

International collaborative research and art production on TOKYO 2020 theme colors “Crimson”, “Indigo”, and “Kasane no Irome”

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A group of faculty members from Tokyo Polytechnic University (TPU), Coimbra University (Coimbra), and IADE, Creative University, are doing collaborative research and art production on TOKYO 2020 Olympic Games theme colors “Crimson”, “Indigo”, and “Kasane no Irome.” Produced works will be presented at art exhibition events both in Japan and Portugal as part of 160th Japan and Portugal's diplomacy anniversary activities supported by Embassy of Japan in Portugal.

Their joint work goes back to 2007, and many of the faculty members, undergraduate students, and graduate students from these three schools have participated in the activities and produced art works. Based on such achievements, the current TPU faculty members are again working with Coimbra and IADE partners on research and production plans on the theme of “color”.

TPU members first did historical study of traditional Japanese color, “Kasane no Irome”, which is the theme color. Based on the finding from this study, they have given lectures and workshops at Coimbra and IADE, and now they are examining the differences in color expression among different cultural groups with Coimbra and IADE members. They use various methods of media art, such as animation and interactive art for the productions.

One of the planned outcomes of this collaborative project is to disseminate the result media art works of faculty members and their students in both Japan and Portugal and show them internationally. School facilities and outside galleries in Japan and Portugal will be used for the art exhibitions and presentations of research findings. We also plan to hold lectures and workshops based on this research. At the same

time, we will participate in the 160th Japan and Portugal's diplomacy anniversary events sponsored by the Embassy of Japan in Portugal to contribute to the exchange between the two countries.

First attempt

In December 2019, Yukio Yamanaka, TPU faculty, gave a lecture at the Faculty of Engineering of Coimbra University. The title was “TOKYO 2020 and Kasane no Irome”. There, he explained about cultural significance of “Crimson” and “Indigo”. It showed the reason why they have selected these theme colors for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games. In addition, Yamanaka introduced the core graphic, “Kasane no Irome” and explained “the sense of Japan” produced by “color”. In the lecture, Yamanaka talked about “24 seasons” in Japanese calendar and way of grasping detailed sense of seasonal changes. A sense of color was linked to this sense of seasons, creating a culture of using various color combinations and names. Kasane's color scheme became a method of expressing the meaning of status, celebration, contraindications by overlapping multiple colors. The TOKYO 2020 Olympic Games theme colors “Crimson” and “Indigo” and Core Graphic, “Kasane no Irome” have been selected as symbols that represent this unique way of capturing colors in Japan.

An animation production workshop was held the next day presented by Yukio Yamanaka, Kei Suyama, and Masamichi Okubo. In this workshop, participants created short animations using the time-lapse technique by combining pieces of colored paper and line drawings, and they gained the new understandings on animation production. As a result

of this workshop, a 12 of short video clips were completed by 12 participating students, and the clips were edited into one video production. The completed animation work was shown on a screen at the end of the workshop.

Second attempt

We have planned the next workshop based on the first lecture and workshop. Lecture "Media as Colors" in February 2020. Testu Kondo, another TPU faculty, shares creative ideas and perspectives as he shows his personal art productions and various types of projects with media technologies. After the lecture, a workshop "Creative art and media workshop" will be held. The purpose of this workshop is to let students with various backgrounds collaborate and create art works with strong concepts. Discussion and concept building will be the most important rolls for this workshop. They pick up any media to express their ideas based on concepts of "Color". Workshop proceeds through the steps of Brain Storming, Concept and philosophy building, and Technical Approach. In this production, we plan to use the animation video produced in the first workshop. The goal of the outcome is Exploring our artistic idea and aesthetic of "Color" with technology.

These two types of lectures and workshops are also given to students and graduate students of Tokyo Polytechnic University, and finally summarize the products of both universities, Exhibition opportunity in 2021 at Collabo gallery in Japan.

What is "color"?

Students, graduate students, and faculty members from both Japan and Portugal will be asked to consider "What is 'color' for me?" and express it in various media art forms using the TOKYO 2020 theme colors "Crimson", "Indigo" and "Kasane no Irome". The works will be shown at exhibitions in both Japan and Portugal as we have

mentioned in the plans.

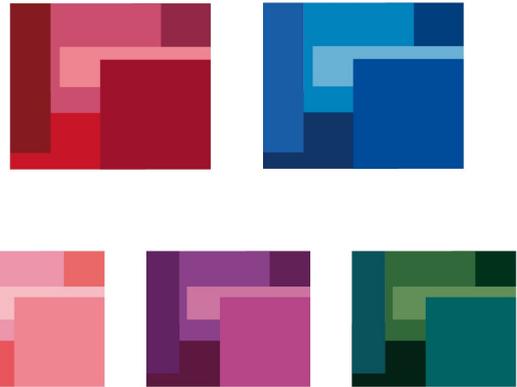


Fig.1 "CRIMSON,INDIGO and color chart /TOKYO2020 official web site" <https://tokyo2020.org/jp/news/notice/20180817-02.html>



Fig.2 Photograph of one of workshop on international collaborative research



Fig.3 Photograph of one of lecture on international collaborative research