

## Taipei Fine Arts Museum announces Anselm Franke as the curator for 2012 Taipei Biennial

Taipei Fine Arts Museum is pleased to announce Anselm Franke as the curator for 2012 Taipei Biennial. The 2012 Taipei Biennial is scheduled to be launched in the coming September.

The 8<sup>th</sup> Taipei Biennial curator selection adopted both open calls for proposals from Taiwanese curators as well as calls on foreign curators to submit proposals. And one curator or one curator group was selected from all candidates. The open call was taken place from the 21<sup>st</sup>, July, 2011 to 21<sup>st</sup>, September, 2011, total two proposals were submitted. And there were three proposals were obtained from foreign curators. TFAM held a selection committee, whose the jurors lists were Manray Hsu, Chia-Chi Jason Wang, Yukie Kamiya ( chief curator of Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art ), Bartomeu Marí ( director of Museum of Contemporary Art in Barcelona ) and Fang-Wei Chang ( director of TFAM Biennial and International Projects Office ) . The selection interview panel was completed on the 15<sup>th</sup>, October. And Anselm Franke has been selected to be the curator for 2012 Taipei Biennial.

### About curator



Anselm Franke was born in Heiligenberg, South Germany in 1978. He is currently a freelance curator and writer. He will curate the 2012 Taipei Biennial, and take the post as the head of visual art and film department of House of World Cultures Berlin from January, 2013.

In his early times, he worked as assistant director to German film-theatre and opera director Christoph Schlingensief, employed by the theatre Volksbuehne in Berlin. Schlingensief is the artist of German Pavilion in the 54<sup>th</sup> Venice Biennale, and the exhibition was given the Golden Lion for Best National Participation. From 2001 to 2006, he joined KW Institute for Contemporary Art in Berlin as assistant curator. Afterwards, from late 2006 to late 2010, Anselm Franke was the director of Extra City Center for Contemporary Art, Antwerpen, Belgium ( later renamed Extra City – Kunsthal Antwerpen ) . In 2008, he co-curated the *Manifesta 7*, and the 1<sup>st</sup> *Brussels Biennale*.

Franke's experience in arts field has been extensively involved in theatre, film and architecture. In 2005, he co-founded (with Stefanie Schulte-Strathaus) the *Forum Expanded* of the International Film festival

Berlin, a new section devoted to art and film. He acts as its curator since every year, presently together with Stefanie Schulte-Strathaus, Bettina Steinbrügge and Nanna Heidenreich. He has given lectures and seminars in several academic institutions, such as Goldsmiths College in London, Bart College in New York and Freie Universität in Berlin etc. He has edited and published various publications and his articles have been seen in contemporary magazines, such as Cabinet Magazine, Parkett, DOMUS, Manifesta Journal, Mousse, and e-flux Journal.

Franke is experienced in curating arts exhibitions. Major projects have been fulfilled are the *Territories, Islands, Camps and Other States of Utopia* (2003) and *Animism* (2010). The former was co-curated with Eyal Weizman and Stefano Boeri, with Multiplicity. The show was touring in Konsthall Malmö in Sweden, Witte de With Center for Contemporary Art in Rotterdam and Index in Stockholm, Bezalel Academy in Tel Aviv and Van Leer Institute Jerusalem.

The *Animism* was a long-term exhibition and publication project, and it has started in Antwerp in collaboration between Extra City—Kunsthall Antwerpen and M HKA since 2010. A second version of the exhibition was shown at Kunsthalle Bern in the same year. Subsequent versions have been developed at the Generali Foundation in Vienna and the House of World Cultures in Berlin in 2011 and 2012, respectively.

### **Taipei Biennial 2012**

What can art do in times of crisis? Not only political or economic crisis, but a crisis of global society, of the very ways of inhabiting the world?

Art has the capacity to make us imagine things differently. It questions our perceptions of the world, the everyday schemes of interpretation, our own positions in our environments. It is not just a question of providing utopian visions or political alternatives, but a process of re-modeling reality through an active engagement with it, involving sensations, thought, dialogue as well as images and materials.

But in the current situation of a global systemic crisis, what are the resources for the imagination? It is no longer the grand narratives as well as the promises of modernity, which have altered the face of the world in the past centuries so profoundly and which determine our environments today.

The ability to imagine reality profoundly relies on the stories and images we use to make sense of the world. And this is always also a question of how we relate to the past. The past is not what was, the past is what is, says the artist Matthew Buckingham. It is through the relation we have to the past, the stories we tell and the images we make, that we act and determine our position in the world.

The Taipei Biennial 2012 aims to bring artists together who question the foundations of our perceptions of history, not as the past, but as actuality. Just as the very grounds on which we stand today is becoming ever-more unstable, the question is whether we are able to negotiate those foundations and retrieve new narratives, capable of grasping global modernity and giving host to its local experience.

The Taipei Biennale 2012 will consist of an exhibition and a program of events, for which we will reach beyond the visual arts. Inspired by a recent book by Taiwanese literature scholar David Wang on the question of representation of history and the monstrosity of modern violence (*The Monster that is History*, 2009), we plan to invoke a broader forum which, through an engagement with history, aims at negotiating perceptions of reality.

### **About TFAM**

Taiwan's first contemporary art museum, TFAM was officially opened to the public on 24 December 1983. Located in Taipei's Yuanshan district, the museum occupies over 20,000 square meters of space, of which 11,741 square meters are devoted to exhibition space. TFAM is fulfilling its mission to promote contemporary art in Taiwan by planning exhibitions, collection art works from Taiwan and abroad, and encouraging art-related education and research. TFAM also promotes international exchange, providing a point of contact within Taiwan and its sponsorship of Taiwanese art exhibitions abroad.

TFAM's exhibitions of modern and contemporary art enhance the cultural life of Taipei, a cosmopolitan and international city moving from the 20th into the 21st century. The museum building, whose walls of glass offer wrap-around views of both the natural landscape and the surrounding cityscape, merges interior and exterior space, is a landmark and symbol of Taipei. Besides serving as a space for art exhibitions and education, the TFAM also offers space for conversation, and contemplation in its food court and bookstores. The TFAM is a place for artful living and the living arts.

### **VISIT**

Address 181, Sec. 3, ZhongShan N. Rd. Taipei, Taiwan

Open Hours Tuesday—Sunday 09: 30—17: 30

Saturday 09: 30—20: 30

[www.tfam.museum](http://www.tfam.museum)