

Participating in "ResArtis Meeting 2019 Kyoto"

Izumi Sakamoto, Director, AIRY

The bus which left Kofu station late at night in February arrived at Kyoto station the next morning. It seems to have been raining a little. We were greeted with moist early morning air and stayed in Kyoto. At the previous Japan Meeting (2012 Tokyo) I attended as a participant. This time I was scheduled to do a short presentation at the Microresidence section. The Kyoto Art Center at the venue is a facility that was created in 2000 after renovating the former Merin Elementary School. It was my second visit.

Microresidence Workshop 2/7

9 facilities participated from 5 countries / regions

AIR uniquely engages in activities around the world.

For example, Waria Artbreak AIR located at the entrance of Lapland in northern Finland and Te Arerenga from the Cook Islands in Pacific Polynesia are daring to set up artist spaces in remote, natural locations.

We can offer a unique environment for the artists.

By inviting artists from urban areas to more rural, natural areas we can help broaden the perspectives of both invited artists and locals. For this reason we would like to create more Microresidences in rural areas.

The Yamanashi prefecture would be an ideal place for a Microresidence because it is an agricultural region and is surrounded by wild natural landscapes.

We have many vacant houses throughout the region which, with the help of art managers, could be transformed into artist residences.

"Tea ceremony Omocha" 2/7

"Tea ceremony Omocha" with a meaning of welcome

It was time to feel the rich power of Kyoto culture.

As it was my first time attending this kind of tea ceremony, I was in for a pleasant surprise.

First of all, I was exposed to contemporary art with all my senses in the waiting room (auditorium).

After that, we were invited into the tea room (Japanese style room) to have tea.

We were delighted with the enthusiastic welcome of the artists/staff of the art center, multi-genre artists, and tea ceremony volunteers.

They seemed to enjoyed themselves too.

Microresidence Meeting 2/9 Koseiji Temple

I did a 10 minute presentation about AIRY.

It was my second time presenting so I was quite used to speaking about the topic.

Participants were mostly young and I had a good response from them.

Afterwards, during the consultation meeting, participants said: "I want to stay! We want to operate!" There was a feeling of excitement at the consultation.

About half the participants were artists and the other half were art managers, both groups have a high interest in AIR.

NPO ANEWAL Gallery

This Kyoto nonprofit organization hosted a two-day session locally

Their work does not stop with traditional gallery duties.

The gallery is also working on the preservation and refurbishment of the Kyomachiya, and operate initiatives that engage art with contemporary social issues in Kyoto.

They manage several spaces related to these initiatives and to their gallery work.

NPO ANEWAL also collaborates with local temples, the ward office, and so on.

Keep our eyes on this organization, which consists of multiple industry members.

Accommodation "Youth gallery"

Hayashi, an artist from Pararail group, restructured Kyomachiya himself and runs it as the Youth Gallery.

The Youth Gallery is a hostel which is also a gallery. Hayashi invites artists to create work for a solo multi-month show in the hostel.

"We stay in a gallery where works are exhibited?" or "We stay in hostel with a display?"

The exhibition is exclusively for the guests of the hostel.

I think that the general public can view the works at opening receptions for the shows or by appointment.

I wanted to meet the owner and listen to details but unfortunately he wasn't available while I was there.

Accommodation was comfortable and I had a pleasant time.

The works on display during my visit were all by one artist, so there was sense of unity throughout the hostel. I was able to rest both mind and body.

Finally

I live in Yamanashi and I don't see very much art or many artists around town.

I was impressed by the excellent art performances in Kyoto and it was also nice to have connected with people working in their local art community.

A Microresidence program in Yamanashi would help develop our local art community by creating more art spaces and creating a stronger arts network in the region.

Visiting Microresidence throughout the world is fun. I did several of them in Thailand and domestic Japan recently and they were very enriching experiences.