

Artist in Residence in Nobeyama Radio Observatory

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Artist in Residence (AIR) was carried out at the Nobeyama Radio Observatory (NRO) on May 25–28, 2015. This is the first AIR for an astronomical institute in Japan, organized by Shiga Kogen Roman Art Museum in cooperation with NRO, participated by 5 young artists related with Nagano prefecture. Generally, AIR exists as popular program in art world that creative people like artists stay in unusual environments for a few days to several months to create artworks inspired by experiences from the programs. In abroad, some astronomical institutes have accepted AIR, but in Japan there is no precedent so far. We make a report of the AIR in NRO to rethink on the possibilities to expand access to our public outreach activities.

1. Introduction

Shiga Kogen Roman Art Museum in Yamanouchi Nagano[1] planned a special Exhibition “Viewing the Universe Collaboration with Art and Astronomy” (July 18th –October 12th, 2015) as an event for 60th Anniversary of Town Organization Enforcement of Yamanouchi[2]. Its purpose is not only a typical regional activation, but also a big challenge to try a new style of exhibit uniting Art and Astronomy. Artist in Residence (AIR) was organized as one of the pre-events for the exhibit.

2. Process and Aim of the Program

The idea about AIR came from the brainstorming with Chile observatory, National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (NAOJ), as a part of our attempt to expand outreach activities to different channels. We agreed to the following issues to realize AIR in the Nobeyama Radio Observatory (NRO)

- Target is artists related to Nagano pref. for characterizing local color
- Provide more meeting places for astronomy and other fields.
- Emphasize that it is the first attempt for the astronomical institute in Japan.

3. Actual Preparation

We arranged the following issues in advance.

- Arrange a special administrative procedure to accept the participants for AIR which is different from the procedure to accept NRO common users for observation.
- Exchange profile books between the artists and NRO staffs.
- Ask for help also of the researchers from other institutes who come to NRO during the AIR.

4. Schedule Planning

It would be attractive for the artists to have opportunities to look at actual activities of NRO. Considering of it, we decided to fix the date of the AIR for May 25th–May 28th 2015: later period of Common use, and only 1.5 months till the Exhibit at Shiga Kogen Roman Art Museum!

5. Activities Report

AIR in NRO started welcoming 5 artists. (Fig. 1)



Fig. 1 Participants (Artists)

We offered Guided Tours, Exchange self-introduction in the first half of the program to show the actual activities of NRO, and to know each other well. These activities helped us to talk and exchange ideas easily. In the second half of the program, we guaranteed more free time which would help artists to create ideas for their artworks. The activities are shown on Photographs (Fig. 2–8)

To exchange and share ideas with people from the different field is so impressive. Many participants stated it was really a valuable experience.

Table 1 Schedule of Day 1

hours	activities
10:30	Reception
11:00	Orientation: Explain the rules to stay at NRO
12:00	Lunch break
13:00	Guided tour: Main Building
13:30	Auditing 45m Telescope operation meeting
15:00	Guided tour: 45m Telescope operation room
17:30	Banquet
19:30	Star gazing by optical telescope.



Fig. 2 Special equipment excites their curiosities in the operation room.



Fig. 3 Interview to a researcher at work.



Fig. 4 Banquet is a good opportunity to know each other.

Table 2 Schedule of Day 2

hours	activities
8:30	Open room
9:30	Self-introduction of Artists
10:30	Guide tour: NRO campus
12:00	Lunch break
13:00	Free time
13:30	Guide tour: 45m Telescope receivers room
17:00	Interview to NRO director
19:00-24:00	Free time



Fig. 5 At the receivers room of 45 m telescope. The artists are attracted by mechanical beauties: machines and complicated cable connections.

Table 3 Schedule of Day 3

hours	activities
9:00	Free time
10:30	Guided tour: 45m Telescope operation room
12:00	Lunch break
13:00	Free time
15:00	Auditing NRO Seminar.
17:00	Interview to Researcher
19:00–24:00	Free time

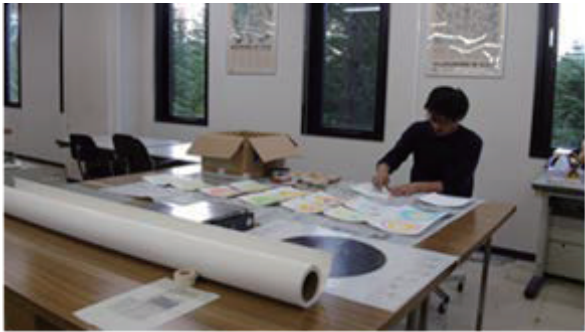


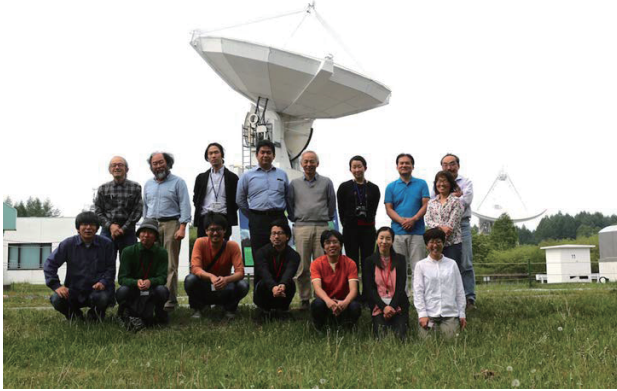
Fig. 6 Some artists start creating works at NRO.



Fig. 7 NRO Seminar. The speaker is Dr. Shimajiri, and his topic is about the growth of Molecular cloud by filamentary accretion.

Table 4 Schedule of Day 4

hours	activities
9:00	Free time
12:00	Lunch break
13:00	Free time
13:30	Closing
15:00	Check out

**Fig. 8** Artists and NRO staffs.

6. Art works: the Fruit of AIR

How did the inspired artists produce their own artworks? They were shown in “Viewing the Universe” at Shiga Kogen Roman Art Museum from Jul. 18th to Oct.12th 2015. Here, we introduce some of the artworks by AIR participants which exhibited in “Viewing the Universe” (Fig. 9–13).

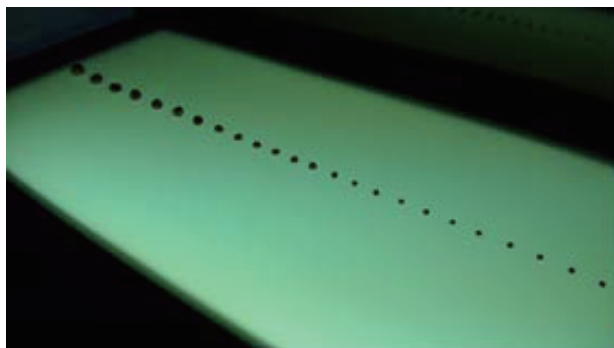


Fig. 9 Drawing precise circles/by Mitsuhiro Yamagiwa

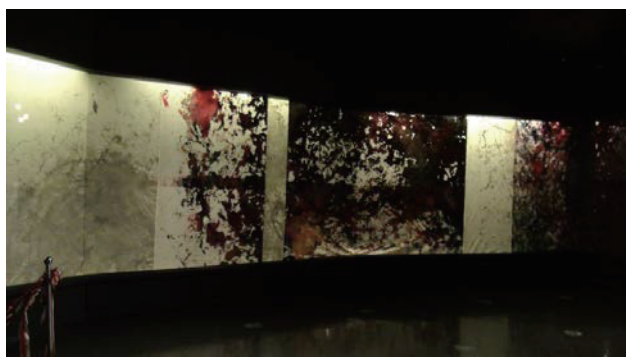


Fig. 10 Rearrangement of painted clothes 2015 / by Tomoko Maezawa



Fig. 11 3X1 + /by Yasuhiro Chida



Fig. 12 Star picnic/by Kyogo Matsumoto

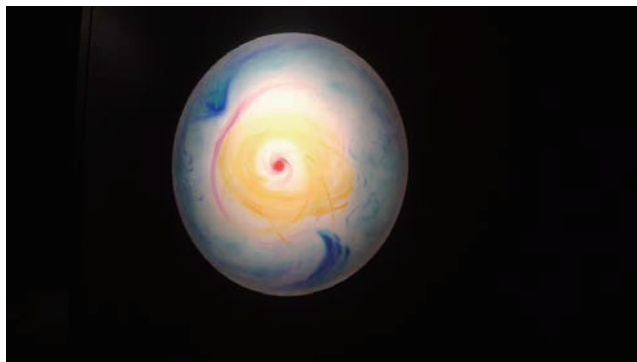


Fig. 13 Origin of life / by Samon Aoshima

7. Summary

Recently AIR is considered to be one of the good occasions for regional activation by many local governments and communities. To improve our outreach activities to different channels, it would be valuable to explore the possibility of residential activities with those organizations. However, through the AIR, we found out it wasn't easy to realize residential activities without the advance preparation based on good relationship and cooperation among all the participant organizations to build the program together. In fact, we spent much time and effort on it.

At the same time, we also recognized through the AIR that the Astronomy is able to give influences to different kinds of field like art, too. Therefore, it would be good for us to have chances to interact with many other fields, because it comes to be one of the products provided by NAOJ to the whole society.

References

- [1] <http://www.s-roman.sakura.ne.jp/>
- [2] http://www.s-roman.sakura.ne.jp/2015-summer_naka.jpg