

Lecture and Symposium: Contemporary Central European Art

This year, 2014, is V4 plus Japan Exchange Year. “V4” refers to the Visegrád Four, a regional cooperative bloc of four Central European nations: Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Hungary. In honor of this year of international exchange, we organized a lecture and symposium on the arts of the V4 nations and their neighbors and of Japan, focusing on how the arts have progressed in each of these places and what role they have played in society, while taking into account each country’s specific historical background.

The lecture and symposium were held in Kyoto and Tokyo, and the Kyoto event was in two parts. The first, primarily dedicated to Tadeusz Kantor, one of Poland’s most renowned 20th-century artists, and the Cricoteka archive of Kantor material that reopened after renovation this past autumn, aimed to shed light on the significance of his accomplishments. This portion of the event was organized in part by the Archival Research Center at Kyoto City University of Arts, and also incorporated the fourth meeting of the Tadeusz Kantor Research Society. The second part consisted of talks by each of the curators from the V4 and surrounding nations that are currently in Japan as part of a Japan Foundation project to invite overseas curators, highlighting and comparing the specific dilemmas and conflicts each country faced after World War II and how they fit into the Cold War power structure, and examining the ways in which this legacy continues to affect each nation today.

In Tokyo, the central European curators invited by the Japan Foundation gave similar reports on their countries’ histories and circumstances, and a general overview and discussion took place with specialists in central European art taking part.

In recent years, there has been growing interest in the former Communist states of the Eastern Bloc, which during the Cold War era were seldom discussed as little information on them leaked out from behind the Iron Curtain. Examining and elucidating these countries’ cultures and arts, and their relationship to Japan, provides a range of new perspectives differing

from those of the primarily Western Europe-centered studies that have predominated thus far, and in this context, this lecture and symposium was one of great significance to our understanding of the contemporary art world.

I am deeply grateful to everyone whose assistance and cooperation made this project possible. Moving forward, we will build on what was achieved here, further promoting mutual exchange among nations, and research on culture and the arts that transcends national borders.

Akiko Kasuya (Associate Professor, Faculty of Fine Arts, Kyoto City University of Arts)

***Kyoto:**

Date: 6 December 2014 part 1- 14:00 to 15:30/ part 2- 16:00 to 19:30

Venue: Kyoto Art Center

Part 1: Lecture by Prof. dr hab. Maria POPRZECKA “Tadeusz Kantor - artist between local story and global fame”

Organized by Kyoto City University of Arts, Co-organized by Kyoto Art Center, Polish Institute in Tokyo, Cooperated by the Japan Foundation (the series of the lecture by Archival Research Center and the 4th meeting for study on Tadeusz Kantor)

Part 2: Symposium “Contemporary Central European Art”

Panelists: Six invited curators from Central Europe

Mediator: Akiko Kasuya (Associate Professor, Faculty of Fine Arts, Kyoto City University of Arts)

Commentators: Toshino Iguchi (Professor, Faculty of Liberal Arts, Saitama University),

Maria Poprzącka (Professor, Faculty of “Artes Liberales”, University of Warsaw),

Organized by Kyoto City University of Arts, Co-organized by Kyoto Art Center, the Japan Foundation, Cooperated by Polish Institute in Tokyo

Invited curators:

Sebastian Cichocki (Deputy Director, Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw, Poland)

Aron Fenyvesi (Curator, Trafo Gallery, Hungary)

Marie Klimešová (Associate Professor, Charles University in Prague, Institute for Art History, Czech Republic)

Anca Verona Mihulet (Independent Curator, Romania)

Zora Rusinova (Professor of Art History, Academy of Fine Arts and Design, Bratislava, Slovakia)

Igor Spanjol (Curator, Museum of Modern Art, Slovenia)

*Tokyo

Date: 12 December 2014 18:00 to 20:30

Venue: The Japan Foundation JFIC Hall "Sakura"

Panelists: Six invited curators from Central Europe

Mediator: Akiko Kasuya (Associate Professor, Faculty of Fine Arts, Kyoto City University of Arts)

Commentators: Toshino Iguchi (Professor, Faculty of Liberal Arts, Saitama University),

Maria Poprzeczka (Professor, Faculty of "Artes Liberales", University of Warsaw),

Atsushi Miyazaki

Organized by the Japan Foundation, Co-organized by Kyoto City University of Arts, Kyoto Art Center, Cooperated by Polish Institute in Tokyo

Invited curators:

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Anca Verona Mihulet (Independent Curator, Romania)

Zora Rusinova (Professor of Art History, Academy of Fine Arts and Design, Bratislava, Slovakia)

Igor Spanjol (Curator, Museum of Modern Art, Slovenia)

Sebastian Cichocki Born in 1975, lives and works in Warsaw, Poland.

Sociologist, curator and writer, is currently the deputy director at the Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw. Between 2005–2008, he worked as director of the Centre for Contemporary Art Kronika in Bytom. His focus is on neo-conceptual reflection, land art, thing theory and art-related literary fictions. Curator of numerous exhibitions, including Monika Sosnowska's 1:1 exhibition in the Polish Pavilion in the 52 Venice Biennale and Yael Bartana's ... and Europe will be Stunned in the 54 Venice Biennale, The Sculpture Park in Bródno (2009–ongoing), New National Art. National Realism in 21st Century Poland (Warsaw MoMA, 2012), As You Can See. Polish Art Today (Warsaw MoMA, 2014), Rainbow in the Dark (SALT, Istanbul 2014). He has published in periodicals such as Artforum, Cabinet, Mousse, Krytyka Polityczna, FUKT, Muzeum, Czas Kultury, IDEA arts+society, Camera Austria.

Áron Fenyvesi Born in 1983, Novi Sad. He is a Budapest based curator and art writer. Since 2011 he is the curator of Trafó Gallery, Budapest. Fenyvesi curated various exhibitions in Hungary and abroad focusing on the local, regional and international emerging art scene – his recent shows were held at Trafó Gallery, Budapest; Galeria Plan B, Berlin; Kunstforum Ostdeutsche Gallery, Regensburg; Museum of Contemporary Art (MSU), Zagreb and Club Electroputere, Craiova. In 2009 he was nominated for the Lorenzo Bonaldi EnterPrize hosted by GAMeC, Bergamo. His essays were published in ArtReview and in Roundtable, e-journal of the Gwangju Biennale 2012.

Marie Klimešová Ph.D. Born in 1952, art historian and curator, member of AICA and Society of Czech Art historians (chairman, 2005–2007). City Gallety in Prague (1987 - 1997) and Collection of Modern and Contemporary Art of the National Gallery in Prague (1997 - 2002, 09/2000 - 01/2011 director). From 2005 associated professor at the Institute for art history at the Charles University in Prague. She prepared a significant number of exhibitions focused to the modern art after the WW II, especially two comprehensive views of Czech art from periods held as the „black holes“: Focuses of the rebirth: Czech Art 1957 - 1963 (1994); Years in Days: Czech Art 1945 - 1957, (2010, award for curator over 35 years). Newly, she prepared important exhibitions of Czech artists Běla Kolářová (Raven Row, London), Jiří Kolář (Prague, Smečky Gallery), Stanislav Podhrázský (City

Gallery in Prague) and Zbyněk Sekal (Westbohemian Gallery Pilsen).

Anca Verona Mihuleț is a freelance curator based in Sibiu and Bucharest (RO). Between 2006 and 2013, together with Liviana Dan, Anca Verona Mihuleț has curated the exhibition program of the The Contemporary Art Gallery of the Brukenthal National Museum in Sibiu, with projects such as: Adi Matei - Moon Shuffle; Napoleon Tiron – solo exhibition; The Congress Dances. The Elephants Have Gone Crazy – a collective project of Micha Payer & Martin Gabriel, Katharina Gruzei, Andrea Winkler; Matei Bejenaru - Projects 2008 – 2010; Mihai Olos – solo exhibition; Pavel Brăila - Chișinău – Sibiu – Brăila. In 2013, she was the curator of the exhibition Reflection Center for Suspended Histories. An Attempt, presented as one of the two Romanian Pavilions at the 55th edition of the Venice Biennale. In 2014, she organized in collaboration with S-AIR Sapporo and Japan Foundation an artistic residency in Sibiu under the title Conditional Landscape. In 2015, together with Patrick D. Flores, Anca Verona Mihuleț is curating the exhibition South by Southeast, which will be presented at Osage Gallery in Hong Kong.

Prof. Zora Rusinová, PhD. The head of the Division of Visual and Cultural Studies Research Centre, Academy of Fine Arts and Design Bratislava. She graduated art history at the Comenius University in Bratislava, in 2001 she defended her PhD Theses on Palacky University Olomouc, 2009 became profesor at Trnava University and since 2010 is a researcher at the Research Centre AFAD, Bratislava. She started as doctorand at Art History Institute of slovak Academy of science, then she worked in publishing house Tatran in Bratislava /1979-1990/. Since 1992 until 2007 as a curator in Slovak National Gallery in Bratislava she prepared many monographic and collective exhibitions of the modern and contemporary art in Slovakia and abroad (e. g. Sixties in the Slovak visual Art /SNG, 1995/; Pars pro toto /SNG, 1995/; Sculpture in Time /Oronsko, Poland, 1996/; Epicuros Garden /SNG,1996/; Limitlos /Kunsthalle Dresden, 1997/; Paradise Lost /SNG, 1998/; 20th Century – in cycle History of Slovak Visual Art /SNG, 2000/; Art of Action 1965 - 1989 /SNG, 2001/; Autopoesis /SNG, 2009/ etc. She also colaborated on some international project (e. g. Gender Check, MuMok, Wien, 2009 - curator Bojana Pejic, etc). She is also an author of some

monographies about Slovak artists (K. Baron, V. Popovič, M. Mudroch, B. Hostiňák, V. Rónaiová, A. Čierny, etc.) catalogues and synthetic publications (e. g. Self-portrait in Slovak Visual Art in 20th Century+), scientific texts, articles, reviews, etc.

Igor Španjol Born in 1972, lives and works in Ljubljana, Slovenia. Studied sociology of culture and art history at the Faculty of Arts in Ljubljana. Since 1999 works as a curator at the Moderna galerija Ljubljana/Museum of Modern Art. Most important collaborative projects: exhibition trilogy Slovene Art 1975–2005 at the Moderna galerija (co-curated with Igor Zabel, 2003-2005) series of exhibitions in Moderna galerija's project space Mala galerija (Andrei Monastirsky, Danica Dakić, Harun Farocki, Deimantas Narkevičius, Silvia Kolbowski and David Maljković among others, 2007-2009), permanent display of the collection of the Museum of Contemporary Art Metelkova (co-curated with Zdenka Badovinac and Bojana Piškur) and retrospectives of Marko Peljhan (2010), Marko Pogačnik (2012) and Tadej Pogačar (2014).

Prof. dr hab. Maria POPRZEČKA Born in 1942, lives and works in Warsaw. 1989-2008 Director of the Institute of History of Art at the University of Warsaw. Currently Professor at The Faculty Artes Liberales at the University of Warsaw Author of over 400 publications: dissertations and scientific articles, essays, popular articles and published interviews. Currently, Prof. Poprzącka is mainly focused on contemporary visual culture, its theoretical, historical and axiological aspects. She pays attention to the methodological part of research on art. She is also an art critic and essayist and she disseminates knowledge about art. Most important publications before 2014 *Akademizm* (Academism), Warsaw 1977 (3rd extended edition 1989). *O złej sztuce* (On bad art), Warsaw 1998. *Arcydzieła malarstwa polskiego* (Masterpieces of Polish Painting), Warsaw 1997 (many reeditions) *Pochwała malarstwa* (Praise of painting), Gdańsk 2000. *Inne obrazy* (Another images), Gdańsk 2007 *Uczta bogiń* (The Feast of Goddesses), Warsaw 2012

Toshino Iguchi Ph.D She is professor of Faculty of Liberal Arts at Saitama University and chair of the Design History Workshop Japan. Her research

focuses on the modernism and avant-garde art and design in Central Europe and Japan. Professor Iguchi's publications include Hungarian Avant-garde 'MA' and Moholy-Nagy, (Sairyusha, Tokyo, 2000), Avant-garde Manifesto: Central and Eastern Europe Modernism, (Sangensha, Tokyo, 2005) and Moholy-Nagy: Visual Experiments (Kokusho-Kankokai, 2011), "Towards Osaka Expo '70: The Avant-Garde and Art and Technology in Japan" (Collection of Papers Dedicated to the 40th Anniversary of the Institute for Art History, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade, 2012) and Central European Modern Art (Sairyusha, 2013). She worked on the Exhibition: Moholy-Nagy in Motion, Kanagawa Prefectural Museum, National Museum of Modern Art Kyoto and Kawamura Museum in 2011.

Atsushi Miyazaki Born in 1979, lives in Tokyo. He is a postgraduate researcher, completed the doctoral program, Graduate School of Area and Culture Studies, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, March 2014. His research concerns Czech art and surrealism. Publication: Avant Garde Declaration—Modernism in Central-Eastern Europe (Sangensha, 2005, joint translation/coauthorship), Central European Contemporary Art: Poland, Czech, Slovakia, Hungary (Sairyusha, 2014, coauthorship) etc.

Akiko Kasuya is an Associate Professor of General Science of Art at Kyoto City University of Art. Formerly she served as Curator of Contemporary Art at the National Museum of Art, Osaka. Her major exhibitions include Art and The Environment (1998); A Second Talk (2002); Positioning-In the New Reality of Europe (2005); Still/Motion: Liquid Crystal Painting (2008); Tatsuno Art Project: Arts and Memories 2011-13 etc. Major Publications: Avant Garde Declaration — Modernism in Central-Eastern Europe (Sangensha, 2005, joint translation), For Those Who Learn Poland (Sekaishissha, 2007, joint authorship); Modern Art in Central Europe (Sairyusha, 2013, joint authorship); Polish Avant-garde Art: Applied Fantasy for survival (Sogensha, 2014) ; Contemporary Art in Central Europe (Sairyusha, 2014, joint authorship)etc.