

ryuichi sakamoto expectation

an unfinished notebook, an appreciation.

john warwicker



several weeks ago i received a request to write something about the new album by ryuichi sakamoto, without hearing the music.

this is my response; this is my expectation. drawn from almost 40 years of listening to his music and his collaborative work and knowing him for almost 20. and putting all of this into a forensic context within my understanding and imagination; and examining the elements and crucible of his alchemic process, as i understand it not to predict the outcome but to prepare myself for it.



my starting point was 'expectation', the title of the email i received and in the question – 'what is ryuichi?' followed by – 'why is ryuichi?'

i won't attempt to pretend to answer - 'who is ryuichi?'

if 'language is the code of identity' simon taylor, tomatothen-'what is this code a cipher for?',everything exists in the past, the present and the futureif it is remembered.



my interest lies in the form and effect of language and expression within the narrative of the human condition.

this vast matrix of interconnection means that even the base elements of language, each letterform and each sound, has a contextual and cultural value or resonance; and in combination they attain a level of meaning and resonance that increases expotentially as this energy unfolds in time.



it is a game of consequences, it is a game of similarity and difference, of translation and translieration, of de-construction and re-building, re-forming, re-presentation and ultimately – response.





Expression.

There are artists who craft a singular form of expression throughout their life and there are others, such as Ryuichi, who are more promiscuous; who deliberately test their craft, process and language in different situations.

This is not purely an intellectual exercise but also an emotive one. We invest in artists and their artistic journey to show and explain to us as a provocation of our individual and collective human condition; so that we reconfigure our internal reading of ourselves through the continuous process of experience; never static, never fully formed, always emerging and egalitarian in principle.

Elegant.

The word Elegant is most commonly defined as 'having grace and style in appearance or manner'. It's synonyms include: discerning, refined, dignified, cultivated, distinguished, classic, fashionable, artistic and aesthetic'.

Elegance is also used in mathematics, to describe a solution that is beautiful, one that shows unusual effectiveness and simplicity. The combination of these two descriptions reveal a common thread; a desire to articulate, with a resonant clarity, irrespective of what form or language of the outcome.

Economic. Efficient. Effective.

3.

Exploration.

To explore is at the centre of the human condition. This restless compulsion to invent, this narcotic of possibility within one's own set of interests. It is emotive desire as much as intellectual curiosity.

In the philosophy of the Inca the past, present and future are all run parallel to one another; meaning that the past and the future can both affect what is happening now in the present moment. This, by chance, is echoed by in modern day E.



Evidence.

Evidence the result of the process of the combination of both Elegance and exploration.

Elegance + Exploration = Composition.

5.

Evocation.

The bringing forth of spirit, it is the primeval compulsion to express that which is being ritualised. To bring something into being.

Originally, the egyptian and semetic languages, 'hê' - meant 'joy' or 'rejoice' shown in linear form as a human figure 'calling'... 'summoning up the spirits'.

'hê' then evolved by way of the phoenican language ^{top left}, then the etruscan ^{middle left}, the greek (epsilon) ^{top right} to eventually become the form that we use today.

Elemental.

An elemental is a mythic being described alchemic works. The nature of an ultimate constituent; simple; uncompounded. First principles; alchemically mixed in expectation.

7.

Essence.

The perfume, the scent, the intrinsic nature or indispensable quality of something, especially something abstract, which determines its character.

Extract.

To calculate, a preparation containing the active ingredient of a substance in concentrated form. A distillation, a concentrate, an elixir.

9.

Elusive.

Difficult to define. Evades (evading) convention. Elasticity... the exploration of the form of thought.



10

Ecology.

The relationship and interaction of one thing to another within their specific environment.

It is the earth that we all walk upon. We map our individual journeys; Exploring and expressing, seeking stimulation from new events or environments.

Existence. Existential. The letter 'e' (or 'E') is probably the most variable letter in the whole latin alphabet. It can be tall or short, simple or complex, open or closed. It is also used contemporaneously as the symbol for 'estimate'.

Everyday Experiment Essay EAT (Experiments in Art and Technology), Education, Educe, Edge (finding the 'edge'), Ecotype, Ecstatic, Either/or..., Entropic, Epos (greek) - word or song, Equivalent, Escalate, Ether, Ethnology, Event, Exchange, Expand...



RE-building RE-forming RE-presentation RE-sponse RE-turn

or what lies behind or as intensive force... as in 'RE-fine'.





Leonhard Euler



