



Asialink in association with the Art Gallery of NSW
presents

HELLO TOKYO!

A public forum on contemporary art in
Japan and Australia

ART GALLERY OF NSW

Art Gallery Road, The Domain, Sydney
Centenary Auditorium, Lower Level 1

Sunday 15 June, 2pm to 5pm

People with an interest in contemporary global culture take note. **Hello Tokyo!**, a public talk-fest/ forum featuring some of the foremost cutting-edge thinkers in Japan and Australia will take place at the Art Gallery of NSW on Sunday 15 June on the eve of the Sydney Biennale.

Fumihiko Sumitomo, curator of the Museum of Contemporary Art in Tokyo; **Hisako Hara**, a leading critic, curator and academic from Osaka; and **Taro Amano**, Chief Curator of the Yokohama Museum of Art will be travelling to Sydney especially for the forum and will join with Japanese born/French residing **Jin Kurashige**, a participating artist in the Sydney Biennale, in the discussion.

Australian participants include artist **Shaun Gladwell**, a participant in the Sydney Biennale and one of two Australians in the last Yokohama Biennale; **Reuben Keehan**, curator of Artspace; **Suhanya Raffel**, Chief Curator of Asian Art at the Queensland Art Gallery, and **Jackie Menzies**, Chief Curator of Asian Art at the Art Gallery of NSW.

The discussion will touch on key issues in contemporary art in and between the two countries and the region, including joint projects, biennales, art museums and the role of artists.

A number of the participants already have successful working relationships and exhibitions in train. Reuben Keehan and Hisako Hara are working on *Between Places: Site, Space & History*, an exhibition showcasing new and innovative practices in installation, performance and media art opening at the Tokyo Wonder Site Shibuya in September and travelling to Artspace, Sydney in March 09. This is one of three curatorial exchanges Asialink is producing (Bec Dean from Performance Space, Sydney and Shihoko Iida from Tokyo Opera City Gallery are working on an exhibition encompassing both the traditions and innovations of photomedia practice, opening in July in Tokyo, and Rachel Kent from the Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, and Fumihiko Sumitomo from the Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo, are working on a solo show of an Australian artist at MOT)

Alison Carroll, Director of Asialink Arts says, *"Australia and Japanese curators have never had a closer professional relationship than now, working together very easily on all sorts of exhibition and exchange projects. These relationships are growing before our eyes. They range from the largest, most prestigious institutions working together on very experimental and often risky programs to very small artist-run projects."*

The **Hello Tokyo!** forum, exhibition and curatorial exchange are part of Asialink and the Australia Japan Foundation's Strategic Ties for the Arts Initiative, focused on Australia-Japan visual arts through 2005-8. The public forum has been organised by Asialink in association with

For more information regarding this Media Release please call

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the Art Gallery of NSW and the Biennale of Sydney, supported by the Australia-Japan Foundation.

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