



Collaborative Spaces=Asia: 1990-2020

Furuichi Yasuko

Before the 1990s, hubs for Asian art only existed as independent “dots.” This was because after World War II, these spaces were looking individually towards America and Europe without ever having their gazes cross each other. Changes started to happen from the early 90s when the East-West Cold War divide diminished with the collapse of the Berlin Wall in 1989. It was in the 90s when Asian countries began to recognize each other’s art and the “dots” were connected into “lines.” The situation changed even more dramatically with the development of the Internet and advancements in transportation methods. In the 2000s, with the alternation of generations and the arrival of the digital age, art exchange could now easily transcend borders and spread throughout Asia, thus expanding the “lines” into “planes.” Additionally, diverse forms of media expression also opened up new areas for art. In essence, a space called “Asia” was gradually formed as countries across Asia heightened their interdependence. Over these past thirty years, we have seen a variety of individuals take part in creating this space through a myriad of activities and expressions. In recent years, Southeast Asia has been doing well in terms of economic development, and art systems are being established in many countries across the area. The center of art has thus continuously shifted during the past thirty years. We have yet to know what kind of activities will unfold and who will lead us into the world of artistic wonder and inspiration in the 2020s.



Artists and curators of "Under Construction: New Dimensions of Asian Art," 2002