

ART, POLITICS AND CENSORSHIP IN JAPAN AND BEYOND

16th March 2018

Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures

One Day Workshop

(By Invitation Only)

9:15-5:30pm

Please contact [Adrian Favell](#) or [Kazz Morohashi](#) for further information

About the Workshop

Public decency cases and politically controversial art works have recently raised a great deal of debate in Japan about an apparent drift towards censorship in Japan. Partly there have been cases of outside pressure (legal action against artists or public pressure on museums), but also there is the question of a distinctive national culture of self-censorship in which artists carefully align themselves to not cross critical or offensive lines. This trend, however, is certainly not confined to Japan, and needs to be discussed in the context of the decay of the public sphere in countries worldwide, driven by the rising sensationalism and populist mentality of both mainstream and social media.

Our one day workshop brings together a group of specialist researchers, curators and artists whose work and engagement has confronted the difficult question of political expression in art, and who have been involved directly in some of these recent debates. We will pay particular attention to the work of the Artists' Guild and their 2016 Tokyo MOT exhibition and publication, *Loose Lips Save Ships / Our Feardom of Expression and Internalization of Censorship*; to the questions raised by the touring exhibition of work in the Fukushima exclusion zone, *Don't Follow the Wind*; to theatre-based art work by the collective Chelfitsch and Takamine Tadasu; to questions raised about post-colonial relations in East Asia by artists such as Yoshiko Shimada; and the engagement of various artists and curators introduced to the UK by Art Action UK. The themes of the workshop will be launched with an introduction by the distinguished sociologist Yoshitaka Mouri, in discussion with curator Miwako Tezuka. Through the day we will also be joined "live" via internet by practicing artists. We aim to publish an edited feature article based on the day's discussions in a leading contemporary art review.

The all day workshop on Friday 16th March follows the [Third Thursday Lecture](#) on the evening of Thursday 15th March, in which Adrian Favell will offer an introductory lecture to the changing themes and aesthetics of Japanese contemporary art since the triple earthquake disasters of March 2011.

List of Participants

Yoshitaka Mouri. Sociologist. Professor, Tokyo University of the Arts.

Miwako Tezuka. Consulting Curator, ARAKAWA-GINS Reversible Destiny Foundation. Former director of Japan Society Gallery, New York, and co-founder of PoNJA-GenKon.

Yumi Song. Artist, curator & writer. Curator of Arafudo Art Annual, Fukushima

Jason Waite. Curator. University of Oxford, PhD researcher. Co-curator of *Don't Follow The Wind* project, an exhibition onsite in the Fukushima exclusion zone

Hiroki Yamamoto. Artist, and PhD researcher, Chelsea College of Arts, University of the Arts London.

Shino Yanai. Artist. Royal College of Art, MFA.

Yoi Kawakubo. Artist. Fellow of Japanese Agency of Cultural Affairs, London.

Kaori Homma. Artist, Associate Lecturer, Central St. Martins, University of the Arts London, and Founder of Art Action UK

Sharon Kinsella. Lecturer in Japanese Studies, University of Manchester. Author of *Schoolgirls, Money and Rebellion in Japan* (2013)

Barbara Geilhorn. Lecturer in Japanese Cultural Studies, Freie Universität Berlin. Co-editor of *Fukushima and the Arts: Negotiating Nuclear Disaster* (2017)

Keith Whittle. Researcher, art advisor & producer. Lecturer on Modern and Contemporary Japanese Art at Sothebys Institute of Art and associate curator at White Rainbow Gallery, London

Meryl Doney. Curator, co-founder Art Action UK

Caroline Fisher. Curator, Norwich University of the Arts, Gallery

Nell Croose Myhill. Learning Officer, Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts, UEA

Toshio Watanabe. Professor for Japanese Arts and Cultural Heritage, SISJAC/UEA and Professor of History of Art and Design, Research Centre for Transnational Art, Identity and Nation (TrAIN), University of the Arts London

Eriko Tomizawa-Kay. Lecturer in Japanese Language, University of East Anglia

Ra Mason. Sasakawa Lecturer in International Relations and Japanese Foreign Policy, University of East Anglia

Stephanie Su. Robert and Lisa Sainsbury Fellow 2017-18, SISJAC

Amanda Kennell. Robert and Lisa Sainsbury Fellow 2017-18, SISJAC

Organised by

Adrian Favell. Chair in Sociology and Social Theory, University of Leeds.
Professorial Academic Associate, SISJAC

Kazz Morohashi. Artist/Designer, and Research, Planning and Public Relations
Officer, SISJAC