

Kukangendai

Junya Noguchi (guitar / vocal)

Keisuke Koyano (bass)

Hideaki Yamada (drums)

Formed in 2006 with Junya Noguchi on guitar and vocals, Keisuke Koyano on bass guitar, and Hideaki Yamada on drums. Performing as a three-piece, its tracks are made through a process of editing, replicating, and deliberate error.

This music creates a sense of distortion and places a burden on the performers, leading to their characteristically stoic and humorous live shows. In recent years, the band has attempted to construct and implement a form of live concert in which they go back and forth between playing multiple simultaneous songs in parallel, but the flow of time as a whole manifests as a single unified rhythm.

In 2016, the band opened their own studio-cum-venue, Soto, in Kyoto, moving their activities from Tokyo to Kyoto.

2018 saw the vinyl release of Zureru, a collaborative album by Kukangendai and Ryuichi Sakamoto. In 2019, Palm – the band's first non-collaborative studio album in seven years – has been released in 2019 on Ideologic Organ, a sublabel of Editions Mego curated by Sunn O)))'s Stephen O'Malley. Collaborative projects to date include Rap Phenomenon, an album produced with rap group Moe and ghosts, live performances with Keiji Haino and with poet Gozo Yoshimasu, and theater productions with the Chiten theater company.

Kukangendai is a kick ass rock trio from Kyoto (Tokyo transplants). When I first hear this band live I was instantly transfixed by their minimalist yet illusory primitive, polyrhythmic and structural, memory evoking rock narratives. Their energy is completely and transparently palpable yet handled with restraint of the pleasure of a disciplined form dealing with time and articulation. They are a power trio of bass, drums and guitar but the music they play is as much the limbic system of a forest than it is a geode. They started in 2006. They left Tokyo to Kyoto and started the cult venue Soto ("Outside") "to listen to music they hadn't heard yet" a few years later. They collaborated with Ryuichi Sakamoto last year. They reminded me of James Brown on a heavy binge of Bastro, there's a deep current of both archaic musical tastes and the human desire for articulating that archaism in there, but you shake your ass and get the shouting in... in a punk basement ... 13th century version of Breadwinner, the bare soul version. I'm honoured and proud to work with this tribe, and to count them amongst friends.
-Stephen O'Malley, February 2019, Paris

Discography

2009 1st album [kukangendai]

2012 2nd album [kukangendai2]

2013 Remix series [kukangendai monthly remixes (digital only)]

Remixer : Mark fell (UK), ZS (US), Oval (GER), Hair Stylistics (JPN), shuta hasunuma (JPN) etc.

2014 Live album [LIVE]

2015 Remix album [kukangendai Remixes]

Remixer : Mark fell (UK), ZS (US), Oval (GER), Hair Stylistics (JPN), shuta hasunuma (JPN) etc.

2016 Collaboration album with “Moe and ghosts” [RAP PHENOMENON]

2016 Cassette EP [Jimen]

2018 Collaboration album with Ryuichi Sakamoto [ZURERU]

2019 LP and digital [Palm]

REMIX WORKS

For

Ryuichi Sakamoto “ASYNC-REMODELS” 2017

Dub Squad “Mirage” 2017

MOON RIDERS “Bright Young Moonlit Knights” 2016

Grand Award

2015 Arts Council Tokyo, Single Grants

2015 Asahi Group Arts Foundation, Music Category

2016 Japan Foundation, Dispatching Artists and Cultural Specialists

2016 Arts Support Kansai, Music Category

2016 Chishima Foundation, Working Space Grant

2017 Japan Foundation, Dispatching Artists and Cultural Specialists

2017 Asahi Group Arts Foundation, Music Category

2018 Japan Foundation, Dispatching Artists and Cultural Specialists

2019 Asahi Group Arts Foundation, Music Category

2019 Kyoto City Special Bounty Program for Art and Culture

Overseas Performances

2014

Gogol center in Moscow, Russia

2016

Area Sismica in Forli, Italy

Nippon Performance Night at "Forum Feries Theater" in Dusseldörf, Germany
ausland in Berlin, Germany

2017

Instants Chavirés in Paris, France

Café OTO in London, UK

The Crofter's rights in Bristol, UK

The Total Refreshment Centre in London, UK

CAVE 12 in Geneva, Switzerland

Centre Pompidou Center Metz, Metz in France

2018

Curated by Ryuichi Sakamoto "MODE" with 33-33 at Oslo in London, UK

Ramsgate Music Hall in Ramsgate, UK

The White Hotel in Manchester, UK

The Old England in Bristol, UK

2019

Pioneer Works, Brooklyn NY

BIG EARS FESTIVAL, Knoxville TN

The Half Moon, Hudson NY

The Lab, San Francisco CA

Avant Art Festival 2019 in Wroclaw and Warsaw, Poland

Die Schute in Hamburg, Germany

ausland in Berlin, Germany

UH FEST 2019 in Budapest, Hungary

Pohyb-Zvuk-Prostor 2019 in Oapava, Czech Republic

Unsound Festival 2019 in Krakow, Poland

Melbourne International Arts Festival in Melbourne, Australia

OzAsia Festival in Adelaide, Australia

Tai Kwun Contemporary, Hong Kong