

Application Guideline

Curators' Workshop

FY2015-2016

1. Introduction

The Japan Foundation announces a call for applications to a Curators' Workshop from November to December in Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam in 2015. It is a program aimed to enhance expertise in curating contemporary art and related platforms. Participants are required to present an exhibition/art project proposal at the workshop and two selected participants will receive a grant for a two weeks research tour in Japan (February 22th-March 6th, 2016), after which they will be asked to organize an exhibition/art project in 2017 in Thailand.

The general theme of the workshop is "What is Southeast Asia?" Southeast Asia is, on the whole, understood historically as a region that is located between China and India where a diverse range of culture and ethnic groups exist. It has been a strategic location where vessels from the East and the West cross. Many in the region once experienced colonization by the West in the 19th century and becoming an independent nation-state after the Second World War. Today, the region collectively draws attention from elsewhere as ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations), an association which encourages collaboration among its members in the political, economic, social, and cultural fields. Under this scheme, the members in the region have increasingly shaped each other's society and culture in a broader term.

But for those who reside in the region, what does this regional binding of "Southeast Asia" mean? In the field of the visual arts, for example, national art histories have been written, but is it possible to write a regional art history for the whole of Southeast Asia? How can curators contribute to the regional art scene, while also taking part in the global art scene, both made possible as a result of the advancement in information technology?

For this workshop, with the assistance of the facilitators from the participating countries, the general theme of "What is Southeast Asia?" is broken down into sub-themes that are tailored to meet the local conditions. The applicants of the workshop are requested to submit a project plan that anticipates diverse approaches to the suggested theme along with their applications. We look forward to submission of challenging proposals.

*For more detailed schedule of this project as a whole, please refer to attachment.

2. Dates

December 18th-20th, 2015 (3 days)

3. Venue

Room 501, 5th Floor, Bangkok Art and Culture Centre

4. Lecturers

Ms. Pichaya Aime Suphavanij – Curator, Head of Exhibitions, Bangkok Art and Culture Centre

Ms. Che Kyongfa- Curator, Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo

5. Number of participants to be accepted

Maximum of 7 persons

*Two Japanese young curators and one curator each from Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar will join.

**Domestic transportation and accommodation for participants from outside Bangkok will be covered by the Japan Foundation.

6. Eligibility

Applying candidates must fulfill the following eligibilities:

- 1) Those who have broad interests in curatorial practices not limited to contemporary art but also include art history, architecture, material culture, music and performance, etc.
- 2) Those who are 35 years old or below at the time of application
- 3) Those who are able to attend the full duration of both the workshop (December 18th-20th) and the research tour in Japan (February 22th-March 6th, 2016)
- 4) Those who commit to participate in all the events described in the attached, beyond the workshop and the research tour above (i.e. Collaborative Exhibition and Local Exhibition, the details are to be announced)
- 5) Those who are able to communicate and discuss in English

7. Application

Please submit the application form in full with required documents to the Japan Foundation, Bangkok via e-mail (curatorsworkshop@jfbkk.or.th) with subject heading “Curators’ Workshop 2015” **by November 20th, 2015.**

<Required Documents>

- Application form
- CV
- Portfolio of past 3 projects, if any
- Project Plan (max of 800 words essay, with suggested venue/site for exhibition, artist with existing or commissioned artwork, and sketches, photos, installation plan and budget plan - as detailed as possible and if applicable) to be presented/disseminated according to this program concept, which is mentioned below under the concept, “Hybridity” as Methods.”

<Sub Concept =Project Concept in Thailand>

“Hybridity” as Methods

The workshop takes “hybridity” as curatorial methodology. Participants will discuss how to come up with new mode of thinking, articulation and creation of communities through bypassing, mediating, translating or negotiating with various fields of academic disciplines, medium of expression, and aesthetic languages. In order for each curator to respond to a certain context of society and addressing various communities and individuals, it is important to start from specific points of departure (in the form of interests, needs, desire, doubts, frustration...), and think beyond the regional as well as the national. At the same time, curators are required to break away from existing modes of conceiving curatorial projects.

“Hybridity as methods” also resonates with our loosely-set conceptual framework that aim to revisit each of our understanding of Southeast Asia, the positions and perspectives that we take from each of our standpoint. Here, the term hybridity also functions as a reminder that this is never-ending process of contacting with and incorporating differences, which is a fundamental condition of every culture, hence defies any forms of static or singular identity.

✂Notes

- (1) Interested applicants may propose venues such as an institution, museum, gallery or art space etc., but it will not be a commercial show. Once selected for production, the curator has to take initiative in securing the space and managing the project.
- (2) For the workshop, the proposal needs to be developed on the level that the curator has artists and actual works for the show in mind (except commissioning of new work), as well as the installation plan.

8. Notice of Award

Those who are accepted to participate in the workshop will be notified by December 1st, 2015.

9. Contact and Inquiries

The Japan Foundation, Bangkok

Attn: Chigusa Tomita (Ms.)/ Soraya Srisaton (Ms.)

10th Fl Serm-Mit Tower, 159 Sukhumvit 21 Rd, Bangkok 10110 Thailand

Tel : 662-260-8560-4 Fax : 662-260-8565 E-mail: curatorsworkshop@jfbkk.or.th