

Media Release: Monday 14 August 06

insen

alva noto + ryuichi sakamoto

Major international tour of Australia & Asia: 12 October – 4 November 06
Includes dates in Australia, Macau, Japan and Hong Kong



“...as thrilling as a virtuoso tightrope walk, and, ultimately, as emotionally pulverising...a privilege to witness” Frieze Magazine, 2006

Forma announces the 3rd major international tour of *insen*, the critically acclaimed live collaboration between electronic composer/visual artist **Carsten Nicolai** [alva noto] and multi award-winning composer **Ryuichi Sakamoto**. This live production features a specially commissioned digital instrument used by Nicolai. An on-stage LED installation by the artist, in collaboration with visual software designer Karl Kliem, creates a distinctive stage set featuring dynamic, real-time visualisation of the sound as graphics, triggered by the piano and processed by Nicolai.

Featuring tracks from *vrioon* and *insen* albums and the *revap* EP - the celebrated collaborative releases by noto and Sakamoto released on the raster-noton label in 2005 / 6 - this third tour follows two major sell-out European tours during Autumn 05 and Summer 06. Presented at major venues and festivals throughout Australia and Asia, *insen* will be performed over three days at the Melbourne International Arts Festival, followed by a date in Macau, several performances in Japan and a final presentation in Hong Kong on 4 November.

Berlin-based **Carsten Nicolai** is an artist whose work comprises images, installations and music. Exhibited and performed in major galleries and festivals world-wide, Nicolai's works captivate consistently through elegance, simplicity and cool technicism.

His music, performed under the name *alva noto*, combines minimal, pared-down, electronic sounds with complex and dynamic loops and beats.

Award winning composer and musician **Ryuichi Sakamoto** has made a career of crossing musical and technological boundaries. He has experimented with, and excelled in, many different musical styles, making a name for himself in popular, orchestral and film music. In 1987, he won both the Academy Award and a Grammy for his score for Bernardo Bertolucci's film, *The Last Emperor*.

insen brings together these two different generations of artists in a live performance that creates a new synergy between acoustic piano and electronic music. Sakamoto's elegant acoustic piano phrasing is manipulated and counterbalanced by Nicolai's subtle digital processing to create vivid dialogues between melody, rhythm and texture. *insen* demonstrates these artists' aspirations to explore the idea of electronic music as an inspiration for new musical structures.

***insen* is produced by Forma Arts and Media
co-produced by Romaeuropa Festival 2005 / Santa Cecilia It's Wonderful**

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Notes to editors:

Full tour dates:

12/13/14 Oct	Melbourne International Arts Festival, AU
18 Oct	Mount Fortress, Macau International Music Festival, MO
22 Oct	Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media, Yamaguchi, JP
24 & 25 Oct	Geijutsu Hall, Osaka, JP
28 & 29 Oct	Shibuya Ko-Kai-Do, Tokyo, JP
31 Oct	International Forum Hall C, Tokyo, JP
04 Nov	Hong Kong City Hall Concert Hall, New Vision Arts Festival, HK

Biographies

alva noto [Carsten Nicolai]

Berlin based sound artist and producer Carsten Nicolai [alva noto] has established himself as a leading member in the realm of electronic sound and visual designers, using art and music as hybrid tools to create microscopic views of creative processes. He creates precise rhythmic structures with electronic clicks and glitches as essential elements of his music. Nicolai has performed and exhibited in many of the world's most prestigious spaces including The Guggenheim NYC, MOMA SF, NTT Tokyo and Venice Biennale. Nicolai's exploration of the physicality of sound continues in his collaborations with Ryoji Ikeda, Mika Vainio, his celebrated recordings *vrioon* and *insen* with Ryuichi Sakamoto and in the pioneering Raster Noton record label he co-founded. Nicolai won Ars Electronica Golden Nica prizes for Digital Music in 2000 and for Interactive Art in 2001.

For further information visit www.alvanoto.com | www.raster-noton.de

Ryuichi Sakamoto

Award winning composer and musician Ryuichi Sakamoto has made a career of crossing musical and technological boundaries. He has experimented with, and excelled in, many different musical styles, making a name for himself in popular, orchestral and film music. A founding member of Yellow Magic Orchestra (YMO), Sakamoto has composed original scores for over 20 major and independent films, including *Merry Christmas Mr. Lawrence*, *The Last Emperor*, *The Sheltering Sky* and Brian DePalma's *Femme Fatale*. Sakamoto was awarded both the Academy Award and Grammy for *The Last Emperor* film score.

For further information visit www.sitesakamoto.com.

reveg EP [raster-noton]

A special CD titled *reveg* was released in June 06 on the raster-noton label. Featuring a selection of exclusive tracks performed by alva noto + ryuichi sakamoto on the *insen* tour, the EP includes a reworking of Sakamoto's renowned composition *merry christmas mr. lawrence* with David Bowie and Takeshi Kitano, from 1983.

For full details visit www.raster-noton.de

Forma Arts and Media

Forma is one of Europe's leading agencies for contemporary, cross-artform projects. It commissions, tours and publishes work worldwide, managing large-scale and technically innovative productions with flair. Forma collaborates with artists to develop projects over extended periods of time, forming unique relationships with practitioners and creating rich dialogues between artists, audiences and places. The company pioneers art projects that suggest new possibilities for our current and future culture.

In the last year, Forma productions have been presented at major festivals and venues in Australia, Belgium, Brazil, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Italy, Japan, Monaco, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland and USA. forma works with renowned artists such as Cerith Wyn Evans, Dominique Gonzalez-Foerster, Kim Gordon, Ryoji Ikeda, Carsten Nicolai, Philippe Parreno, DJ Rupture, Ryuichi Sakamoto, Saburo Teshigawara and Richard Wilson, as well as with equally interesting artists at earlier stages of their careers.

For further information, please visit **www.forma.org.uk**

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