

●●● Overview of 2005 Programs

In 2005, YOKOHAMA2005: International Triennale of Contemporary Art was held for three months starting from the end of September, with the city's Yamashita Pier serving as the main venue. A total of 71 works by 86 artists from 30 countries and regions were exhibited.

At the end of March 2006, the Japan Foundation organized a symposium entitled, "A Wild Haruki Chase," in Tokyo, Kobe, and Sapporo, inviting those from around the world who have translated the works of Murakami Haruki. More than 20 translators discussed the charm of Murakami, whose works have been translated into more than 30 languages.

In addition, three main anniversary projects in which the Foundation actively participated also took place in 2005.

▶ "Kaiin no Uma"
Performed by Dairakudakan in Seoul.
Photo by Fukunaga Koji



▶▲ "Cubism in Asia"
Poster for the exhibition in Seoul.
National Museum of Contemporary
Art, Korea.



Japan-Korea Friendship Year 2005

Fortieth anniversary of the normalization of Korea-Japan relations

During a visit to Japan in 2003 by Korean President Roh Moo-Hyun, the national leadership of Japan and Korea agreed to designate 2005, the fortieth anniversary of the normalization of Korea-Japan relations, as Japan-Korea Friendship Year. The special designation was seen to provide an opportunity for deepening mutual understanding, particularly among young people who will be the leaders of the next generation, by promoting exchanges in every field—culture, economics, and society—and to build a firm foundation for the two countries to advance together in the 21st century. Under this initiative, the Japan Foundation organized various events.



2006 Australia-Japan Year of Exchange

Commemorating the thirtieth anniversary of the signing of the Basic Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between Australia and Japan

▼ Hayashi Eitetsu and the "TaikOz" tour.
Photo by Kanamori Mayu



The 2006 Australia-Japan Year of Exchange was originally planned at a 2003 Japan-Australia summit meeting to further strengthen friendship, mutual understanding, and cooperation between the two countries, particularly at the grass-roots level. Opening events held in six Australian cities from February to March 2006 included performances by Hayashi Eitetsu, Japan's leading Japanese drummer, with TaikOz, an Australian group of Japanese drummers, shakuhachi (Japanese flute) player Riley Lee, and didgeridoo (Aboriginal folk instrument) performer Matthew Doyle.

The opening event of the Australia-Japan Dance Exchange 2006 (AJdX2006) was held in February 2006 in Yokohama. This initiative was coorganized by the Japan Foundation, the Japan Contemporary Dance Network, and the Australia Council for the Arts to support the production of international performing arts and the exchange of young choreographers and dancers.



▶ "Underneath"
Australia-Japan Dance Exchange 2006
BATIK x DANCE NORTH/SPLINTER GROUP.
Photo by Non Takagi





2005 EU-Japan Year of People-to-People Exchanges

At the eleventh EU-Japan summit meeting in 2002, Japan and the European Union agreed to declare 2005, the halfway point of a decade of EU-Japan cooperation, as EU-Japan Year of People-to-People Exchanges. The Japan Foundation organized a variety of projects in the arts along with cultural, intellectual, and citizen exchange programs including “YOKAI: Bestiary of the Japanese Fantastic” in Paris, “CHIKAKU: Time and Memory in Japan” in Austria and Spain while also supporting other private initiatives.



▲ “YOKAI: Bestiary of the Japanese Fantastic” held at the Japan Cultural Institute in Paris traced the origin and transformation of images of supernatural beings, monsters, and spirits of Japan (*yokai*), mainly through Edo-period artworks such as *ukiyo-e*.

Bessekaiikan (Scroll of Another World) by Nichosai. Middle of the Edo period.
© Kansai University Library, Osaka

▶ “Sakamoto Kazunari, Houses: Poetics in the Ordinary”

This exhibition introduces Kazunari Sakamoto’s major works on residences and collective housing estates over the last 30-plus years, from 1969 until now.



▶ “Hinoki-ya, the traveling band” Hakodate-based Japanese music group on their European tour. Photo by Emoto Hideyuki



▲ “JIKI: Japanese Porcelains 1610-1760” held in Brussels and Paris. Introduced in this exhibition are porcelains produced between the 1610s, when the first Japanese porcelain was made, and the 1750s when its export was most active. Octagonal large jar with underglaze cobalt-blue and overglaze polychrome enamel design of phoenix and peony. © Kyushu Ceramic Museum



▶ CHIKAKU: Time and Memory in Japan
“La charme” by Kasahara Emiko.
Photo by André Fraga



▶ Festival International Cervantino, "Natsu no Tobira" (The Summer Door) performed by Ishinha at the most famous art festival in Latin America (Mexico). Photo by Fukumaga Koji



▶ The 46th International Speech Contest in Japanese. The contest was held in Tottori prefecture on June 18, 2005, with participation of foreign people chosen from all over Japan.



▶ "Hidajimbo" performance in Eastern Europe. Japan's leading percussionist unit "Hidajimbo" gave a performance tour in Eastern Europe.



▶ "Proposals for YOKOHAMA 2005" by COUMA, under the overall theme of "Art Circus". YOKOHAMA 2005: International Triennale of Contemporary Art.

▶ "Mother's 2000-2005: Traces of the Future" by Ishiuchi Miyako, in the Japanese pavillion. With large-size photographs displayed in a marble-floored room, this approach was both effective and well-received.



▶ Japanese-Language Proficiency Test. This year the tests were held at 116 sites simultaneously on December 4, 2005, including the newly-added countries of Switzerland, Denmark, Finland, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.

