



New Art from Southeast Asia 1992

Che Kyongfa

The exhibition “New Art from Southeast Asia 1992” was co-organized by the Japan Foundation ASEAN Culture Center, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, the Fukuoka Art Museum, and the Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art, and featured seventeen artists from six ASEAN countries (Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand). The exhibition traveled to four cities—Tokyo, Fukuoka, Hiroshima and Osaka—as the first exhibition in Japan devoted to contemporary art from Southeast Asia. The four participating curators were: art critic Nakamura Hideki, who had previously taken part in the Triennale-India and the Asian Art Biennale Bangladesh; Ushiroshoji Masahiro, curator of the Fukuoka Art Museum, which hosted the “Asian Art Show” on a continual basis; art critic Tani Arata, who served as commissioner for the Japanese pavilion in the 40th and 41st Venice Biennale; and Sakonaka Yoko, curator of the Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art.

The exhibit aimed to feature artists pursuing new approaches within societies of Asian countries “undergoing profound changes[...] in the wake of rapid economic growth”^[1] neither without reducing their artistic expressions to Western modernism or to the countering ideologies of nationalism and traditionalism, nor denying these as their foundation. By doing so, the exhibition also aimed to “cast a new perspective on [the] Western-oriented artistic outlook and [the] rigid view of Asian art”^[2] of the Japanese audience. Featured in the exhibition were many installations, three-dimensional objects, sculptures, and performance-based video. The curators' essays examining the materials, media, structures and symbols employed in these artworks reveal how they expected to find a unique

Asian mentality (Nakamura), autonomous development (Ushiroshoji), and contemporaneous critical spirit (Tani) in the contemporary art of Southeast Asia.

[1][2] "Foreword," *New Art from Southeast Asia 1992*, exhibition catalogue, The Japan Foundation, 1992, p.5



Exhibition view of "New Art from Southeast Asia 1992," Tokyo Metropolitan Theatre Gallery 1, 1992



Exhibition view of "New Art from Southeast Asia 1992," Fukuoka Art Museum, 1992
Photo: Ushiroshoji Masahiro



Poster of "New Art from Southeast Asia 1992" (Tokyo) 1992
 Design: Bijutsu Shuppan Design Center

Related Links

- The Japan Foundation Asian Art Archive "New Art from Southeast Asia 1992"
https://www.jpf.go.jp/e/publish/asia_exhibition_history/11_92_southeast.html