

Team of LIU Ding and Carol Yinghua LU chosen as artistic director of Yokohama Triennale 2023

Event's 8th edition will be held from December 9, 2023 to March 10, 2024

The Organizing Committee for Yokohama Triennale (Chairperson: Kondo Seiichi [Chairperson, Yokohama Arts Foundation]) has appointed the team of Liu Ding and Carol Yinghua Lu as artistic director of Yokohama Triennale 2023, the 8th edition of the tri-annual event.

The Triennale will be the first major event held at Yokohama Museum of Art after extensive renovations are completed. The event's second venue will be PLOT 48. This edition of the Triennale will be the first to be held in winter.

Liu Ding and Carol Yinghua Lu are an artist and art historian respectively who started joint curatorial work in 2007. Based in Beijing, they have participated in international exhibitions around the world including the Venice, Gwangju, Istanbul and Busan biennales.

In a time of historical flux, their curation seeks out kernels of wisdom for surviving the present in both the minutiae of individual endeavor and the grand turning points of history. Their frame of reference transcends time and place, as they seek ideas in everything from traditional oriental philosophy to the globalized lifestyles of the 21st century.

The Yokohama Triennale welcomed its first non-Japanese artistic director for its 7th edition in 2020. Since then the ongoing challenges of COVID-19 and war have shown us just how inextricably interconnected our world has become. For the 8th edition, we once again welcome as artistic director a team that is active on the global stage, and with them we look forward to creating an event that is open to the world and that takes advantage of our port city's role as a crossroads of people and culture.



Yokohama Triennale 2023

Artistic Director

Right: LIU Ding

Left: Carol Yinghua LU

Yokohama Triennale 2023

Artistic Director: LIU Ding [Artist, Curator], Carol Yinghua LU [Art Historian, Curator / Director, Beijing Inside-Out Art Museum]

Dates: December 9, 2023 - March 10, 2024

Venues: Yokohama Museum of Art (3-4-1, Minatomirai, Nishi-ku, Yokohama, Kanagawa, Japan), PLOT 48 (4-3-1, Minatomirai, Nishi-ku, Yokohama, Kanagawa, Japan)

* The Yokohama Museum of Art is currently closed due to large-scale renovations. It will reopen to coincide with Yokohama Triennale 2023.

Organizers: City of Yokohama, Yokohama Arts Foundation, Japan Broadcasting Corporation (NHK), The Asahi Shimbun, and Organizing Committee for Yokohama Triennale



Yokohama Museum of Art

Photo: KASAGI Yasuyuki



PLOT 48 Photo: KATO Hajime

About the Artistic Director

LIU Ding

Liu Ding is an artist and a curator. Born 1976 in Changzhou City, Jiangsu Province and now based in Beijing.

He creates artworks using text, photography, installation, painting, performance and other media based on his research into the interplay between art, culture, and politics in modern and contemporary Chinese history.

His recent solo exhibition includes "Reef: A prequel," Bonnefanten, Maastricht (2015). He's participated in biennales including Busan Biennale (2018), Yinchuan Biennale (2018), Istanbul Biennial (2015), Asia Pacific Triennial (2015), Prospect 3 New Orleans (2014), Shanghai Biennale (2014), Taipei Biennial (2012), Chinese Pavilion, 53rd Venice Biennial (2009), Media City Seoul (2008) and Guangzhou Triennale (2005). He's participated in major group shows including "Discordant Harmony," Art Sonje Center, Seoul / Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art / Kuandu Museum of Fine Arts, Taipei (2015-16); "By Artists: From the Home to the Museum, from the Museum to the Home. Homages to the Works of the Cerruti Collection," Castello di Rivoli (2019) and "Parapolitics: Cultural Freedom and the Cold War," HKW Berlin (2018). In 2015, he joined Tate's online festival "BMW Performance Room" in London.



LIU Ding

Carol Yinghua LU

Carol Yinghua Lu is an art historian and a curator. Born 1977 in Chaozhou City, Guangdong Province and now based in Beijing. She is Director of Beijing Inside-Out Art Museum, where she's recently curated "Wang Youshen: Codes of Culture" (2022). She was Artistic Director and Chief Curator of OCAT, Shenzhen (2012-2015) and Co-Artistic Director of Gwangju Biennale (2012). She was a contributing editor for *frieze* magazine (2008-2018), a recipient of ARIAH East Asia Fellowship (2017) and visiting fellow in Asia-Pacific Fellowship Program at Tate Research Centre (2013). She has acted as a jury member for many art prizes, such as Tokyo Contemporary Art Award (2019-2022), Rolex Mentor and Protégé Arts Initiative (2019), Hugo Boss Asia (2019), International Award for Art Criticism (2014), Future Generation Art Prize (2012), and Golden Lion Award at Venice Biennale (2011).



Carol Yinghua LU

Joint Curatorial Activities

Liu Ding and Carol Yinghua Lu commenced their joint curatorial activities in Beijing in 2007.

Their recent co-curated exhibitions at art institutions across China, such as Beijing Inside-Out Art Museum, Art Museum of Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts, and Beijing 798 Creative, include, "Notes: Chinese Artistic and Intellectual Voices from the End of the Twentieth Century," (2022); "Waves and Echoes: Postmodernism and the Global 1980s," (2021); "Waves and Echoes: A Process of Re-contemporarization in Chinese Art Circa 1987 Revisited," (2020), "Factories, Machines and the Poet's Words: Echoes of the Realities in Art," (2019), "Salon Salon: Fine Art Practices from 1972 to 1982 in Profile - A Beijing Perspective," (2017) toured to Art Museum of Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts, Guangzhou (2020).

Other co-curated exhibitions include, Trans-Southeast Asia Triennial: "Sounds as Silence: The Academic Value of Life," Guangzhou (2021), Anren Biennale: "Crossroads," Anren (2017), Shenzhen Sculpture Biennale: "Accidental Message: Art Is Not A System, Not A World," Shenzhen (2012), "Little Movements: Self-practice in Contemporary Art," OCAT, Shenzhen, MUSEION, Bolzano and Asia Culture Center, Gwangju (2011-2015).

On the selection of the artistic director

ASADA Akira (Chair, 8th Yokohama Triennale Artistic Director Selection Committee)

For the selection of the artistic director of the 8th Yokohama Triennale, three candidates were short-listed for remote interviews based on a review of submitted documents. As a result of those interviews, the team of Liu Ding and Carol Yinghua Lu was selected. Following on from Raqs Media Collective's appointment for the 7th Yokohama Triennale, we once again have chosen for our artistic director a foreign team combining members of both sexes. It is also worth noting that the selection committee itself consisted of three women and two men, and, for the first time ever, two of those members were not of Japanese nationality (one each hailed from Lyon and Istanbul, both port cities like Yokohama). Deliberations took place over two highly productive sessions that, due to the pandemic, were held remotely with participants dialing in from all over the globe. At the same time, I would like to emphasize that our selection of a woman—and of people from other Asian countries besides Japan—was in no way lip service to “political correctness,” but instead was the direct result of the committee judging each candidate on the basis of their vision and ability to execute a triennale that will have both artistic and social significance.

With all of our shortlisted candidates being active on the front lines of the art world, our interview round was of a very high standard. Still, the committee believed that Liu Ding and Carol Yinghua Lu's proposal was particularly suitable for an art festival in Yokohama, a city that is open to the rest of Asia. Rather than repeating the fashionable themes often seen at international art festivals, it takes Lu Xun's prose poetry collection *Wild Grass*, which is well known in Japan, as a starting point for a journey that goes deep and broadly into the imagination. The artist/curator duo already has experience in making and exhibiting art and organizing art festivals in various parts of the world, including Japan, and we are confident they will respond flexibly in order to realize their project. As we enter the post-corona era and rediscover the possibilities for face-to-face and other forms of communication, we are confident a fascinating triennale will come to life as an embodiment of their poetic vision. These are the reasons why the selection committee chose Liu Ding and Carol Yinghua Lu.

Nicolas Bourriaud has proposed “the radican” (a plant that roots from its stems, like ivy) as a paradigm for a globalized art world. To rephrase in Bourriaud's terms what we noted in the 7th Yokohama Triennale Artistic Director Selection Report, we hope that the adventure of the imagination starting from *Wild Grass* will spread like the ivy that covers redbrick buildings, putting down roots in the gaps it finds here and there, and ultimately manifesting as a truly international art festival that transcends superficial globalism.

The 8th Artistic Director Selection Committee Members

ASADA Akira (Chair): Professor, Kyoto University of the Arts Graduate School / Director, ICA Kyoto

KURAYA Mika: Executive Director, Organizing Committee for Yokohama Triennale / Director, Yokohama Museum of Art

WASHIDA Meruro: Director, Towada Art Center

Bige ÖRER: Director, Istanbul Biennial

Isabelle BERTOLOTTI: Director, Lyon Museum of Contemporary Art / Director, Lyon Biennale of Contemporary Art

The port city's art missive to a world in conflict

Twenty-one years ago, the Yokohama Triennale kicked off with the title “MEGA WAVE” and the goal of becoming “a great civic festival.” Since then, it has largely continued that mission of being a “festival” for people from all walks of life, held at “port” lapped by the waves of the ocean.

Having celebrated our 20th anniversary, it is now time for the Yokohama Triennale to reconsider and update those two key concepts of “port” and “festival.”

A “port” is a place that enables not just vibrant interaction but also occasional clashes between people and ideas. A “festival” is an occasion that stimulates and seeks to extend not just collective affinity but also collective zeal.

Like globalization itself, both can engender new friendships and new conflicts. If so, we must ask ourselves what kind of message could be delivered from a “festival” that is informed by the spirit of a “port”?

Once again, for our 8th edition we welcome artistic directors who are active globally, and with them we look forward to engaging with the world through art.



KURAYA Mika
Executive Director, Organizing
Committee for Yokohama Triennale,
Director, Yokohama Museum of Art

About Yokohama Triennale

The Yokohama Triennale is an international exhibition of contemporary art held in Yokohama once every three years. The exhibition features both internationally renowned and up-and-coming artists, and presents the latest trends and expressions in contemporary art.

Since its inauguration in 2001, the Yokohama Triennale has addressed the relationships between Japan and the world, and the individual and society, and reexamined the social role of art from a variety of perspectives, in response to a world that is in constant flux. With its artists, the Triennale has also responded to the social upheaval stemming from unprecedented events, such as its 4th edition in 2011 that was held immediately after the Great East Japan Earthquake, and its 7th edition in 2020 that was held in the midst of COVID-19 pandemic.

The first three editions (2001, 2005, 2008) were primarily organized and overseen by the Japan Foundation to enhance cultural exchange between Japan and other countries and cultures through contemporary art. Since the fourth edition in 2011, the City of Yokohama has been the Triennale’s primary organizer, while the Agency for Cultural Affairs has supported it as a national project. The event also continues to be a project representing the City of Yokohama’s ‘Culture, Art and Creative City Yokohama’ policy.

The past Yokohama Triennale editions

- 1st YOKOHAMA 2001: International Triennale of Contemporary Art “MEGA WAVE – Towards a New Synthesis”
- 2nd YOKOHAMA 2005: International Triennale of Contemporary Art “Art Circus [Jumping from the Ordinary]”
- 3rd YOKOHAMA 2008: International Triennale of Contemporary Art “TIME CREVASSE”
- 4th Yokohama Triennale 2011 “OUR MAGIC HOUR – How Much of the World Can We Know? –”
- 5th Yokohama Triennale 2014 “Art Fahrenheit 451: Sailing into the sea of oblivion”
- 6th Yokohama Triennale 2017 “Islands, Constellations & Galapagos”
- 7th Yokohama Triennale 2020 “Afterglow”



1st Yokohama Triennale (2001)
TSUBAKI Noboru + MUROI Hisashi
The Insect World / Locust, 2001
Photo : KUROKAWA Mikio



4th Yokohama Triennale (2011)
Ugo RONDINONE, *moonrise. east*, 2005
Courtesy the artist and Galerie Eva Presenhuber,
Zürich, ©the artist, Photo: KIOKU Keizo



7th Yokohama Triennale (2020)
Nick CAVE, *Kinetic Spinner Forest*, 2016 (recreated
in 2020), © Nick Cave, Photo: OTSUKA Keita

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