

9 SEPTEMBER 九月



Conversation: Universality In Art And 'East Asia' 대화: 예술의 보편성과 '동아시아'

문화의 특수성과 예술의 보편성 / 알랭 바디우
 식민주의는 우리의 오늘이다 / 세실 빈터 진행: 서용순
 오후 7시 / 서울시청 신청사 다목적홀 (8층)

PARTICULARITY OF CULTURE AND UNIVERSALITY OF ART / Alain Badiou
COLONIALISM IS TODAY / Cécile Winter Facilitator: Seo Yong Soon
 7 pm / Seoul City Hall (8F)

10 OCTOBER 十月



Why the pre-biennale? Mediacity Seoul 2014 is the 8th Seoul International Media Art Biennale. We, the organizers of the Biennale, are preparing a series of events that has been conceived of as a biennale within the Biennale. The purpose of this pre-biennale is to share with the public the theme of Mediacity Seoul 2014 as they develop. The pre-biennale consists of lectures, discussions, workshops, public reach-out activities, and an exhibition. What we want to accomplish through these events is for the organizers and the public alike to have a better grasp of some of the key words that define the 2014 Biennale, such as 'Asia,' 'catastrophe,' 'capitalism,' 'political passion,' and 'social media.' Details of the events and their progress will be available on www.mediacityseoul.kr, the official website of the Biennale. We hope the website will enrich the experience of the Biennale.

PROGRAM I CONVERSATION: UNIVERSALITY IN ART AND 'EAST ASIA'

CONVERSATION, the first program of the pre-biennale, consists of series of lectures and discussions by scholars, art critics, and artists. The overall theme of the conversation is how local practices of art can or cannot acquire universality across local boundaries. Speakers will include Alain Badiou, who is perhaps one of the most influential thinkers of our time. He will address the topic of artistic universality and artistic potentiality and share with us his thoughts on the role of art, and what direction it should take, given that aesthetic truth is much threatened today. Cécile Winter will testify why political colonialism is about today, and how we do not see it nor reflect upon the results of it. Seo Yong Soon, who has been steadily introducing Badiou and his thoughts in Korea, will facilitate the conversation following the lecture.②

Art cannot but be closely tied to the locality where the artist practices his or her art. At least this is the traditional assumption. However, today, we notice that biennales all over the world state, or otherwise take it for granted, that what they want is to overcome boundaries, whether national, local, racial, ethnic, and/or religious. This theme of overcoming boundaries is so ubiquitous that one wonders if it has not become another cliché. Taking this as its departure point, *Mediacity Seoul 2014* suggests that we make such trans-border discussions more compelling, and that we start that by examining the reality of 'East Asia,' a region with much shared culture and history across various boundaries within.

Thus, we will start our CONVERSATION by asking the following questions. How do we navigate between local particularities and artistic universality; what are the possibilities for the navigation? What is or is not Orientalism? How does one deal with extreme nationalism and statism? What impact do new media have on how we perceive and live 'Asia'? Wang Hui, a leading Chinese intellectual

‡ **Wang Hui** Wang is a professor in the Department of Chinese Language and Literature, Tsinghua University, Beijing. As the executive editor (1996-2007) of the influential magazine Dushu (读书, Reading), he brought a wave of new perspective in the 1990s Chinese intellectual society. While criticizing both the negative aspects of Chinese reform and liberalization policies, as well as the market-oriented neo-liberalism, he has been arguing from a stance that is different from traditional socialism. His major works include in Chinese, *From An Asian Perspective: The Narrations of Chinese History* (《亞洲視野：中國歷史的敘述》, 2010), *The Rise of Modern Chinese Thought* (four volumes) (《現代中國思想的興起》, 2004-2009), and *Rekindling Frozen Fire: The Paradox of Modernity* (《死火重溫》, 2000).

‡ **Hwang Hoduk** A professor of Korean and Korean Literature at Sungkyunkwan University and a literary critic, Hwang began his critical activities by publishing a literary critique in the journal *Munhak Sasang* (Literary Thoughts) in 1999 and a film critique in *KINO* in 2001. He is a recipient of Go Seokkyu Literary Criticism Award and Korea Comparative Literature Award. He conceived of the publication series WHAT'S UP to re-politicize discourses in humanities, he is also its editor. His major works include in Korean *Insects and empire*(2011), *Franken Marx: constellations in Korean contemporary literary criticism*(2008).

‡ **Alain Badiou** Known as a neo-Platonist, Alain Badiou is a philosopher whose body of works constitutes an important school of contemporary French thought. Since 2000, he has intervened in major social issues of our time and voicing a strong criticism against neo-liberal politics. He advocates "post-party" politics, leveling profound criticism against parliamentary democracy. He published many books on philosophy, including *Manifeste pour la philosophie* (1989), *Petit manuel d'inesthétique* (1998), *Saint Paul: la fondation de l'universalisme* (1998), *Logiques des mondes. L'être et l'événement, 2.*(2006), and *Éloge de l'Amour* (2009). He also the author of several novels and plays.

‡ **Cécile Winter** Formerly an active member of UCFml (L'Union des communistes de France marxiste-léniniste), Winter worked as a medical doctor in Africa and fought against colonialism and AIDS. She is the author of numerous pamphlets, as well as the book *Circonstances 3: Portées du mot 'juif,'* (2005), which she co-wrote with Alain Badiou, and the article "The Master-Signifier of the New Aryans: What Made the Word 'Jew' into an Arm Brandished Against the Multitude of Unpronounceable Names?".

‡ **Seo Yong Soon** He received his Ph.D. with Alain Badiou as his thesis advisor. In the past several years, he has been introducing Badiou's thoughts and works in Korea and adding depth to his understanding of phenomenology and political philosophy. He is a research professor at Institute of Humanities in Yeungnam University and has translated *Beckett, l'incroyable désir* (2013), *Manifeste pour la philosophie* (2010) into Korean and has written numerous papers on Badiou in Korean, including "Being, Truth, and Subject in Badiou's Philosophy: Exploration of Badiou's Thoughts with a focus on *Being and Event*" and "Modernity in Art and Badiou's Thought on Inaesthetics."

who has been spearheading a contemporary discourse on Asia, will open the discussion with a presentation on the topic of Asian empire and Asia and inter-Asian relations. Hwang Hoduk will be the facilitator. ❶

The last program in the CONVERSATION series will be led by Hwang Hoduk, Park Sohyun, and siren eun young jung. They are an expert on colonialism in modern Japan and Korea, an expert on Japanese contemporary art, and an artist who has been working with *Yeosung gukgeuk* ('female traditional opera') artists, respectively. They will lead the conversation with presentations on concrete examples of how Japanese and Korean cultures are intermeshed and how they have mutually influenced each other. Park Chan-kyong, the artistic director for Mediacity Seoul 2014, will facilitate the conversation after the speakers each deliver their presentation.③

❶ EAST ASIAN EMPIRE & POLITICAL CULTURE OF COLONIALISM, WITH FOCUS ON CHINA

Sep. 30 (Monday) 7pm (Korean and Chinese)
Presentation: **Wang Hui** Facilitator: **Hwang Hoduk**
Venue: The Lobby of the Main Building of SeMA

❷ PARTICULARITY OF CULTURE AND UNIVERSALITY OF ART / COLONIALISM IS TODAY

Oct. 01 (Tuesday) 7pm (Korean and French)
Presentation: **Alain Badiou, Cécile Winter**
Facilitator: **Seo Yong Soon**
Venue: Multi-purpose Hall (8F), Seoul City Hall

❸ EAST ASIA AS A BRICOLAGE, WITH FOCUS ON JAPAN

Oct. 02 (Wednesday) 7pm (Korean only)
Presentation: **siren eun young jung, Hwang Hoduk, Park Sohyun**
Facilitator: **Park Chan-kyong**
Venue: Conference Room(1F) of the Office Building of SeMA

▶ Address for the venues

SeMA: 61 Deoksugung-gil, Jung-gu, Seoul / sema.seoul.go.kr
Seoul City Hall: 110 Sejongdae-ro, Jung-gu, Seoul / www.seoul.go.kr

▶ Hosted by Seoul Metropolitan Government
Organized by Seoul Museum of Art (SeMA)
In collaboration with Kyung Hee University

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‡ **Park Sohyun** She is a senior researcher at Korea Culture and Tourism Institute and an Adjunct Professor in the School of Art, Sungkyunkwan University. Her research interest includes art history that cannot be categorized along national borders and how it can then be studied from various perspectives, such as that of the institutionalization and discourse of art. She is the author of 『戦場としての美術』(2012), *Asia event* (co-author, 2013), *Reading abstract art* (co-author, 2012), and *Modern East Asian Art and Modernity* (Kco-author, 2008).

‡ **siren eun young jung** She is an artist who is interested in how swarming desires of anonymous individuals meet world events, and how they become acts of resistance, history, and/or politics. In *Yeosung Gukgeuk* Project (2008 - present), she has been tracing a community of female *gukgeuk* actors; and in Dongducheon Project (2007 - present), she inquires about the life of death of women in the U.S. army base town of Dongducheon. She has had three solo exhibitions, including *Rehearsal* (2010) as well as other public and group events and shows.

▶ Pre-Biennale Upcoming Programs

PROGRAM II WORKSHOP: CATASTROPHE, IDEAL SOCIETY, AND ASIAN GOTHIC
Mediacity Seoul 2014 will be a biennale which will give us an opportunity to meditate on the meanings of 'catastrophe,' 'ideal society,' and 'political passion' for us, here and now, and in particular in Asia. What will we find among the dangers of, and the need for passion and political indifference. Artists will give a 'lecture-performance.' They will be joined by critics, curators, and scholars. (November 2013 / Bae Young-whan (artist), Rho Jae Oon (artist))
Names of participating critics, curators, and scholars to be announced)

PROGRAM III EXHIBITION: PRE-BIENNALE HUB
Through its pre-biennale exhibition, Mediacity Seoul 2014 tries to communicate a variety of contents that are difficult to convey through ephemeral events. In the pre-biennale, the exhibition will include not only works by artists, but also an archive, screening of videos and films, as well as talks and discussions on the spot. (Oct. 29 - Dec. 22, 2013)

PROGRAM IV POSTCARDS
With help of artists, we will produce and distribute postcards containing images and quotations. In the contemporary media environment such as ours, the images and the phrases floating on- and off-line, will become the finger print, or signature, of Mediacity Seoul 2014. It is hoped that our POSTCARDS will act as a "psychological" corridor that keeps the public interested in Mediacity Seoul 2014, in the same way that one might trace a crime scene that exists only in rumors. (Artists: Kim Sylbee, Kim Young-gle, Park Changhyun, and others artist to be announced)