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**Leading Australian Art Critic Mr. John McDonald
To Speak about Contemporary Art in a Multi-Cultural Society**
Japan-Australia Year of Exchange

From August 22 to September 5, 2006, the Japan Foundation will invite to Japan **Mr. John McDonald, senior art critic of the *Sydney Morning Herald***, a quality newspaper with the largest circulation in Australia, as the part of its initiative to give prominent cultural figures from all over the world first-hand opportunities to experience Japan.

On this occasion, the Japan Foundation will host a **talk on “Australia: Contemporary Art in a Multi-Cultural Society”** by Mr. McDonald. It will be moderated by Ms. Shihoko Iida, the curator of Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery, who is also involved in “Rapt!—20 Contemporary Artists from Japan,” a JF-sponsored project in Australia.

Mr. McDonald will discuss how artists in Australia view themselves in terms of their multicultural and multiethnic origins as well as their identity as Australians and how such sentiments are incorporated in their artwork, by showing their jobs on the screen. The talk will be followed by a question-and-answer session, and light snacks and drinks will also be served.

The Japan Foundation welcomes requests for interviews with Mr. McDonald.

Date & Time : Monday, September 4, 2006

Place : The Japan Foundation **JFIC Commons** (Ark Mori Building 20 F)

Venue opens at 18:30 Session starts at 19:00

Language: Consecutive interpretation will be provided in Japanese and English.

Media booking: Required by 17:30 on August 30 (Applications will close when places are filled.)

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The talk will be supported by the nonprofit organization Arts Initiative Tokyo.

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