BankART1929
ALL ABOUT BANKART

Ever since opening up to foreign trade 150 years ago, Yokohama has been a cultural crossroads. This is to be seen everywhere: from its architectural patrimony, its bars and clubs, its patisseries of confectioners, street fashion. Yokohama’s culture is richly interwoven. Continuing this tradition, BankART1929, has over the last five years been to the forefront in restoring the city’s architectural legacy and revitalizing its dock-banks. These areas are now centres for arts and culture, for festivals and various culinary cultures, as well as a meeting ground between private and public, agent and layman. Propositions from abroad have broadened the scope of the facilities there. As About BankART succinctly presents the core of BankART’s activities. On the occasion of moving to our new headquarters in BankART Studio NYK in April 2009, we present it to you in its new format.
Space
Founded in March 2004, BankART is initially worked out of the premises of two former banks. In April 2005, Tokyo University of the Arts moved into the former Fuji Bank, while the Creative City Centre occupied the former Daishin Bank as of May 2005. BankART is now based in the fully renovated BankART Studio NYK (1,150m²). We also administer several offshoot facilities: BankART Seibu-jo; BankART Kamome-e; Horikiri Experimental Gallery; BankART Vault; BankART TeenArt and so forth.

Pub & Cafe
Open daily until 2300. Not only is this space used for events, but also for the before and after talk during BankART’s daily activities, the BankART school and artist in residence programme. It provides an accessible opening to all those not deeply acquainted with art. A drink costs ¥300. Among its facilities are the outdoor brick kitchen designed by Mukan, the White Limousine Yatai by Atelier Bow-Wow, and Box-by-Work Station. Opening Hours: Cafe: 11:30 - 17:30 Pub: 17:30 - 23:00

Shop & Contents
With a catalogue of some 3,500 items, it stocks art-books, DVDs, textbooks and relevant material for the various courses, as well as exhibition catalogues, different works of art, prize draw featuring works from young artists, galleries and museums from throughout Japan. In due to be held. Catologues and DVDs are not only available during exhibitions, but will also be made widely available. Moreover, some 40 publications, including those on subjects not directly linked to BankART, have been published to date.

BankART school
Based on a system of 8 frequently classes, it runs from Monday to Saturday, with up to 10 students per class. Based on the idea of a sample school BankART offers a combination of lectures, as well as post-graduate courses. With 450 courses, a staff of 450 (paid, regular) and some 1,500 students enrolled, it serves as a meeting for students and teachers alike. One of the course contents is published in a free paper: "HAMAT.

Art in Residence
8 studios available, varying between 20 and 100m² in size, for a 1 to 3 month period. A welcome party as well as an open-studio day is arranged for the invited artists so that the public can become acquainted with them. In addition to an overseas exchange program, collaborative initiatives with regional universities also take place.

Entrepreneurial Activities
The idea is both to modernise and diffuse Yokohama’s potential. With such wide ranging themes as architectural legacies, cuisine, fashion, photography, scenic arts (notably Kazuo Ohno), and street life, Yokohama possesses a myriad of resources. An increasing number of comprehensive large-scale international exhibitions, similar to those at BankART Life 1 & 2 are now being held.

Co-ordinating Office
Of the 1,200 offers in a year, some 400 come to fruition. BankART’s fundamental policy is easy access and thorough completion. BankART is not merely a leasing agent. It also invests itself so that every project realises its full potential. A 35% block costs ¥130 per year, with a 5% reduction on a weekly basis. Depending on context, tax reductions are applicable. In many cases, BankART collaborates on planning and budget estimates.

Networks
When BankART started up in 2004 it was quite isolated but has recently developed a solid working network. Along with those directly connected with BankART, this network is comprised of institutions heavily promoted by the municipal government. The term “new inner-city community” or “neighbourhood” has an understandable ring about it, and suggests enjoyment. While by no means overtly familiar, it isn’t unusual to find people borrowing computers, sharing ideas, or renting a room there.