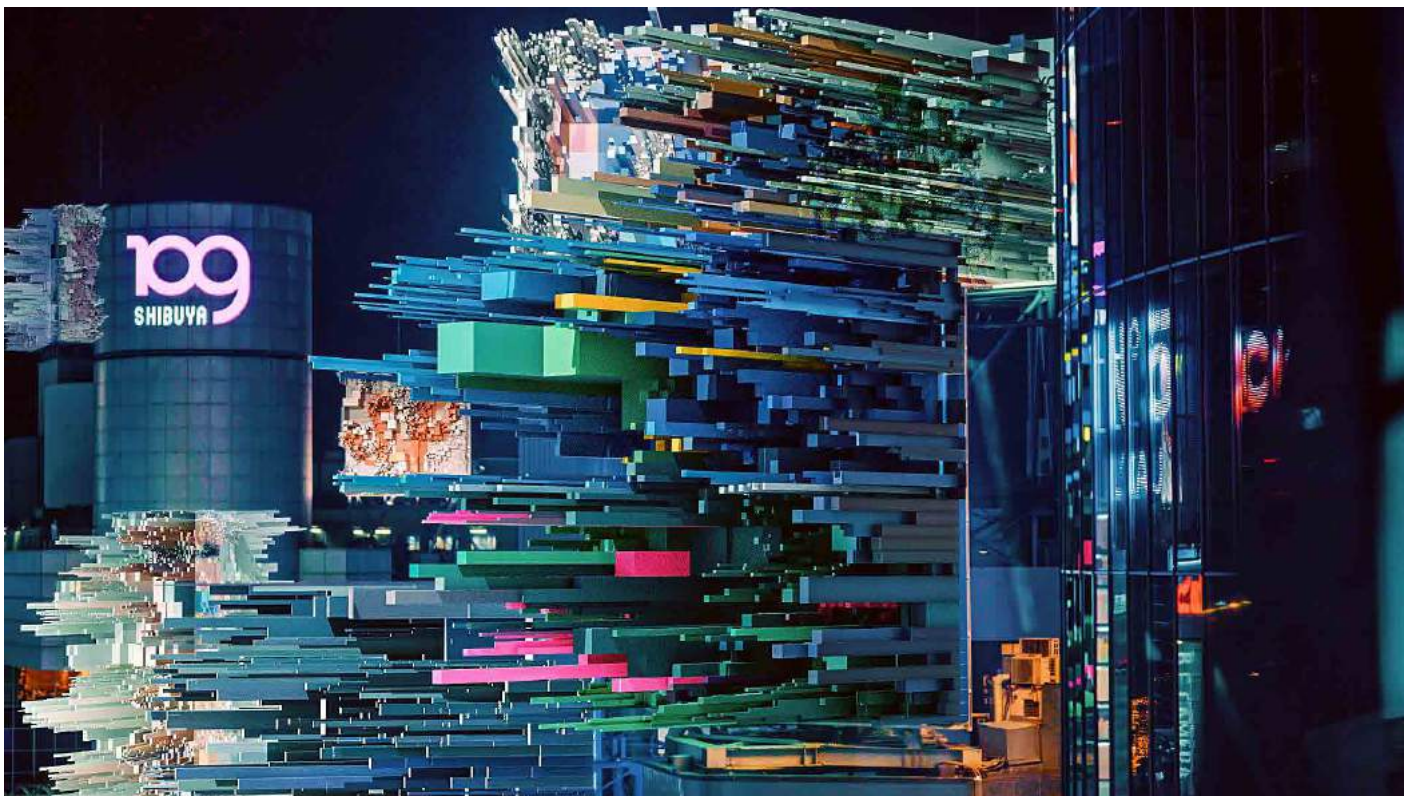
7 Rhizomatiks Research × ELEVENPLAY, *border*, 2015
 photo by Muryo Homma

An experiential dance work that uses mixed reality (MR) and mobility technology to transition seamlessly between real-time dancers and dancers made up of virtual data, so that the viewer becomes unable to recognize the boundary between real and virtual.



8 "Fencing Visualized Project", 2013-
H.I.H. Prince Takamado Trophy JAL Presents Fencing World Cup 2019

This collaborative project with Yuki Ota (then competitive fencer and present chairman of the Japan Fencing Federation) and Dentsu Lab Tokyo sought to visualize the trajectory traced by the tips of fencing swords using augmented reality and machine learning technology developed by Rhizomatiks.



9 Squarepusher, *Terminal Slam*, 2020

Music video directed by Daito Manabe, based on the concept of eliminating advertising from the streets using imaginary MR (mixed reality) glasses. 2020 Prix Ars Electronica Honorary Mention.



10 Rhizomatiks "Staying TOKYO", 2020
Online event by Rhizomatiks

Prototype screenshot for "Social Distancing Communication Platform." A proof-of-concept experiment in which a web platform for online communication was developed and implemented with an invited audience.



11 Daito Manabe + Kamitani Lab, *dissonant imaginary*, 2019
Performance view at MUTEK.JP 2019

A performance and installation work that uses brain decoding technology developed by the Yukiyasu Kamitani Lab at Kyoto University/ATR to predict the images that come to your mind when you listen to a piece of music, and convert them into a video.



12 Rhizomatiks, *Oscillation*, 2016
Photo by Muryo Homma

Using ball screws and string from NSK Ltd., Rhizomatiks created a visual representation in real space that is usually done in 3DCG images.



13 Rhizomatiks "2045 x LIFE PAINT Supported by VOLVO CAR JAPAN", 2016 Photo by Muryo Homma

Organized by Daito Manabe and Qosmo' s Nao Tokui, the event "2045" contemplates the future of music and technology through practice, with a live installation using "Life Paint."



14 Rhizomatiks "Lucid Motion by Daito Manabe x Rhizomatiks Research", 2019

An installation presented at the "Lucid Motion" exhibition held in Washington D.C. that captures the act of physical, bodily expression from multiple angles.

IMAGE REQUEST FORM

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