

(Press Release Vol.1 / As of March, 1998)

1998 Taipei Biennial **"Site of Desire"**

Taipei Fine Art Museum
Taipei, Taiwan
June 13 - September 6, 1998

The 1998 Taipei Biennial will be held at the Taipei Fine Arts Museum from June 13 to September 6, 1998.

NANJO Fumio has been invited to serve as commissioner of the Biennial, which introduces over 30 artists from different parts of Northeast Asia, including Taiwan, China, South Korea, and Japan.

The theme of the 1998 Biennial is "desire." Since the first Biennial in 1992, the exhibition's contents have matured substantially; this marks the first international exhibition with foreign curators and artists.

The sudden shift from rapid economic growth and prosperity to deep economic crises and political unrest has deeply shaken the Northeast Asian region as the 21st century looms. Focusing its vision on desire as a generating force behind the society and world in which we live, the 1998 Biennial examines from various angles the changing chaotic shape and dynamism of today's cities, seeking new potential sources of energy for the future. Through the theme of desire, it also considers various contemporary social issues such as fashion, consumerism, identity, gender, and the conflict between tradition and modernity, while at the same time aiming to raise them to the level of universal questions regarding the true nature of culture and human existence.

The Biennial will be made up of works from a broad range of genres, and will include painting, sculpture, and media related work as well as installation pieces designed specifically for the exhibition space. The ages, experiences, and backgrounds of the artists too are diverse. The manner of displaying the works in the Biennial have two special characteristics. Firstly, the exhibition space is not limited to the 1st and 2nd floors, but is expanded to include the foyer, courtyard, and outside walls and outside museum spaces. Together, the number of works on display outside the building alters the external look of the museum. Secondly, regarding the exhibition rooms inside the museum, separate space has been allocated to each artist as far as possible by respecting each artist's creative world.

We believe that the Biennial will lead to a reaffirmation of the historical and cultural ties shared by the different parts of Northeast Asia, which have formed unique cultures under the strong influence of the modern West and the heritage of Asian thoughts, as well as promote further mutual understanding and cooperation among these regions.

Commissioner's Statement

A Century of Desire

Asia is aglow today.

Asia destructs, constructs, and transforms.

Asia's cities are seeking a new post-colonial identity as they sculpt modernity. Its economies have grown, heated up and contracted. Its politics are in turmoil, and its democracies are beginning to take on unique shapes. All of these aspects are also a sign of Asia's dynamism. Tradition is being reexamined and reborn as well as being creatively transmitted. Western modernity is learned from, studied, copied, and denied.

Behind the dynamism and motivation to advance lies mankind's insatiable desire. Desire sparks the pursuit of new fashions, automobiles, modern homes, computers – in short, a pleasant life.

Desire lies at the root of all things. The desires of human beings, states, and ethnic groups or races triggered major wars in the 20th century. Desire also led mankind to great inventions and discoveries. The collapse of communism and the prosperity brought by capitalism are also an inevitable result of human desire. Desire changes daily life, changes cities, and even changes economics and politics. From a religious perspective, it represents worldly attachment, as well as karma. But it is also a wellspring for human progress and potential.

Focusing on desire as a driving force behind Asia's cities and peoples, a force that is transforming the region, the Biennial introduces contemporary Northeast Asian art that depicts Asia today.

NANJO Fumio
Commissioner

Outline of the exhibition

Exhibition title: 1998 Taipei Biennial "Site of Desire"
 Dates: June 13 - September 6, 1998 (Public view)
 Press Opening: June 12, 1998
 Place: Taipei Fine Arts Museum
 181, Chung-Shan N. Road, Sec. 3, Taipei, Taiwan
 Organized by: Taipei Fine Arts Museum
 General Commissioner: LIN Munlee
 Commissioner: NANJO Fumio
 Associate Curators: MIKI Akiko, CHANG Fangwei

Artists and Works

More than thirty artists from around Northeast Asia, including Taiwan, South Korea, China, and Japan are scheduled to take part. No restrictions were placed on the age, experience, or background of the participants, and so the exhibition includes prominent artists who have participated in numerous international shows and younger artists whose work is being shown internationally for the first time. The genres include not only painting, sculpture, and media related works, but also billboards, banners, and balloons, as well as specially commissioned photographs for the exhibition. Some of the works may be installed around Taipei City. Moreover, a special project involving some of the artists is planned as an opening event.

Catalogue

A bilingual catalogue will be published. Essays from critics or scholars about issues connected with the exhibition's theme will be included.

For further information, please contact:

TAIPEI FINE ARTS MUSEUM
 181, Chung-shan N. RD., Sec. 3, Taipei,
 Taiwan
 Tel 886-2-2595-7656 Fax: 886-2-2591-2181

NANJO and ASSOCIATES
 Twin Bldg. Daikanyama B-102, 50-8 Sarugaku-cho,
 Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 150 JAPAN
 Tel 81-3-8780-0491 Fax 81-3-8780-0753

参加アーティストリスト

(アルファベット・オーダー / 1998年3月25日現在 / 進行中リストのため変更の可能性あり)

<中国>

CAI Guoqiang
 GU Dexin
 LIN Yilin
 WANG Qinsong
 XU Bing
 XU Tan
 ZHENG Guogu
 その他

蔡國強
 顧徳新
 林一林
 王庆松
 徐冰
 徐坦
 鄭国谷

<日本>

ARAKI Nobuyoshi
 OZAWA Tsuyoshi
 KUSAKA Junichi/ID BOUTIQUE
 KUSAMA Yayoi
 MIYAJIMA Tatsuo
 NAKAYAMA Daisuke
 SUDA Yoshihiro
 YANAGI Miwa
 YANAGI Yukinori

荒木経惟
 小沢剛
 日下淳一/アイディーブティック
 草間彌生
 宮島達男
 中山ダイスケ
 須田悦弘
 やなぎみわ
 柳幸典

<韓国>

BAHC Mo
 CHOI Jeonghwa
 JUNG Bocsu
 KIM Beom
 KIM Sora
 OH Hyoungkuhn
 YUN Suknam
 その他

朴某
 崔正化
 丁ト洙
 金範
 金小羅
 吳亨根
 尹錫男

<台湾>

CHEN Chiehjen
 CHIEN Fuyu
 HO Chungming
 HUANG Chinho
 LIU Shihfen
 TSAI Hairu
 WANG Junjieh
 WU Mali
 WU Tienchang
 その他

陳界仁
 簡扶育
 侯俊明
 黃進河
 劉世芬
 蔡海如
 王俊傑
 吳瑪俐
 吳天章