



Arts and Cultural Exchange Task Force Report

Task Force Mission

- Assess capacities of Performing Arts Japan and the Cultural Trade Network
- Assess the impact of exchanges of curators
- Promote greater exchanges of curators
- Publish source book on Japanese art
- Mobilize networks of curators and presenters (e.g. regional tour exhibitions)
- Organize symposiums on Performing and Visual Arts

Task Force Members

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Mr. Thierry Porté

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Activities Since CULCON XXIII

1. Arts and Cultural Exchange Task Force Meeting, June, 2009

A record of the meeting is attached.

2. Symposium on “Japanese Art in America: Building the Next Generation”

This Symposium was held on March 16, 2009 at Japan Society, New York. This one-day event, co-organized by Japan Foundation and Japan Society, was designed to encourage multilateral

discussions about ways to develop the next generation of scholars, curators, collectors and museum-goers of Japanese art in the United States.

3. Forum on Japanese Visual and Performing Arts

This Forum was held on March 2, 2010 in Tokyo at the Japan Foundation. It was organized by The Japan Foundation in corporation with the Agency for Cultural Affairs. The Forum was intended to offer an opportunity to exchange ideas on how to construct and develop networks among Japanese and American experts in the fields of both visual and performing arts.

4. US-Japan Curatorial Exchange Project

The Japan Foundation hosted the US-Japan Curatorial Exchange Project. In February and March, 2010, six curators from US visited Japan to enhance their understandings of Japanese contemporary art by interacting with curators and art experts around the country.

Curators participating:

- Mr. Massimiliano Gioni, Director of Special Exhibitions, New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York
- Mr. Jens Hoffmann, Director, CCA Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts, San Francisco
- Mr. Anthony Huberman, Adjunct Curator, St. Louis Contemporary Art Museum
- Mr. Peter Eleey, Curator, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis
- Ms. Yasmil Raymond, Curator, Dia Art Foundation, New York
- Ms. Anne Ellegood, Senior Curator, Hammer Museum, UCLA

Recommendations

1. Activities that would improve the field in general and should be acknowledged by CULCON

A. Performing Arts

The objective is to sustain a proactive US-Japan partnership that cooperates in exporting arts and culture globally. Thus, it is important to bring Japanese contemporary theatre and film to the US and vice versa, but it is also important to encourage artistic creation that addresses topics that illuminate the US-Japan bilateral relationship.

1. Funding organizations that support artistic creation with an interest in Japan-US exchanges should refine their program guidelines to encourage projects that speak to the importance of the US-Japan alliance in any of its myriad dimensions, especially projects that speak to US-Japan today and in the future. This may include

issues related to government, relationships, health and welfare, or any arena in which the two cultures collide and coalesce.

2. CULCON can use public relations and marketing to heighten the profile of contemporary Japanese and US plays (or Japanese-US plays) and films to audiences in each country. These efforts can be directed towards high schools and universities, and can minimally be a consciousness-raising exchange (i.e. a flyer or an information card) or move beyond that to campaign for the artist's work to be taught/seen at various high schools and colleges. Theatre, film, East Asian Studies and American Studies centers, and other respective groups could be conduits for bringing such artists to colleges.

2. Concrete projects for CULCON to undertake

A. Performing Arts (Contemporary Theatre and Film)

CULCON should make and publicize listings of existing websites useful for US-Japan contemporary performing arts exchange. The listings in the field of theater should include as much information as possible on plays, playwrights, and producers/ presenters/ publishers, universities from the United States and Japan that are interested in contemporary theatrical exchange, bilingual (English and Japanese) translators. This exchange should include productions, concert readings, publications, and encouragement of teaching of plays at educational institutions.

An original proposal, prepared by Dr. Houston, is attached

The listings in the field of film should include as much information as possible on agents for the films' directors so that interested organizations/institutions can contact the directors for speaking engagements related to the exhibition of their films

See above proposal for details.

B. Visual Arts

As there are apparent changes in the social environments of both countries surrounding Japanese art exhibitions in the United States, it is important to further enhance exchanges between each nation's specialists and to deepen understanding of differences in the workings of exhibitions and curators as well as the inherent issues faced by each nation in order to develop new and more efficient ways of introducing Japanese art to the public of the United States.

From this perspective we recommend that CULCON establish a working group of specialists, an equal number from each nation, and give considerations to future measures to be taken to address the issues in the attached agenda.

An agenda for a Visual Arts Working Group is attached.

Attachments

1. Arts and Culture Action Program Group Meeting (June 2009)
2. US-Japan Contemporary Theatre Alliance: A Website
3. Agenda for Visual Arts Working Group