

Alternative Futures.

CURATING HONG KONG.

Maurice Benayoun / Geraldine Borio / Aric Chen /
Cosmin Costinas / Simon Grand / Desmond Hui / Philip Kan /
Nuria Krämer / Teresa Kwong / Kelvin Lau / Isabella Lo /
Frédéric Martel / Patrick Müller / Hammad Nasar / Vincent Ng /
Andy Pratt / Simon Shen / Iris Tsang / Euan Upston / Caroline
Wüthrich / Christoph Weckerle / Douglas Young and guests



March
15
2015

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Workshop
& Panel
Discussion



CONNECTING
SPACES

HONG KONG – ZÜRICH
Zürich University of the Arts

Alternative Futures.
CURATING HONG KONG.

WORKSHOP & PANEL DISCUSSION

15 March 2015 / 10 am – 6.30 pm

ALL EVENTS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Christoph Weckerle (Zurich University of the Arts), Simon Grand (University of St. Gallen, Zurich University of the Arts), Desmond Hui (Director, Culture and Development Consultancy/ Adjunct Professor, HKIEd) in collaboration with Nuria Krämer (Connecting Spaces HK – ZH).

Alternative Futures: Curating Hong Kong's basic motivation is to present a selection of cases illustrating a major challenge for the city of Hong Kong in the coming years: the shift from an economic towards a cultural hub.

One of the fields affected by this shift are the creative industries, which are located somewhere between economics and culture. Here it is particularly promising to focus not on economics and culture as separate fields, but to explore their interconnections, how they open up new spaces "in-between," how they question established ideas of economics and culture, how they redefine this field on a global scale.

A central focus for curating today as well as for the advancement of curatorial strategies in the context of the creative economies is "curating alternative futures". At the same time, we observe an obsession with the future, neglecting that any consideration of alternative futures has implications for the present ("curating alternative presents"), as well as for our perspectives on the past ("curating alternative pasts"). We can distinguish four central dimensions of curating under these conditions:

- 1) Staging stories: curating alternative futures, presents and pasts first of all implies the creation of narratives envisioning possible futures, while at the same time connecting them to the actual present, and thereby re-telling history; thereby, it is essential to translating such narratives into tangible prototypes, artifacts, media and spaces, as a way of staging such narratives in order to make them accessible for all senses.
- 2) Valuation devices: curating furthermore implies to systematically evaluate alternative possibilities, in order to select particularly attractive, desirable, relevant, valid initiatives; thereby, curatorial practice creates, actualizes and references various judgment devices as valuation tools, including lists, rankings, paradigmatic examples, performance dimensions, algorithms, community judgments, standards, ...
- 3) Mobilizing resources: realizing initiatives requires the mobilization of financial and non-financial resources, an orientation towards heterogeneous audiences, an involvement of multiple actors, artifacts, experiences and competences, a connection to many organizations, institutions and collectives, which allow to translate stories and possibilities into attractive exhibitions, installations, initiatives and projects, that make a difference.
- 4) Alternative institutionalizations: curatorial practice not only focuses on the realization of specific exhibitions, installations, initiatives and projects, but at the same time always also on the creation, establishment and advancement of institutional contexts, which provide the basis for the recurrent realization of novel initiatives and projects, for example in the form of museums, laboratories, agencies, communities, forums, associations, ...

Workshop: CURATING HONG KONG

The public workshop is devoted to the theme on applying the concept of curating to the study of creative economies and to the dynamic development of Hong Kong as a (creative) city. The topic will gather experts from art, science, culture and social studies from Hong Kong, to discuss how the concept of curating might apply to their respective field of work in contributing to an integrative approach to creative economy.

Panel: SHOPPING ART / CONSUMING CULTURE – TREND LAB HONG KONG

The panel will focus on a specific aspect of curating: shopping. In the context of a highly fragmented creative economy, shopping has become an important driver behind the way art is viewed and sold. Art Basel Hong Kong provides the backdrop for this topic, which will touch upon several case studies that examine the interplay of art, shopping, and collocated industries such as real estate and finance.

CURATING HONG KONG

PUBLIC WORKSHOP/ 10 am – 3.30 pm



Cosmin Costinas (director of Para Site), Teresa Kwong (Programme Director of Hong Kong Arts Centre), Philip Kan (project manager of Easy-Pack Industrial Building), Patrick Müller and Nuria Krämer (Connecting Spaces Hong Kong-Zurich)*

.....10 – 11.30 am

* Host: Vincent Wong (founder of Solution-On-Wheels)



Maurice Benayoun (New Media artist and theorist), Simon Shen (director Global Studis Progam, The Chinese University of Hong Kong), Isabella Lo (member of Scholarism)*

.....12 – 1.30 pm

*Host: Frédéric Martel (writer, researcher and journalist)



Geraldine Borio and Caroline Wüthrich (directors of Parallel Lab), Iris Tsang (CEO of YHA Mei Ho House Youth Hostel), Vincent Ng (director of AGC Design Ltd.)*

..... 2 – 3.30pm

*Host: Andy Pratt (professor of Cultural Economy at City University London)

On the occasion of the event, Jessica Lam will be presenting different dishes from Hong Kong, making this both a unique cultural and culinary experience. Directly after each workshop module our guests will have the pleasure to taste Hong Kong.

SHOPPING ART / CONSUMING CULTURE – TREND LAB HONG KONG

PANEL DISCUSSION / 4.30 – 6.30 pm



Aric Chen (curator of design and architecture at M+), Douglas Young (founder G.O.D. Ltd), Kelvin Lau (director of InStargroup), Euan Upston (director of Central Police Station), Hammad Nasar (head of research at Asia Art Archive), Vincent Ng (director of AGC Design Ltd), Andy Pratt (professor of Cultural Economy at City University London), Frédéric Martel (writer, researcher and journalist)*

..... 4.30 – 6.30 pm

*Moderators: Christoph Weckerle, Simon Grand and Desmond Hui



CONNECTING SPACE HONG KONG

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Zurich University of the Arts
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Venue:

G/F, Wah Kin Mansion, 18-20 Fort
Street, North Point, Hong Kong

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