

Topic-Setting Program to Advance Cutting-Edge

Humanities and Social Sciences Research

(Program Title)

Progress Report

(Summary of Final Report)

[Resonating Spaces, Appeared Aesthetics]

Core-Researcher: Kiyoshi Furukawa

Institution: Tokyo University of the Arts

Academic Unit: Fine Arts

Position: Professor

Research Period: 2017 – 2020

1. Basic information of research project

Research Area	Innovation in Technology and Japanese Aesthetics
Project Title	“Resonating Spaces, Appeared Aesthetics”
Institution	National University Corporation Tokyo University of the Arts
Core-Researcher (Name, Academic Unit & Position)	Kiyoshi Furukawa, Fine Arts, Professor
Project Period	2017 - 2020
Appropriations Plan (¥)	FY 2017 2,925,000 JPY
	FY 2018 3,919,500 JPY
	FY 2019 4,179,500 JPY
	FY 2020 2,064,400 JPY

2. Purpose of research

Through the aesthetical intervention of the body and sound with the environment surrounding us, such as the urban space, garden, and park (during the selection process, we were suggested by the jury to not only limit ourselves to Japanese garden, but to broaden the our subject, and therefore our research subject has been broadened), this research aims to connect the living space and expression, and to nurture the sensitivity to allow people to simultaneously enjoy the scenery and space, and aims to find a new aesthetical meaning of that from an artistic perspective. By transcending the attitude of passively enjoying the beautiful environment in nature, park and cultural and aesthetical heritage around us, and by encountering new ways to relate and to express, in other words, by using our sensitivities, we hope to create a new bodily interaction that is more deeply involved with the space's locality and history.

3. Outline of research (Including study member)

The core of this research is structured around the 3 workshops of “Sound Drawing Project”, which is a combination of expressive action (performance) and workshop. At the preparation stage, we researched workshops that are similarly formatted, and we held 2 workshops before 2019. Also, in 2019, “Sonicwalk Project”, which is a subproject of “Sound Drawing Project”, and uses new technology, such as GPS was added, and these 2 projects were carried out alongside each other. This research will end this current year, after the related workshop of “Sonicwalk Project” is held in December.

Study members:

	Name	Institution, Academic Unit & Position	Research Topics
Core-Researcher	Kiyoshi Furukawa	Tokyo University of the Arts, Fine Arts, Professor	Supervising the research, performance and music design

Co-Researcher/ Research Collaborator	Haruyuki Fujii	Tokyo Institute of Technology School of Environment and Society Professor	Research in spatial perception and spatial structure
Co-Researcher/ Research Collaborator	Kazuji Mogi	Gunma University, Faculty of Education, Professor	Research in workshop design

4. Research results and outcomes produced

This project started with the concept being the aesthetical intervention of sound into existing spaces such as park, cultural heritage and garden, in other words it was primarily based on creating sound space and changing the aesthetics. Through the artistic expressions and discussions during the workshops, “the discovery of new aesthetics” which was somewhat abstract, became clearer.

As a model of this, we submitted “Model of New Consciousness and Circulating Self-Consciousness”.

Also, relating to the “Sound Drawing Project”, we have created filmed works during the workshops and have shown these. These works act as documentation as well as having an independence from the workshops and shows the artistic outcome of this project.

Workshop 1 <http://furukawalab.org> Workshop 2 <http://furukawalab.org>

At the last phase of this research, we were faced with Covid-19 pandemic. Our research was based on workshops (face-to-face communication with others) and so we were unable to present our research outcomes as much as we planned to. Therefore, we are not in the position to discuss about the further effect of the research results at the moment. Since we were unable to present in Symposium 2 in March, and other presentations abroad, our main way to reach out to people is through our lab’s website.

Future Development

Hybrid Communication

Our research is 1) related to space, sound, form, aesthetics on one hand, and 2) on the other hand, it is a research of the relationship between culture and society, involving many people, from those who specialize in these fields and others who are not, through sensitivity. Methods, structure and system related to 1) is near completion and we were at the stage to move forward with our research by applying these to the members of the public in social relation, however, due to COVID-19 pandemic, we were forced to suddenly change the direction of the crucial factor (communication) of this research. We changed the workshops that we were naturally doing in person, into a style which combines online and face-to-face communication. Instead of limiting ourselves to intuitive senses in analogue instruments, real spaces and direct communication, as we were at the beginning of this research, we took this occurrence positively and treated it as an opportunity to extend our research into hybrid communication and expression.

Sonicwalk Project

Although the direction of this research will be advanced through future “Sonicwalk Project” even after this research project, this system has numerous potential possibilities in various fields, such as art, play, spatial instrument, electroacoustic music, literature, tourism and disaster prevention. Thus, we hope to improve, develop and extend the feasible area of this application to fit the needs in various fields, not only in art.