



## The 3rd Yokohama Triennale

YOKOHAMA 2008: International Triennale of Contemporary Art

“Time Crevasse”

September 13 - November 30, 2008

### Venues

Central and Waterfront Sites in Yokohama (Temporary Exhibition Hall for the Yokohama Triennale 2008 at the Shinko Pier, Red Brick Warehouse No.1, NYK Line Waterfront Warehouse “BankART Studio NYK”)

[www.yokohamatriennale.jp](http://www.yokohamatriennale.jp)

Artistic Director Tsutomu Mizusawa

Curators Daniel Birnbaum

Hu Fang

Akiko Miyake

Hans Ulrich Obrist

Beatrix Ruf

Organizers The Japan Foundation, The City of Yokohama, NHK, The Asahi Shimbun,  
The Organizing Committee for the Yokohama Triennale

The Triennale will be held in the harbor district of Yokohama, Japan's second largest city. Yokohama will be celebrating its 150th year as an international port in 2009. With the advice of architect **Ryue Nishizawa**, we are currently preparing 5000 square meters of new event space in addition to two existing warehouses, as the main venues.

The banner theme of the Triennale is “Time Crevasse.” It is not an exaggeration to say, in this transitional turn-of-the-century era, that human sensibilities have changed as greatly in the years between the latter part of the twentieth century and now as they did in the Renaissance. Following the revolution in printing that took place after Gutenberg's invention of the printing press, text (printed words) became the dominant media, with pictures/illustrations placed in a secondary or subservient position. The heyday of this text-first/ visual image-second relationship came in the late nineteenth century. In the twentieth century, which came to be known as the century of the visual arts, the dynamic of the visual gradually reasserted itself, until by century's end, a reversal had taken place, and, against the backdrop of rapid strides in the development of digital environments, we are today enveloped in a veritable flood of visual information.

Modern systems have invariably been meant to understand and grasp *space*. As a result, we now can obtain visual information about every corner of the globe without going anywhere. Moreover, advances in means of transportation have made it easy to move from place to place. Time, however, all the while keeps irrevocably moving on. It is the quality of that time that has become the indispensable condition that nurtures the diversity of our cultures. The information society, while churning out vast numbers of hyperactive human beings, at the same time has produced masses of people who, in Oblomov-like fashion, do nothing. The flow of time, its stagnation, and its cavernous crevasse—this is what we seek to confront at this Triennale.

Naturally the works will include many that treat the element of time. It will feature works that incorporate sound, performance, and other approaches, appealing not only to the visual senses but that liberate all five senses. Nevertheless, we have also treated painting and sculpture in their narrow sense, in which time is too important a motif to be ignored.

Plans are going forward, through the careful selection of about 80 artists, to make the Yokohama Triennale 2008 itself a kind of *Time Crevasse* experience, and presenting works we are sure will make people eager to gain that experience. I assure you that it is an event to look forward to with much anticipation.

(Tsutomu Mizusawa)