



Joint East Asian Project

● Overview

Western rationalism has had its time in the 20th Century but it is undeniable that the 21st Century will focus on the developing juggernaut of Asia and in particular China. We are at the end of the materialistic civilization developed through mass production and mass consumerism under the banner of Western liberty and freedom. The new millennium also heralds the need for changes in global politics, economics, philosophy, science and religion. The conflicts and social problems of the 20th Century will face new challenges in the 21st Century. Fortunately the long history and culture of Asia now has the chance to influence and supersede the Western dominated global culture. It is the time for us to plant the seeds of our dream and create a future of peace and compassion based on values common throughout Asia. This is the goal of the Joint East Asian Project.

● The Significance of Art and the Responsibility of Artists

During the 20th Century, people put their minds to the progress and growth of their countries, businesses, and religions. Our lives are entwined in the mind-set of the nation we are born in. We are formed by the information we are exposed to, such as the nationalistic point of view of our country's establishment, the propaganda. However some artist is more aware and able to step back from the society they live in. They are able to see and express the truth about our lives in society that the common person cannot see. While the artists of the 20th Century expressed the many changes and fast technological progress during the last Century the artists of the 21st Century are, by necessity, needed to express the truth and significance about our lives and values in our current society. In this way, the artists of the 21st Century bear much more responsibility to the present time.

● The Importance of Creating a Common Understanding in East Asia through the Dialogue of the Arts

In the 21st Century we must share and develop the common values held between Asian nations and races to benefit humanity and foster mutual respect between all countries. In this way we can find the answers that Western rationalism has been unable to solve. This is the important role that 21st Century art must take up. The seeds of this dream can not come from just one nation but the joint effort of all geographical, historical, and racial groups of Asia to form a common value system to share with the world. When this occurs, the benefits will spread across the world along side of Asia's dominance over the global economy. These new global values will be significantly different

than the ones embraced by Western rationalism. These values are what the Joint East Asian Project will attempt to promote.

● **Developing Independence in the Japanese Arts**

Japan achieved such phenomenal growth after the Second World War that it became one of the richest countries in the world 20 years ago. The Arts in Japan had been supported by that economic growth, however Japanese arts are also constrained by a hierarchal establishment similar to the remote system of traditional Japanese Arts. Typical of Japanese village communities, unique and creative individuals are not as valued as interpersonal relationships such as between teacher and apprentice. In this way the Arts were supported by a seniority system which is similar to a socialist society. However, as Japan Globalized and the Information Revolution occurred the traditional borders have been torn down. The Japanese village community mentality has begun to change.

The most important aspect of life in society is 'self'. The future of Japan requires self-reflection on the way we live and connect to society and how we work with others. These dialogs require one to assert oneself. Artists and their creative expression will now, more than ever, be an essential part of this dialog about 'self' in society. But I'm pessimistic about the Japanese art scene because it has yet to have global influence. Today's artist must have the willpower to become independent of the art establishment. We have to change from the vertical establishment structure with Museums, Universities, and traditional Mass Communication to a horizontal multi-path approach more appropriate for the Information Age if we are to have worldwide significance.

● **East Asian Community Project**

The idea is not simply to have an exchange of art but to present the common consciousness and values of East Asia. The short-term business details have not been worked out so it is important to develop this project step by step.

For the first event, the Japanese and Korean directors will choose an artist from each country who can express the common values of East Asia. This exhibition will be held in Japan and Korea.

2010 Artist Exchange Exhibition

April Kim Joong Sik (Tokyo)

May Sato Haruna (Seoul)

2011 Artist Exchange Exhibition

For the second event Japan, Korea, and China will participate. Each country's director will choose an artist. The exhibition will tour the three countries.

2012 Artist Exchange Exhibition

Taiwan will join the Exchange and the exhibition will tour the four countries.

2015 Artist Exchange Exhibition

There will be an Open Application Call for artists to be selected for a tour of the four countries.

2018 There will be a competition held in the East Asian Region

Please look over the Project Schedule Calendar.

The artists involved in this project will represent and spread their influence beyond East Asia and confront and engage the Western Art Culture.

● **The Goal of the East Asian Community Project**

The goal is to reach the people who are striving to make a better society.

I hope to participate with others who are connected to the Arts and Humanities community.

Our gallery will hold activities such as symposiums, discussions, etc.

We look forward to your participation.

November 19th, 2009
Gallery Art Composition
Director Seki Kazuhiro