

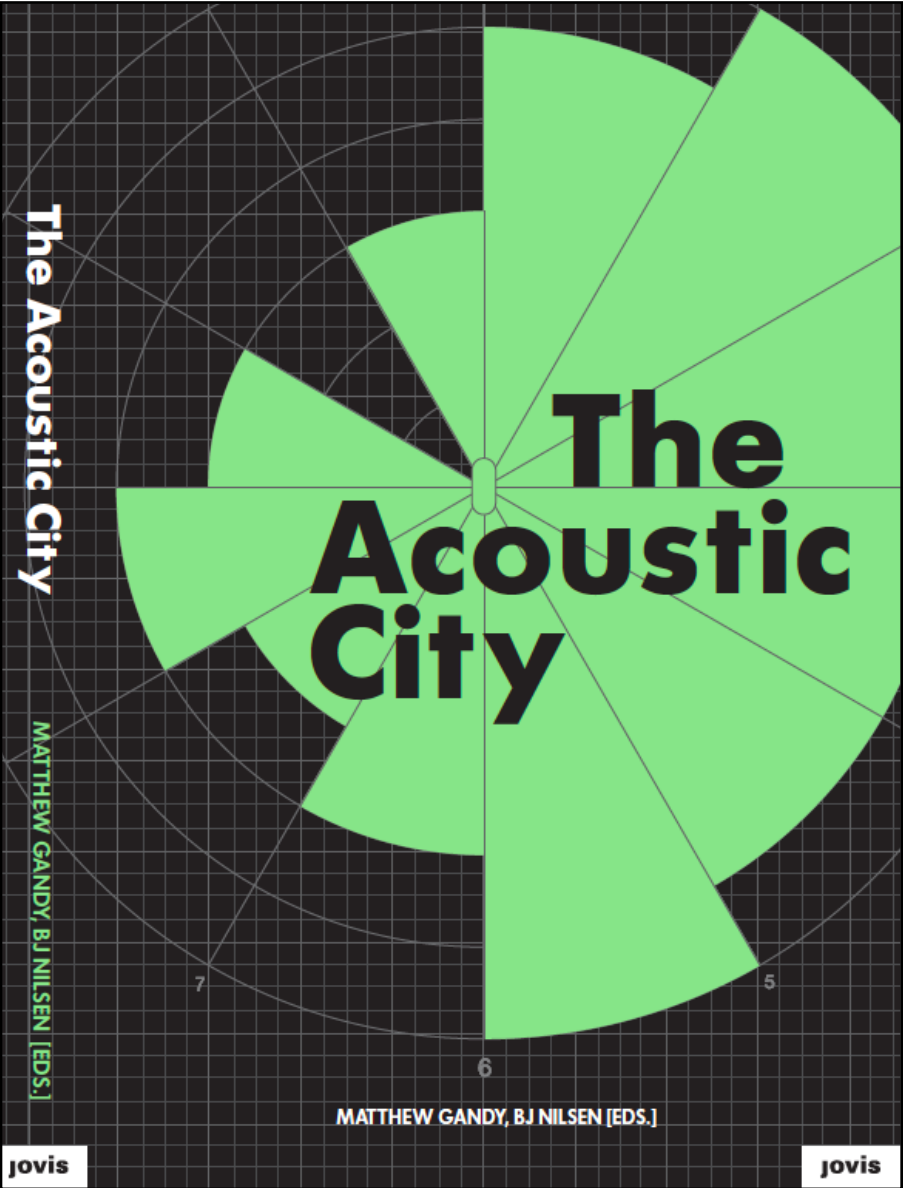
Yui Onodera

Contact:
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Yui Onodera is a Tokyo-based composer, sound artist, and architectural acoustics designer whose work bridges the boundaries between environmental sound, contemporary composition, and electroacoustic experimentation. His practice is driven by a fascination with how sound constructs space—both physically and psychologically. With a background in architectural acoustics, Onodera approaches composition as a form of spatial design: every tone, reflection, and resonance functions like a material element in an invisible structure. His compositions blend organic field recordings, instrumental textures, and digital processing into deeply spatial and contemplative works, often evoking the quiet interplay between nature, structure, and time. Guided by two key ideas—repetition and transformation, and translation and erasure—he draws from minimalism and natural processes to reveal subtle shifts in tone and texture. By recontextualizing and stripping sounds of narrative, Onodera exposes their raw essence, balancing structure and accident, control and decay.

Since his debut in the mid-2000s, Onodera has released numerous albums on international labels including Room40, KOMPAKT, and Anjunachill, earning critical acclaim for works such as *Suisei* (and/OAR, 2007), *Ray* (Serein, 2020), and *1982* (Room40, 2024), establishing him as one of the key voices bridging Japanese ambient traditions and contemporary sound art. His work has also appeared on compilations such as *Tribute to Ryuichi Sakamoto: Micro Ambient Music*. He has produced collaborative works with artists across a wide range of genres, including sound artists Francisco Lopez and Stephen Vitiello, musician/visual artist Robert Lippok, composer Scanner, and Takashi Kokubo. Since 2017, alongside his musical career, he has worked as a sound art lecturer at Rikkyo University and Musashino Art University.

In addition to his studio work, Onodera's practice extends to sound installations and site-specific performances presented in museums, galleries, and public spaces worldwide. His work traverses the fields of art, design, and science, often serving as an inquiry into how listening can be a tool for reimagining place and history. His recent work is featured on *Kiso Three Rivers*, the latest installment in Field Records' *Waterworks* series and the final piece of the trilogy. The piece reflects on Japan's river engineering in dialogue with Dutch hydraulic design, exploring the interconnections of sound, landscape, and infrastructure. It was first presented at the Netherlands Pavilion during Expo 2025 in Osaka. Furthermore, in pursuit of creating more multidimensional works, he founded "nor," an art collective comprised of members with diverse expertise in architecture, design, music, science, and engineering. In recent years, he has presented works at international festivals and museums such as Media Ambition Tokyo, MUTEK.JP, and the NTT InterCommunication Center [ICC].





坂本龍一トリビュート展 音楽／アート／メディア



Pjusk Solstøv

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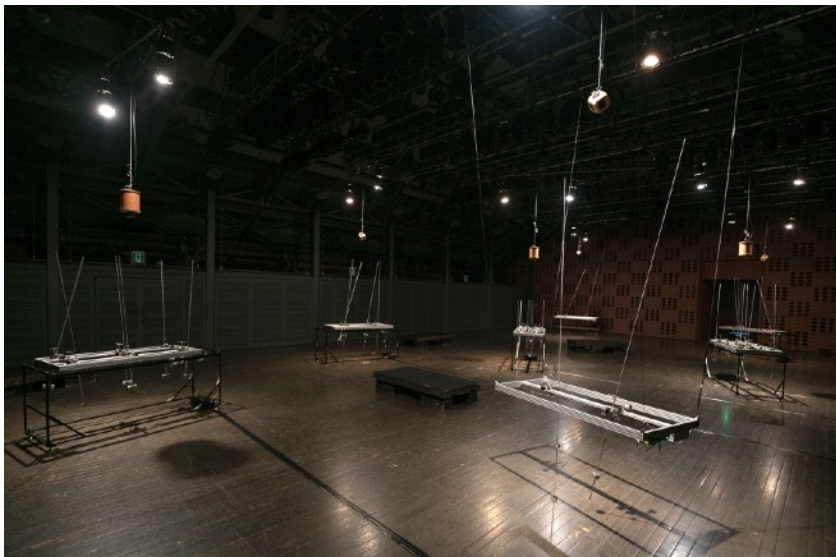
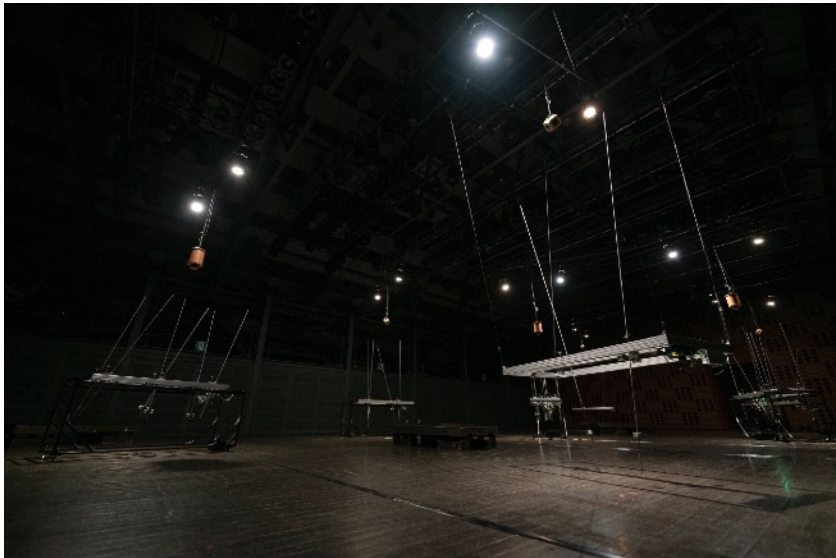
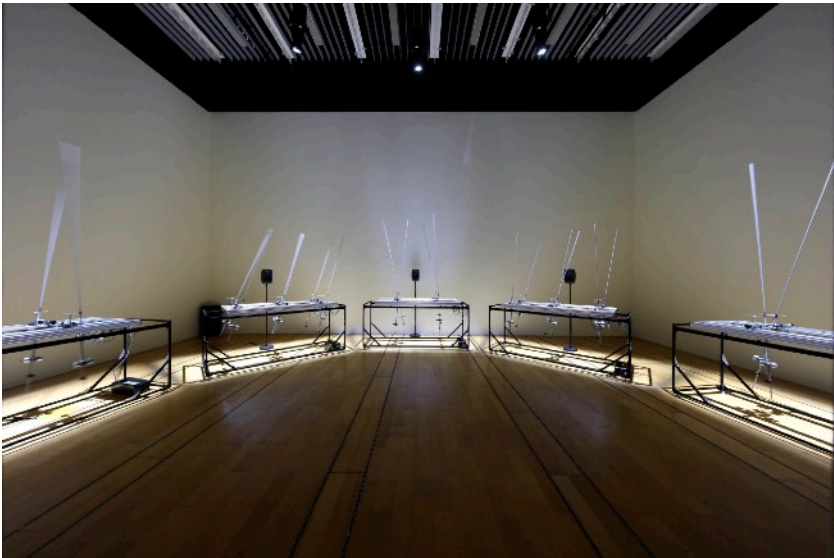
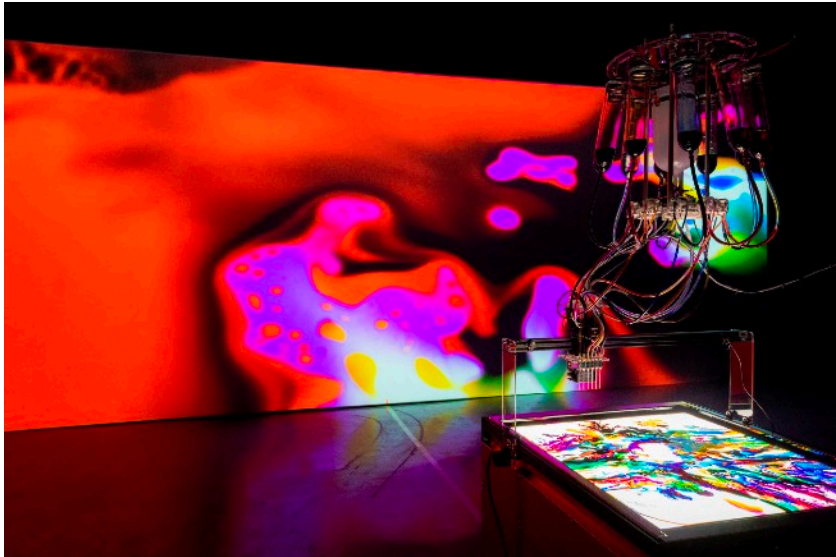
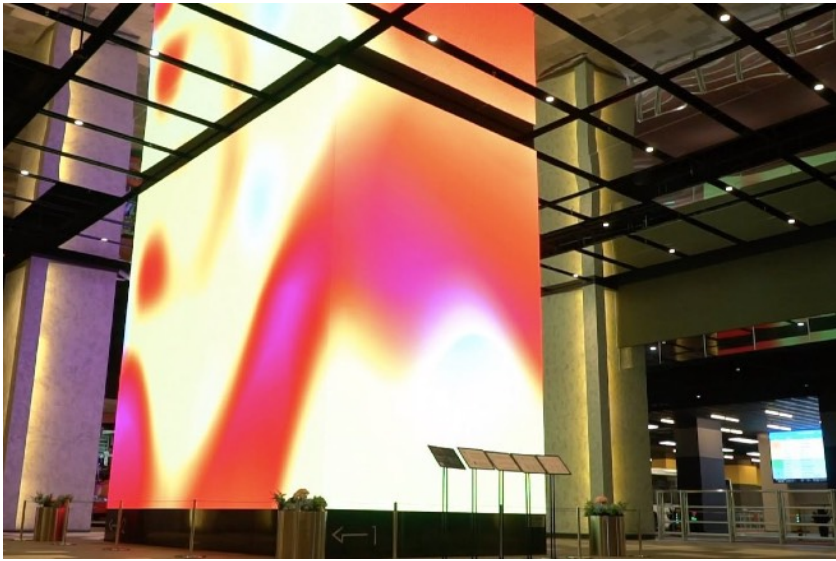
dropzone cryonics

francisco lópez & yui onodera



Yui Onodera & Vadim Bondarenko
Cloudscapes





Selected reviews

The Sounds within aspire to the dreamtime electronica of Lawrence English, Biosphere, BJ Nilsen and plenty of others on Touch. Onodera doesn't pretend that his field recording techniques enjoy the pristine fidelity of Chris Watson or a Douglas Quin, rather his mottled sounds embrace the abstraction produced through contact microphones and consumer-grade dictation mics. Sustained drones from his pump organ buttress the quiet hypnosis of these field recordings, thanks to the instrument's woozy oscillations. – **THE WIRE (UK)**

The three albums he churned out in 2007 alone would have fueled the career of other artists for at least a decade. The accuracy of his vision is astounding: In the best of Japanese traditions, his compositions are the most immediate realisation of a single idea imaginable. Onodera is constructing a greater picture from these small-scale miracles as well. As the market becomes saturated, artists like Yui Onodera are thus becoming ever-more important. His work always goes that one decisive step deeper. – **TOKAFI (Germany)**

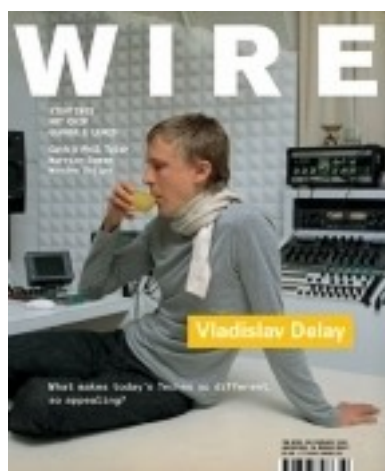
Great album of processed instrumental drones by Yui Onodera. I'd be happy to align Yui Onodera with a number of other genius Japanese solo creators such as Ryoji Ikeda who are capable of creating fully-realised, self-sufficient universes in sound, then leaving them for others to explore and chart while they set off across the horizon in their strange sky-boats. And he creates a world more tolerant of human passions than the strictly-demarcated tones of Ryoji Ikeda, that ruthless architect of enormous sci-fi virtual palaces in digital sound. – **THE SOUND PROJECTOR (UK)**

Imprints such as Touch, 12k and Baskaru have made their names with music such as this, but the constructs of Tokyo's Onodera possess enough poise and finesse to rank them alongside works by Christian Fennesz, Lawrence English and Ethan Rose. Like those aforementioned artists, Onodera is a sculptor in total control of his materials, deploying the timbre and tempo (or absence thereof) of a minimalist palette for maximum effect. – **RECORD COLLECTOR (UK)**

Onodera has created a set of seemingly minimal sound structures out of complex interactions that will effortlessly transform any room, while the details of their intriguing inner architectures only begin to become apparent through focused listening. – **THE QUIETUS (UK)**

A master at extracting audio gold from lead, Onodera can make the thinnest octave resonate brighter than a thousand supernova. Operating at bracingly abstract levels, and using only bare essentials (piano, voice, and processed electronics) he constructs Ikeda-like oscillations that appear to leach out of the universe's atomic structure. – **SIGNAL TO NOISE (USA)**

"Suisei" is a gorgeous album of darkly textured drones with parallels to Thomas Koner's isolationist compositions or Keith Berry's precious deconstructions. Wind, rain, and water all make themselves known in the collection of field recordings, as does the pump organ, which reveals itself in harmonic sustained tones with a spectral timbre (e.g. Niblock, Radigue, Chalk, etc.). These crunching textures situate humbly next to a hypnotic wash of compressed static and melancholic shadowy drone, which sublimely shift into a slippery crescendo of grey massed sound. Very, very well done! – **AQUARIUS RECORDS (USA)**



Discography (selection)

year	artist	title	label	
album				
2025	yui onodera	Kiso Three Rivers	Field Records	(NL)
2024	yui onodera	1982	room40	(AUS)
2023	yui onodera	mizuniwa	decaying spheres	(UK)
2022	yui onodera	too ne	room40	(AUS)
2020	yui onodera	ray	serein	(UK)
2020	yui onodera	moire	room40	(AUS)
2020	yui onodera	synergetics / entropy	dragon's eye recordings	(USA)
2018	yui onodera	substrate / the garden	dragon's eye recordings	(USA)
2015	yui onodera	semi lattice	baskaru	(FR)
2015	yui onodera	sinkai	arctic tone	(JP)
2007	yui onodera	suisei	and/oar	(USA)
collaboration				
2023	yui onodera + takashi kokubo	thousand bells	constellation tatsu	(USA)
2022	stelios vassiloudis + yui onodera	white cells	balance music	(AUS)
2022	yotam avni + yui onodera	YY	AVN	(ISR)
2020	francisco lópez + yui onodera	dropzone cryonics	two-headed snake	(NL)
2018	yui onodera + stephen vitiello	quiver	mikroton	(RUS)
2015	yui onodera + vadim bondarenko	cloudscapes	serein	(UK)
2011	yui onodera + the beautiful schizophonic	night blossom	whereabouts records	(JP)
2009	yui onodera + celer	generic city	two acorns	(USA)

year	artist	track	title	label	
contributions					
2024	yui onodera	untitled #1	Tribute to Ryuichi Sakamoto	commmons / avex	(JP)
2023	yui onodera	IZUMO	reflections 07	amjunadeep/ reflections	(UK)
2023	yui onodera	cromo 7	pop ambient 2024	kompakt	(DE)
2021	yui onodera	cromo 6	pop ambient 2022	kompakt	(DE)
2020	yui onodera	cromo 5	pop ambient 2021	kompakt	(DE)
2019	yui onodera	cromo 4	pop ambient 2020	kompakt	(DE)
2018	yui onodera	cromo 3	pop ambient 2019	kompakt	(DE)
2017	yui onodera	prism	pop ambient 2018	kompakt	(DE)
2016	yui onodera	cromo 2	pop ambient 2017	kompakt	(DE)
2016	yui onodera	cromo 1	pop ambient 2017	kompakt	(DE)
2016	yui onodera + scanner	locus solus	pop ambient 2017	kompakt	(DE)
2016	yui onodera + chihei hatakeyama	solaris	orbital planes & passenger trains	serein	(UK)
2014	pjusk	skimt	solstøv	12k	(USA)

Exhibitions & Concerts (selection)

year	artist		venue		
concerts & feativals					
2024	yui onodera	otomo yoshihide, and more.	Tribute to RYUICHI SAKAMOTO	NTT icc	(JP)
2023	yui onodera	w/ ken ikeda	micro ambient music	rittores base	(JP)
2019	yui onodera	minamo, and more.	90l editions night	soup	(JP)
2017	yui onodera	wolfgang voigt		trunk hotel	(JP)
2016	yui onodera	pjusk, and more.	experimental room		(JP)
2015	yui onodera		hors pistes japon 2015	kyoto cinema	(JP)
2015	yui onodera		störung festival 10		(ES)
2014	yui onodera	cristian vogel, and more.		kosmos lane gallery	(JP)
2013	yui onodera		störung festival 8		(ES)
2013	yui onodera	w/ carl stone + christophe charles		super deluxe	(JP)
2012	yui onodera	brandt brauer frick, and more.	musa	unit	(JP)
2011	yui onodera	w/ celer		yougenji	(JP)
2010	yui onodera	machinefabriek, and more.	moire	super deluxe	(JP)
2009	yui onodera	yves de mey, and more.		ottomainzheim gallery	(JP)
installation art					
2023	yui onodera	untitled #1	AMBIENT KYOTO 2023	sibasi	(JP)
2023	w/ Andreas Gursky	cromo3	visual spaces of today	MAST	(IT)
2022	nor	syncrowd	ICC annual 2022	NTT icc	(JP)
2022	nor	syncrowd-seven chorus	solo exhibition	Yokohama Red Brick Warehouse	(JP)
2020	w/ Francisco López	entropy	audiosphere	Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía	(ES)
2018	nor	dyebirth & specimens	mutek JP	USN gallery	(JP)
2018	w/ Mischa Kuball	res ·o·nant	res ·o·nant	Jewish Museum Berlin	(DE)
2018	nor	dyebirth	media ambition tokyo	roppongi hills	(JP)
2017	nor	herering	open space 2017	NTT icc	(JP)
2014	w/ Carl Stone	listening room	unyazi festival 2014		(ZA)
2009	+LUS	flex acoustics	experimental sound, art & performance festival	tokyo wonder site	(JP)
2008	w/ Kenichi Kanazawa	oto no kakera	oto no kakera	kawagoe city museum	(JP)
year	artist		title		
film					
2017	giuseppe carrieri	hanaa	cape town international film festival	best documentary film	(IT)

Employment History

Lecturer, Rikkyo University, Department of Body Expression and Cinematic Arts [2024–]

Lecturer, Rikkyo University, Department of Body Expression and Cinematic Arts [2017]

Lecturer, Musashino Art University, Department of Imaging Arts & Sciences [2017]

Awards

KUKAN DESIGN AWARD 2025 | Entertainment space : Silver

The 29th ifva Awards | Media Art Category Special Mention

German Record Critics' Award 2023 | Electronic and Experimental

Sound of the Year Awards 2021 | BEST SOUND INNOVATION IN EVERYDAY LIFE

ADFEST 2019 | MEDIA LOTUS : BEST USE OF AUDIO_SILVER

ADFEST 2019 | AUDIO LOTUS : USE OF AUDIO SUB-CATEGORY_BRONZE

New York Festivals 2019 | AUDIO/RADIO : Best Use of Medium_Finalist Certificate

PRESENT FUTURE Art & Technology Star Award 2019 : Installation Star Award

22nd Japan Media Arts Festival | Art Division : Jury Selections prize

Spikes Asia 2018 | Radio & Audio : Silver Spike

AD STARS 2018 | Data Insights : Crystal

ALIFE 2018 | ALife Art Award : Honorable Mention prize

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