

Singapore Biennale 2006

Curatorial Team: Roger MCDONALD (JAPAN)



Roger Christopher McDonald PhD.

Born in Tokyo, Japan (1971), Roger McDonald was educated in the United Kingdom, studying International Politics (BA, Wales), Mysticism and Religious Experience (MA, Kent) and received a PhD in History and Theory of Art from the University of Kent in 2000. He has been based in Tokyo, Japan since 2000.

His curatorial work has included exhibitions in a number of non-gallery sites including a forest in Kiyosato, Japan, his home in London, a kindergarten in Tokyo, a disused restaurant and working vegetable market in Naha city Okinawa, a night club in Tokyo and an ongoing touring exhibition from a suitcase in the 'Moving Collection' project (Tokyo, Okinawa, Fukui, New Zealand). He was assistant curator to Fumio Nanjo for The Yokohama Triennale 2001. He was a co-curator for the major Japanese contemporary art exhibition 'Mediarena', held at The Govett Brewster Art gallery, New Zealand in 2004. He is a co-curator for 'Green Times' (opening autumn 2005), the inaugural exhibition for a new park culture centre in Tachikawa, Tokyo, which looks into the role of green spaces and parks in cities with a focus on the way people use such spaces. He maintains a weblog called The Tactical Museum where he publishes news about autonomous activities in Japan as well as his research interests into different forms of curatorial practice: <http://rogermc.blogs.com/tactical/>

He is Deputy Director of the Tokyo non profit arts collective AIT (Arts Initiative Tokyo) and co-organises its independent study school programme called MAD (Making Art Different), which amongst other courses, offers the first contemporary curating course in Japan. AIT emphasises a collective curatorial and working approach, and within this framework he has co-organised the ongoing 'AIT Hour Museum' series of exhibition/events as well as the irregular lounge club night 'Minglius'. In 2004 he travelled to Weimar, Germany to represent AIT in the exhibition 'Even the Moon is Not Autonomous', an archive and exhibition of socially engaged practices from Japan. AIT has recently been initiating a series of research and exhibition platforms exploring notions of the Public now in Tokyo and beyond.

Roger McDonald also teaches on the arts management course of Musashino Art University, Tokyo, as well as being a visiting tutor at Zokei Art University. He has also lectured at the California College of Arts, San Francisco, Tate Britain, UK, The Japan Foundation, Tokyo, amongst other places.