

report

Sapporo-II projects

28th of January- 9th of February, Sapporo Japan, 2010

projects 2010

- exhibition: Sapporo II - projects 2005-2010. D&Departement Store, Sapporo
- Sapporo II - project #6: TeamHolland: a prize winning sculpture for the 37st International Snow Sculpture Contest, 61st Sapporo Snow Festival 2010, Japan
- Sapporo II - Community Experiments #02: workshops with students, artists and architects
- Sapporo II - project day with the Urban Snow Cleaning Company Sapporo

----- (documentation: Sapporo II - report 2004-2009)

- TeamHolland: workshop project week Willem de Kooning Academy for Fine Arts Rotterdam

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program Sapporo-II projects 2010

-----Sapporo-II : Community Experiments #02

- 28 January - departure Amsterdam
- 29 January - arrival Sapporo

- 30 januari - workshop Sapporo-II_Community Experiments #02
- 31 januari - workshop Sapporo-II_Community Experiments #02

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- 01 February - workshop Sapporo-II_project day with the urban Snow Cleaning Company Sapporo
 - 02 February - workshop Sapporo-II_project day with the urban Snow Cleaning Company Sapporo

-----Sapporo-II : project #06: TeamHolland: 37st International Snow Sculpture Contest

- 03 February - International Snow Sculpture Contest: introduction
- presentation to the city of Sapporo: the future of Sapporo-II

- 04 February - International Snow Sculpture Contest: work day 1
- 05 February - International Snow Sculpture Contest: work day 2
- 06 February - International Snow Sculpture Contest: work day 3
- 07 February - International Snow Sculpture Contest: jury
- 08 February - International Snow Sculpture Contest: end ceremony

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- workshop Sapporo-II_project day with the urban Cleaning Company Sapporo
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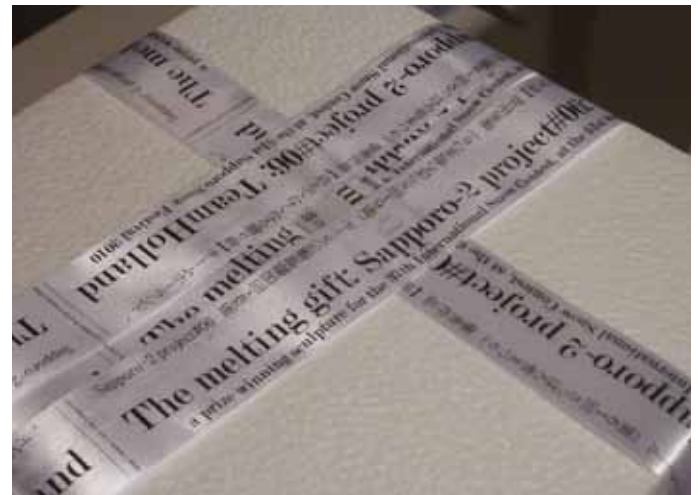
- 09 February - departure Sapporo
- 09 February - arrival Amsterdam



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exhibition Sapporo-II: projects 2004-2010

In the D&Department Store a project presentation was made of the Sapporo II projects 2004-2010. The exhibition space was also used as a studio for the preparations of the different projects involved and as 'base-camp' for the evening workshops.



repping ribbon



The last Polar Bear - icon of the Sapporo II project



repping ribbon: 5 designs with statements on Sapporo II

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exhibition Sapporo-II: projects 2004-2010



Sapporo II - report 85 pages



Sapporo II - The Melting Gift banner



The last Polar Bear - icon of the Sapporo II project

exhibition Sapporo-II: projects 2004-2010



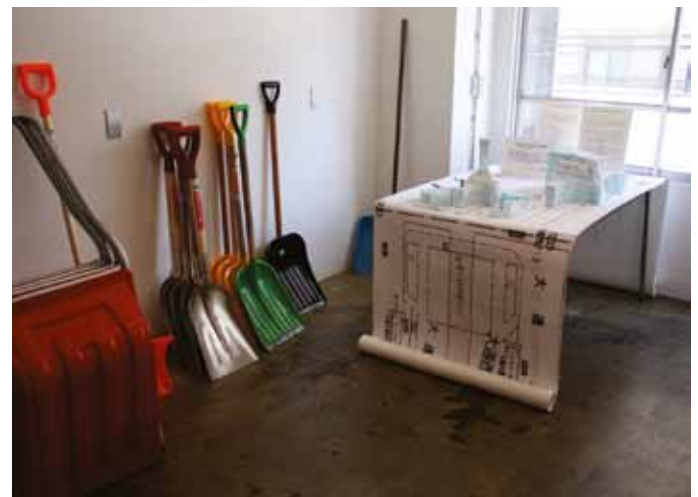
project #05: Community Experiments - project signs



project #05: Community Experiments - *cleaning is creating*



project #05: Community Experiments



project #03: Hyperspace Sapporo II: The future of Sapporo



project #04: New Models for The Sapporo Snow Festival

Sapporo II - project #6: TeamHolland: The Melting Gift

a prize winning sculpture for the 37st International Snow Sculpture Contest, 61st Sapporo Snow Festival 2010, Japan

The Sapporo Snow Festival is one of the oldest and largest snow festivals in the world. Part of the festival is the International Snow Statue Competition with about 21 competing teams. The given context is a cube of 3 square meters.

Participating to the competition offered the Sapporo II project to address a very wide and large audience, to develop and express its aims.

The Melting Gift

The project The Melting Gift tries to rethink the meaning of snow, not as waste, not as a mere esthetic material, nor as something to suggest something else, but as snow itself, as an element, as frozen water.

During 4 days TeamHolland has cut of small snow blocks from the large snow block, as a model of itself, eventually cutting the large snow block completely up, leaving nothing behind, having no waste material.

The small blocks were repped with a ribbon and offered to passers by, as a gift, a melting gift.

The ribbon was used to be able to communicate the large idea of the Sapporo II project. 5 designs were made to communicate different aspects of Sapporo II.

In 4 days, from 9:00-21:00, about 2500 gifts were handed out, about 2,5 km of string was cut into 2500 pieces of ribbon, addressing about 15.000 people.

The gift is a strong aspect of Japanese culture as is the repping and packaging of objects.

The icon of the Sapporo II project is The Last Polar Bear and assisted in offering the gifts to the passers by.

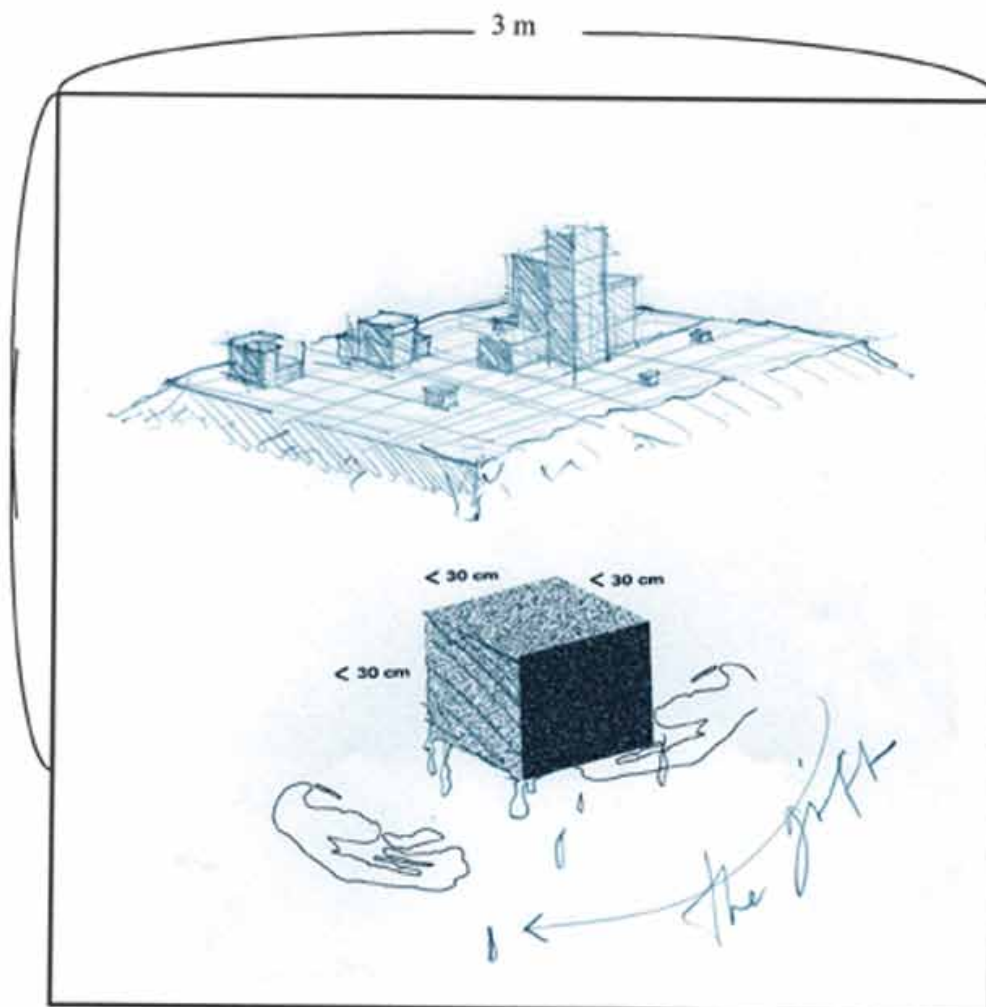
In a subtle way The Melting Gift address the metling ice caps within itself, as something to take care of but will melt if you hold it to close.



International Snow Statue Competition - setting

チーム名 TEAM	TeamHolland, The Netherlands
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第 37 回国際雪像コンクール雪
像図 (案) Statue Plan for 37th International Snow Sculpture Contest



The Gift

The cube of snow 3x3x3 meters will be divided in horizontal and vertical lines and cut-up in more than a 1000 smaller cubes: 30x30x30 centimeters and smaller. The large amount of scale models of the original snow cube will be given away to visitors of the festival during the 3 days of construction until only several cubes remains, depending of the amount that has been given away. This last cubes will leave an image on the place where the original snow cube was formed. One of the smaller cubes will be handed to the jury on the final day. Eventually all the snow, and all the cubes will melt.

The idea of the gift was chosen because it is a concept and gesture that is a very strong aspect of intercultural exchange. This gift however will start to melt away the moment it is handed and received. The "melting gift" represents the alarming conditions that we face and the effect our future existence on the planet. This situation demands a global awareness and collective effort beyond nationalities, countries and world powers. It shows us that the world is one for which we are all equally responsible. To bring this to the attention is, as we believe, the position and role of the contemporary artist. The contribution of TeamHolland to the International Snow Contest 2010 is one that relates closely to contemporary issues and to contemporary developments in art. It is both a performance, one of beauty, a community projects, a conceptual project and an universal statement.

full text:

TeamHolland, The Netherlands
The Gift
The Gift Sapporo II project #06: TeamHolland _ a prize winning sculpture for the 37 th International Snow Contest, Sapporo Snow Festival 2010
The "melting" gift represents the alarming conditions that we face and that effect our future existence on the planet. This situation demands a global awareness and a collective effort beyond nationalities, countries and world powers. It shows us that the world is one for which we are all equally responsible.

The Gift

Sapporo II project #06: TeamHolland _ a prize winning sculpture for the 37th International Snow Contest, Sapporo Snow Festival 2010

The cube of snow 3x3x3 meters will be divided in horizontal and vertical lines and cut-up in more then a 1000 smaller cubes: 30x30x30 centimeters and smaller. The scale models of the original snow cube will be given away to visitors of the festival during the 3 days of construction. Several small cubes will remain of the place where once was a very large snow cube, depending on the amount of smaller cubes that have been given away. One last cube will be handed to the jury on the final day. Eventually all snow 'gifts' will melt away.

The idea of the gift was chosen because it is a concept and gesture that is a very strong aspect of intercultural exchange. This gift however will start to melt away the moment it is handed and received.

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a cube in many pieces

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Sapporo II - project #6: TeamHolland: The Melting Gift



Sapporo II - project #6: TeamHolland: The Melting Gift



Sapporo II - delivery service



Team Holland. The melting...
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Sapporo II - project #6: TeamHolland: The Melting Gift



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Sapporo II - project #6: TeamHolland: The Melting Gift



workshop Sapporo-II_Community Experiments #02

Starting from the idea that 'Cleaning is Creating' 5 student teams, accompanied by the members of Team-Holland: Kamiel Verschuren/Eric von Robertson/Lauran Schijvens and 2 artists from Sapporo Michiyoshi Isozaki (ex-guest at Duende and B.a.d) and Masaki Umetsu (ex-guest at Kaus Australis and B.a.d), made different experiments. During several hours in the evening time the teams wandered around the city looking for leads and discussion possibilities. In 2 sessions about 15 projects were realized.

The Community Experiments workshops started in 2006 and are continued each year. The aim of these experiments is to create a large database of possible reactions to the idea 'Cleaning is Creating', developing experiences and knowledge, finding partners and supporters to eventually prepare for when the project Sapporo II is completed in the new holiday Sapporo II-day!



project #05: Community Experiments workshop



project by team Michiyoshi Isozaki



project by team Michiyoshi Isozaki

workshop Sapporo-II_Community Experiments #02



project by team Kamiel Verschuren
(against the public promotion of evil political parties)



project by team Kamiel Verschuren
(against the public promotion of evil political parties)



project by team Kamiel Verschuren



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workshop Sapporo-II_Community Experiments #02



project by team Kamiel Verschuren



project by team Kamiel Verschuren



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workshop Sapporo-II_Community Experiments #02



project by team Michiyoshi Isozaki



project by team Lauran Schijvens



project by team Lauran Schijvens



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workshop Sapporo-II_Community Experiments #02



community experiment - anonymus



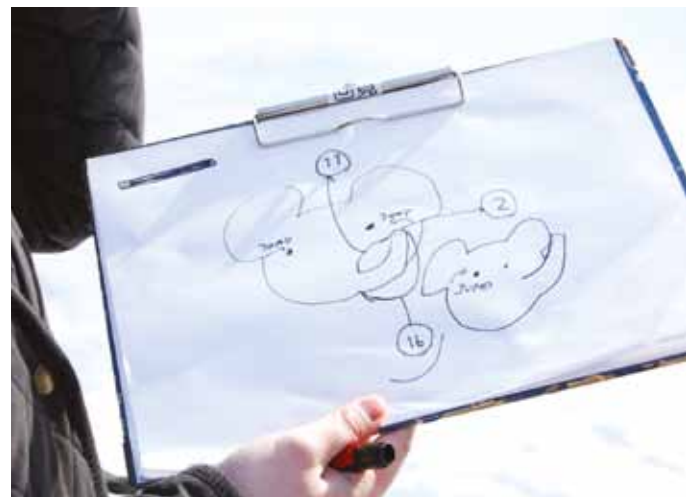
project by team Lauran Schijvens

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workshop Sapporo-II_Community Experiments #02



project by team Lauran Schijvens



project by team Michiyoshi Isozaki



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Sapporo II - project day Urban Snow Cleaning Company

Cleaning is Creating

In Sapporo thousands of people work to clean the city of snow. It is the city with the largest amount of snowfall each year, about 6 meters. This snow is generally regarded as being garbage and is brought outside the city where enormous masses of snow create new landscapes.

Over the years contact has been made with the snow cleaning companies of Sapporo, responsible for cleaning and transporting the snow outside the city, to see if they have an interest in working together. Can cleaning become creating?

For the first experiment 3 machines and 3 drivers were available to transform a given landscape, to experience their skills and the possibilities of the machines involved. The terrain is used for the storage of snow from the city and offered several snow masses.

The second experiment was done with a different department responsible for cleaning the parking lots in the city center.

One wonders why there are no artists with a licence to operate the shovels and other machines...?



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Sapporo II - project day Urban Snow Cleaning Company





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Sapporo II - project day Urban Snow Cleaning Company

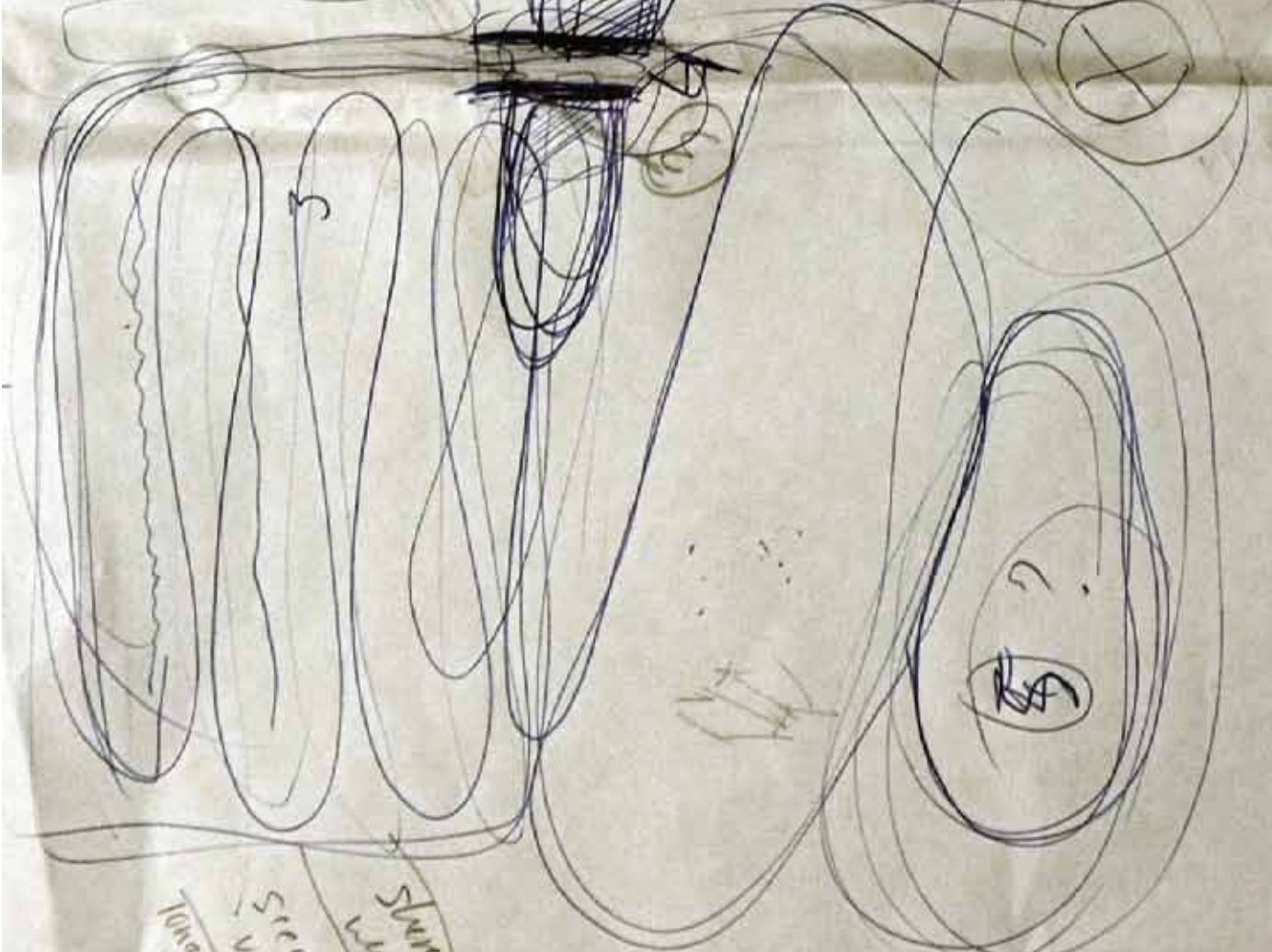


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Sapporo II - project day Urban Snow Cleaning Company





community

City officials, residents give cordial, if cool, reception to alternative to famed Sapporo event

Artists push their own snow festival

Rob Gilhooly

SPECIAL TO THE JAPAN TIMES

Among the intricately carved sculptures at the Sapporo Snow Festival this year, three Dutch artists and a polar bear could be seen luring passersby with ribbon-wrapped blocks of compacted snow in an attempt to promote an alternative festival that makes better use of the city's most prominent resource.

"Every year thousands of tons of snow are shipped into Sapporo for the festival, but also thousands of people, machines and logistics are involved in the mass removal of snow from the city, and this serves no purpose other than mere displacement," said conceptual artist Kamiel Verschuren, who initiated the "Sapporo II Snow" project. "Our aim is to create a platform whereby the creative potential of snow can be explored by people, artists and cultural producers in the community."

Snow has long been used for such creative means during the annual snow festival, which has gained international acclaim since its inception in 1950, but "Sapporo II" organizers say there is limited grassroots involvement in the event, since the Self-Defense Forces play a major role.

While citizen sculptors were at the heart of the earliest festivals, since 1955 the Ground Self-Defense Force has been



charged with creating the majority of the sculptures.

In this year's event, held from Feb. 5 to 11, those sculptures were made from some 32,500 tons of snow that SDF troops trucked in from several locations, including parks and cemeteries, on the outskirts of the city or beyond.

"Today there are no local artists or architects involved, just the local authorities, the military and a handful of local residents," said Verschuren. "The role of Japan's military is changing and it's not difficult to imagine a time when it will be charged with more befitting work, so we are preparing for the time when the festival will be returned to the local community."

"Sapporo II" organizers hope to inaugurate an annual two-day holiday after the season's first snowfall during which the city's 1.9 million residents will be encouraged by employers and schools to take a break from study and work to create their own sculptures from the city's snow alone.

During the second day, residents can wander around to admire their neighbors' creations, thus continuing the festival spirit while at the same time clearing the streets and parks of snow.

"What is striking is that the Sapporo Snow Festival has become a commercial festival rather than a cultural one," said Sapporo II's Mami Odai, the artist inside the polar bear outfit. "Sapporo II" would be a cultural festival that allows people to express themselves as the annual festival itself once did. It would be a festival that is less polluting, more durable and less money-driven."

Local authorities have voiced support for the project, though only as an

Snow to go: Kamiel Verschuren and Mami Odai (in a polar bear outfit) hand out a block of compacted snow to a young passerby during the Sapporo Snow Festival on Feb. 5. Below: A couple have their photo taken in front of a sculpture of well-known "anime" (animation) character Chibi Maruko-chan and her friends during the snow festival.

ROB GILHOOLY



alternative to the main event. "I think it's a good idea, but I don't think it would attract the same attention as the current festival," said Jun Kitamura of the Sapporo Snow Festival organizing committee. "People come from far and wide to see the dynamic sculptures made from pure white snow by trained sculptors, not small ones made by amateurs from the dirty stuff that gathers in the city."

The city also gave "Sapporo II" tacit approval at this year's snow festival by allocating Team Holland — whose members are all part of the "Sapporo II" project — a place in this year's International Snow Statue Contest.

Their "entry" consisted of thousands of blocks of compacted snow each bound by a ribbon on which was printed the concept behind "Sapporo II."

"We decided it was time to infiltrate the festival and pass on our message directly to the people," said Verschuren, who started developing the project along with a number of local artists, architects and creative professionals in 2005.

Passersby who received the symbolic "melting gift" expressed mixed views on both the current and proposed festivals.

"I think the Sapporo Snow Festival is great because it brings so many people to the city," said office worker Miyuki Saito. "Although it's right on the doorstep, I think many local residents don't bother going, so an alternative festival that actually gets local people, especially

young children, involved would be fun, but not at the expense of the main one."

"The Snow Festival has become a bit too Disney for my liking," said another resident, 29, who went by the name of Yoshi. "But I don't know if I would build any sculptures myself. I mean, it's minus 9 degrees out there and I get pretty tired of all the snow here."

Verschuren also laments the increased commercialization of the main festival, and hopes residents will see the

alternative event as a more economically and environmentally viable option.

"Local authorities say that the total distance covered by SDF trucks to transport snow for the festival is 375,000 km. That's roughly the distance from here to the moon," he said. "This seems ludicrous in this day and age, especially when there is plenty of snow in the city already that is going to waste. Why not use that and have fun creating something?"



Kamiel Verschuren

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