

Yokohama Triennale



Attracting artists from both home and abroad to exhibit works based on one over-arching theme, the Yokohama Triennale 2008 is the largest international exhibition of its type in Japan. Running from September to late November, the Triennale, which is the third in the series launched in 2001, involves some 70 artists from 25 different countries and regions. The theme for this latest exhibition is “Time Crevasse.”

“How is art capable of expressing ‘time’ within contemporary modes of expression?” asked rhetorically Artistic Director Tsutomu Mizusawa (Chief Curator of The Museum of Modern Art, Kamakura

& Hayama), as he explained the background to the event. “After some discussion among the five members of the curator team, it was decided that we should include performance art in this Triennale,” he added.

In contrast to a work of art that just exists there in front of you, Mizusawa explained that the idea is to generate greater impact through performance, something that can only be experienced in the moment.

One of the curators, Hans Ulrich Obrist, spoke of the Triennale in the following terms: “There are many international art exhibitions in the world these



days, so more than ever, we need to create a point of difference. I see what we are attempting to do in Yokohama with our emphasis on performance as a new approach for resisting the trend towards uniform globalization."

Visitors to the Triennale are able to experience a diverse selection of works and performances by various generations, ranging from the pioneers of performing art, such as Marina Abramovic and Yoko Ono, to young artists participating in an international exhibition for the first time. With its emphasis on art in the moment, this Triennale will no doubt offer a new discovery on every visit.

FACING: Shilpa Gupta's creation "Don't See Don't Hear Don't Speak."

ABOVE: A dance performance by Kitamari in the "The Ring Dome" (Cho Minsuk and Joseph Grima with Storefront Team).

RIGHT: Miranda July's work entitled "hallway."



PHOTOS: SHINICHI SATO