

## Taipei Fine Arts Museum News Release

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### Nicolas Bourriaud appointed curator of Taipei Biennial 2014

Taipei Fine Arts Museum is delighted to announce Nicolas Bourriaud as the curator for Taipei Biennial 2014. The 9<sup>th</sup> Taipei Biennial will be taken place in the middle of September, 2014.



The French art scholar, curator, Nicolas Bourriaud, born in 1965, is currently the director of Ecole des Beaux-Arts, Paris (ENSBA). His arts theory book, *Relational Aesthetics*, published in 1998 has been translated in twelve different languages around the world. He therefore becomes one of the most influential arts critics in the Western contemporary arts world. Bourriaud co-founded the Palais de Tokyo, the center of contemporary arts in Paris, with Jérôme Sans, and was co-director from 1999 to 2006. In 2007, He was invited to be the Gulbenkian Curator of Contemporary Art at Tate Britain and curator of "Altermodern" the fourth Tate Triennial (2009). He has been the director of ENSBA since 2012, and organized exhibitions for the Palais des Beaux-arts, which were "The Angel of History" and "CookBook". He curated for the first and second edition of Moscow Biennale (co-curator in 2005, 2007), and the Lyon Biennale (co-curator, 2005) and the Athens Biennial (2011).

He had visited Taipei Biennial in 2000 and 2012, as well as observed the local arts scene constantly. In his recent visit in last December, he released an article to share with local public his idea concept about Taipei Biennial 2014. He used *The Great Acceleration* as a prolog to elaborate the arts in the anthropocene. The full text of the article is listed below.

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## THE GREAT ACCELERATION ART IN THE ANTHROPOCENE

Nicolas Bourriaud

Human activity has been transforming the planet for millennia. All the ecosystems now bear the mark of human presence, but the scale and speed of change in the last 60 years, called by scientists *The Great Acceleration*, also led them to name *anthropocene* this new geological epoch — an era marked by the strong impact of human activities upon the atmospherical and geological evolution of planet earth.

Taipei Biennial 2014 uses this image in order to examine how contemporary art addresses this new contract between human beings, animals, vegetals, machines, products and objects. How does today's art define and represent our space-time ? The exhibition will highlight the way artists focus on links, chainings, connections and mutations : how they envision planet earth as a huge network, where new states of matter and new forms of relations appear...

To describe capitalism in the 19th century, Karl Marx talked about a “ghost dance” pulling along the humans, their products and their environment. *Reification* on one side (the transformation of the living into an object) and *prosopopeia* on the other (a figure of speech that represents an object or a dead person speaking) are the two major patterns of the new « ghost dance » of global economy. But in addition to these two figures, we could add *montage*, as a connection principle between heterogeneous realities.

The sphere of inter-human relations cannot be conceived anymore without its environmental and technological sides. Since the beginning of the XXIst century, contemporary artists tend to renegotiate their relationships with both technosphere and biosphere, exploring the knots that link the living and the object, the machine and the body, the technological and the social – and experiencing their interdependence.

The uprising of a new « global spirituality » in art appears in the focus made on outsiders and occult forms in the last Venice Biennial, or in the recent calls for an « animist » state of mind in the arts. In the theoretical field, Bruno Latour calls for a « parliament of things », while a recent philosophical movement, « Speculative realism », criticizes anthropocentrism and the notion of « human finitude » so present in western thought : for those philosophers, thinking and being are not correlated, and the human individual does not have any preeminent position in the access to being. Quentin Meillassoux even rejects the necessity of all physical laws of nature, and Graham Harman considers everything as an object, whether physical, fictional,

living or inert. Others, like François Jullien, reexamines western philosophy in a critical way, by confronting its basic concepts to Chinese thought, in which he identifies new potentialities.

This movement of cross-pollination, both cultural and techno-scientific, might lead us to a possible global refoundation of aesthetics, and it will be at the heart of Taipei Biennial 2014. The exhibition will address the cross-overs appearing in the art of the *anthropocene*; it will focus on artists for whom objects, products, computers, screens, chemistry, natural elements or living organisms are interconnected with humans, and can be used by them for a critical analysis of contemporary world.

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### **About TFAM**

Taiwan's first modern and 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 arts education. 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**

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

Saturday 09: 30—20: 30

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

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