Asialink The University of Melbourne

Regeneration Nations: Australia and Japan





Australian Curator Joanna Bosse and Artist Naomi Eller join 4 Asian countries to take part in *The Fukutake House Asia Art Platform* at the 2016 Setouchi Triennale, Seto Inland Sea, Japan. The platform has invited arts residency organisations from Thailand, Korea, Indonesia, Taiwan and Australia to work with the local community to consider how art and food can draw attention to the effects of globalisation in the Setouchi region.

Responding to this theme, Bosse and Eller will present an installation of sculpture and collage as part of a collaborative exhibition at a disused elementary school in the small town of Fukuda. The repurposing of this site highlights the rapidly aging population on Shodoshima Island, which is one of the dramatic effects that globalisation is having on the region. Eller's installation comprises local river stones with ceramic elements and collage, and reflects on the deep history of the region and its rapidly changing character.

Curator Joanna Bosse says of the project "It is a privilege to work so closely with Shodoshima locals, and to become a part of this small community for a short time. Artist Naomi Eller has worked with local residents to source stones and to document the island's natural features for her artwork, researching the histories of the island and the hopes of locals for its future regeneration.

The model of the Setouchi Triennial has great potential for similar re-energising effects in regional Australia. It is so valuable to witness the impact art can have on individuals and communities in a region that is struggling to sustain its population, and consider similar possibilities within Australia".

Also part of the Platform, Chef Adam Liaw will engage with Shodoshima locals through a Chef Workshop featuring Modern Australian Cuisine made entirely from local ingredients. Liaw's workshop recipes will be offered at a community-run restaurant designed by famed Japanese Architect, Ryue Nishizawa, for the duration of the Triennale.

Since its inception in 2010, the Setouchi Triennale has been highly successful in attracting large audience numbers to the Setouchi region in Japan's Seto Inland Sea. This has resulted in an increase of residents moving back to affected areas and the gradual regeneration of the region.

More information on Joanna and Naomi's residency <u>here</u> More information on *The Fukutake House Asia Art Platform* <u>here</u>

Project Dates:

Naomi Eller's exhibition *Language of stone* will open on 18 July and run until 6 November at Fukutake House, Fukuda Elementary School, Shodoshima Island, Japan.

Adam Liaw's Chef Workshop will take place on 16 August and his menu will be offered at Fukuda Asian Diner, Shodoshima for the duration of the Triennale until 6 November.

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