

Kyoto University

Research Activities

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Special Feature:

Getting to Know the Many Facets of Japan

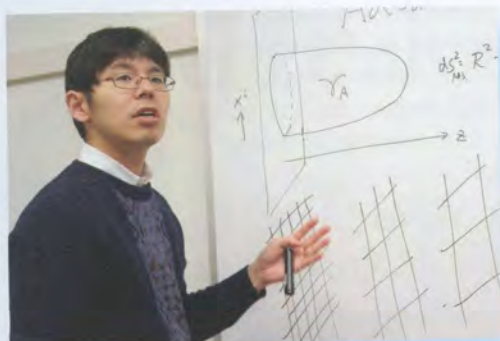
Kyoto University's Rich Tapestry of Research



京都大学

TOPIC

Prof. Tadashi Takayanagi Receives the 2015 New Horizons in Physics Prize



Prof. Tadashi Takayanagi

Prof. Tadashi Takayanagi of the Yukawa Institute for Theoretical Physics was awarded the 2015 New Horizons in Physics Prize by the Breakthrough Prize Foundation for his study titled “Fundamental ideas about entropy in quantum field theory and quantum gravity.” The prize is awarded to promising junior researchers who have already produced important work. Prof. Takayanagi shares the prize with Horacio Casini and Marina Huerta, of CONICET and Instituto Balseiro, Universidad Nacional de Cuyo, Argentina, and Shinsei Ryu, of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

WEB www2.yukawa.kyoto-u.ac.jp/~tadashi.takayanagi/index.html (Prof. Takayanagi)

TOPIC

Prof. Naoko Tosa Awarded the 2014 Good Design Award

Prof. Naoko Tosa of the Academic Center for Computing and Media Studies was awarded the 2014 Good Design Award in the category of “media, application, or digital contents for the public.” Prof. Tosa received the award for her projection mapping installation titled “Sound of Ikebana.” The installation aimed to create a new form of art and design through a high-level integration of traditional Japanese artwork and cutting-edge technology. Shot at 2,000 frames per second using high-speed photography, “Sound of Ikebana” is a series of videos featuring striking images created from sound vibrations using various liquids, such as paints and oils. (For more information on her work, you will find on page 31 of this issue)



Prof. Naoko Tosa



Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter



Projection mapping “Sound of Ikebana: Four Seasons”

WEB www.g-mark.org/award/describe/41746?token=cMdCoS2zYp&locale=en (Good Design Award)

WEB www.naokotosa.com (Prof. Tosa)

HIST Exploring Ancient Temples

Significant changes in Japanese society after the arrival of Buddhism.



Bunhwangsa, a Buddhist temple in Korea. Buddhism was introduced to Japan from Korea.

I am engaged in research on ancient Japanese history, with ancient temples being a particular recent interest. In the two to three-hundred years after the arrival of Buddhism in Japan, society in archipelago underwent an enormous change: Buddhist temples were constructed, religious associations were established in villages, and imperial authority became more reliant on Buddhism. I am engaged in tracing the history of such changes through examining historical documents, cultural property, and archeological remains. I feel that my work is indispensable in understanding fundamental aspects of Japanese culture.



Shinji Yoshikawa, PhD

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ART TOSA RIMPA

Creating a new form of artwork combining Japanese culture and information technology.

It has been said that the 21st century will be an era that goes beyond logic. I am engaged in research to create a new form of artwork combining Japanese culture and information technology. Endeavoring to add a modern dimension to the four-hundred-year-old tradition of the Rimpa school (one of the major historical schools of Japanese painting), I have developed a new *tarashikomi* (marbling) technique by applying sound vibrations to liquid to produce unique naturally-formed patterns. I have successfully applied this technique to create distinctive new artworks using advanced technology.



From the Editor TOSA RIMPA, Dr. Tosa's art book (featuring text in English), will be published in April 2015 by Tankosha Publishing Co., Ltd., Kyoto.

Naoko Tosa, PhD *Professor, Academic Center for Computing and Media Studies* www.naokotosa.com



RIMPA Meets Projection Mapping



The Rimpa School is characterized by colorful designs using gold or silver, which showcase Japanese life and culture. It is found in different formats, such as paintings and folding screens, and is acknowledged as an important school of painting in the history of Japanese art. The year 2015 marks the school's 400th anniversary, and various commemorative events are scheduled to be held around Kyoto throughout the year. As one commemorative event, the Kyoto National Museum held an art projection mapping event titled "The Legendary Fujin and Raijin in the 21st Century" on March 12–15, 2015 (Fujin and Raijin are the Japanese gods of Wind and Thunder). The event was produced by Prof. Naoko Tosa and her colleagues from Kyoto University's Academic Center for Computing and Media Studies. Prof. Tosa created a projection mapping installation for the event by combining the Japanese traditional arts of *ikebana* (flower arrangement) and *kyogen* (a form of theatrical performance) using her techniques of visual art and technology. Under the theme of "tradition and innovation," the installation sought to provide a glimpse into the future of the Rimpa School. The installation was created in collaboration with Mr. Ryuho Sasaoka, headmaster of the *Misho-ryu Sasaoka* School of *ikebana* and Mr. Ippei Shigeyama, a *kyogen* performer, both of whom share Prof. Tosa's keen appreciation of Japanese cultural beauty.



WEB www.kyohaku.go.jp/jp/oshirase/post_35.html

