

**Press Release on the Theme and Curators of the 2017 Asian Art Biennial,  
National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts**

“Negotiating the Future” as a Means of Meeting the Ultimate Aspiration for  
Changing the Society and Fashioning the Future

The 6th Asian Art Biennial will be grandly on view at the National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts on September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017. For the first time in more than a decade, the biennial this year is curated by a joint team of an in-house curator and three foreign curators, a mechanism fairly distinct from its previous curatorial practice. Treating “Negotiating the Future” as the theme, the curatorial team plans to invite around 30 artists/collectives to accomplish this great achievement with concerted efforts.

The theme “Negotiating the Future” features the momentum and limitless potential of contemporary art, as well as the possibilities for art to negotiate and strike a balance among various conflicts of power and relations. By virtue of the creations of these participating artists, this biennial also seeks to address the recent events and latent tension in Asia, thereby reflecting people’s desperate yearning for changing the society and fashioning the future through a concatenation of negotiations.

The three guest curators of this biennial include Kenji Kubota (Japan), Ade Darmawan (Indonesia) and Wassan Al-Khudhairi (Iraq), and Hsiao-Yu Lin is the in-house curator who works in collaboration with them. Speaking of the theme of this biennial, Kubota believes that our future is incubated by myriads of negotiations, and highly creative, unconventional things would be produced if all the negotiations are charged with imagination. For Kubota, the artworks that inspire the viewers’ imagination are closely related to the construction of a brave new world.

On the other hand, Darmawan argues that seeing art as a social practice is essential for us to view artistic practice as a way to speculate about the future. Future might be a luxury idea in certain contexts, but art can always negotiate and strategize for it from the present. As far as Al-Khudhairi is concerned, the 2017 Asian Art Biennial aims to explore the tool of negotiation as a means to navigate the possibilities for the future, and how art, the public and society interact as a relational trinity on the platform provided by this biennial.

*Negotiating the Future- 2017 Asian Art Biennial* invites 25 artists/ collectives from 15 different countries, including Reza AFISINA (Indonesia)、Leonardiansyah ALLENDIA (Indonesia)、Mounira AL-SOLH (Lebanon)、Art Labor (Vietnam)、Yason BANAL (Philippines、Wafaa BILAL (Iraq/U.S.A)、Chim ↑ Pom (Japan)、CHEN I-Chun + LUO He-lin (Taiwan)、Mariam GHANI (Afghanistan /U.S.A)、Yang Ah HAM (Korea)、Lawrence Abu Hamdan (Jordan)、Jatiwangi art Factory (Indonesia)、Bouchra KHALILI (France/ Morocco)、Meiro KOIZUMI (Japan)、LIU Ho Jang (Taiwan)、Tayeba Begum LIPI (Bangladesh)、mixrice (Korea)、Kelvin Kyung Kun PARK (Korea)、Serrum (Indonesia)、TAKEUCHI (Japan)、Shuruq HARB、Samah HIJAWI、Toleen TOUQ (Jordan / Palestine)、WANG Wen-Chih (Taiwan)、Yangjiang Group (China)、ZHOU Tao

(China)。

The exhibits at the 6th Asian Art Biennial serve as the epitome of contemporary artistic diversity. They comprise a riotous profusion of forms ranging from painting, installation and image to performance art and workshop. The biennial program also includes many exciting events. Please visit the museum website for detailed information about this elaborately organized biennial.

**Exhibition Title: *Negotiating the Future—2017 Asian Art Biennial***

- **Exhibition Dates:** September 30, 2017 to February 25, 2018
  - **Venue:** National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts
  - **Curator:** Hsiao-Yu LIN Tel: 04-2372-3552 #304
  - **Exhibition Coordinator:** Hsing-Yu Fan Tel: 04-2372-3552 #302
  - **Media Contact:** Emily Yi-Yin Wang Tel:04-2372-3552 #133  
Chun-Yi Kuo Tel:04-2372-3552 #326
  - **Opening Hours: Tuesday to Friday 09:00~17:00,  
Saturday and Sunday 09:00~18:00,  
closed on Mondays**
- Address: No.2, Sec.1, Wu-Chuan W. Road, Taichung, Taiwan R.O.C.**

**Attachment** Negotiating the Future—2017 Asian Art Biennial Curators**Wassan Al-Khudhairi (Iraq)**

Wassan Al-Khudhairi was recently named Chief Curator at the Contemporary Art Museum in St. Louis where she will assume her new post August 2017. Previously she was the Hugh Kaul Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art at the Birmingham Museum of Art in Alabama where she curated Third Space / shifting conversations about contemporary art an exhibition exploring connections between the American South and the Global South. Al-Khudhairi is the founding Director of Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art in Qatar where she was responsible for establishing the museum's artistic program as well as overseeing policy development, acquisitions and managing the museum's collection. She co-curated Mathaf's inaugural exhibition Sajjil: A Century of Modern Art and curated Saraab: Cai Guo-Qiang. In 2012 Wassan was appointed one of the Artistic Directors of the 9th Gwangju Biennale in South Korea. She has been invited to participate in programs at various international institutions including the Mori Art Museum, SALT, Tate Modern, School of Visual Arts, California College of the Arts, and China Academy of Art Shanghai among others. Wassan graduated from Georgia State University, the School of Oriental and African Studies and the Getty Leadership Institute.

**Ade DARMAWAN (Indonesia)**

He lives and works in Jakarta as an artist, curator and director of ruangrupa. He studied at Indonesia Art Institute (I.S.I), in Graphic Art Department. In 1998, a year after His first solo exhibition at the Cemeti Contemporary Art Gallery, Yogyakarta (now Cemeti Art House), he stay in Amsterdam, Netherlands for two years residency at the Rijksakademie Van Beeldende Kunsten. Back in Jakarta in 2000, with five other artists from Jakarta he founded ruangrupa, an artists' run initiative, which focuses in visual arts and its relation with the social cultural context especially in urban environment.

His works range from installation, objects, drawing, digital print, and video. As an artist and curator he have been participated in many art projects and exhibitions in several cities in Indonesia and International. In Gwangju Biennial and Singapore Biennale 2016 he was involved as participating artist. He was also contributing in a collaborative curatorial project Riverscape in-flux 2012, Media Art Kitchen 2013, and Condition Report 2017 with several South East Asia curators and artists.

With ruangrupa as an artists' collective platform he also have participated in Gwangju Biennale 2002 Korea, and Istanbul Biennale 2005, Asia Pacific Triennial Brisbane 2012, Sao Paulo Biennial 2014, and in 2016 curating Sonsbeek International in the Netherlands. From 2006-2009 he was a member of Jakarta Arts Council, in 2009 he became the artistic director of Jakarta Biennale, and since 2013 he is the executive director of Jakarta Biennale.

**Kenji Kubota (Japan)**

Kenji Kubota is an independent curator since 2006 focused on art practice toward diverse fields of society. He worked as a curator of Ueno Royal Museum in Tokyo (1994-1999) and Contemporary Art Center Art Tower Mito in Ibaraki (2000-2006).

He is a founder of KENJI KUBOTA ART OFFICE (2008-), SNOW Contemporary (2010-) and Japan Art Donation (2011-). He has curated many exhibitions domestic and abroad including Don't Follow the Wind an ongoing project inside the uninhabited Fukushima exclusion zone, Roppongi Crossing 2010, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, Twist & Shout: Contemporary Art from Japan, Bangkok Art and Culture Center, Money Talk, Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art, X-Color: Graffiti in Japan, Contemporary Art Gallery, Art Tower Mito. He is currently a board member of Art and Public Association (2009-) and Kawamura Culture and Art Foundation.

**LIN Hsiao-Yu (Taiwan)**

Curator of National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts

An alumna of Tainan National University of the Arts' Institute of Sound and Image Management, Lin Hsiao-Yu now works as a Curator at the National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts. She has curated several exhibitions, including *The possibility of an Island—2016 Taiwan Biennial* (co-curated with WU Dar-Kuen), *Inter-vision: A Contemporary Art Exhibition Across the Strait* (2013), *Post-Adolescence* (2010), *Ventriloquized Voices--Contemporary Art from Taiwan*, and was responsible for the executions of *Township of Domestic Parts: Made in Taiwan-Collateral Event of the 14th International Architecture Exhibition – la Biennale di Venezia* (2014), *Taiwan Calling* (2010), amongst other projects. She was also responsible for the coordination of National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts' *Digital Technology and Visual Arts Collaborative Project* (2012-2014) and is in charge of *Taiwan Technology Integrated Art Innovation Developmental Project - Visual Arts* (2015-2018). Her research interests are new media art and Taiwanese contemporary art.