

APAM – WIRE #2 | Summary

Asia Discovers Asia Meeting (ADAM) Taipei and Experimental Practice

Tuesday 25 September 2019 3:00pm

Jeff Khan (Artistic Director, Performance Space) in conversation with Madeleine Flynn and Tim Humphries (Artists) and Jeremy Smith (Arts Practice Director Community Arts & Cultural Development; Emerging & Experimental Arts, Australia Council for the Arts)

Experimental practice

- What is experimental in Asia vs Australia? Artists don't always use the term experimental to describe practice.
- Experimental is a state of mind – it's not a defined sector- there are not experimental institutions. It is a curiosity and sensibility, about finding allies on attitudes, why we make art, why we curate.
- Through relationships are how we unpack the moments of curiosity and sensibility.
- In Taiwan there were discussions about a European legacy, being challenged by different people. When you do art it's an experiment!
- Asia is really exploring the notions of experimental/contemporary become multilayered it's a holistic experience.

Jeremy Smith's insights

- Interested in interconnected relationships – how Council can add value to relationships.
- Being able to observe artists and to see how the international can enhance practice is very valuable.
- Finding who your collaborators are is key and how you broker these further we want to support artists in this pursuit.

Building connections in the international market in Asia

Madeleine Flynn and Tim Humphrey insights around international engagement

- Two ways international connections have been cultivated; the first is being a part of other people's work and the second is via residencies more specifically Asia Link
- Champions of our work have shared our practice and introduced us to people.
- The key is developing relationships and trust and to build long term contexts and understandings.
- Acknowledge the process of cultivating relationships takes time.
- Attended TPAM to meet people and establish long term goals. A few years later this led to a presentation at the Setouchi Triennale
- Australia Council's International Development Consultants have been an important part of this through strategic initiatives. Face to face meetings lead to a better understanding of values and solidarity.
- Asia Pacific markets are changing rapidly – lots of platforms in interesting formats including TPAM, West Kowloon and ADAM
- The effectiveness of the lab/residency style is illustrated through the of the creation of the work Ashi-yu Meeting
- This project was developed at the Kinosaki artist residency through a collaboration with Nettle Theatre Company, South Korea and visual artist Naomi Ota. The performance installation works were then built back in South Korea and presented as a part of Seoul Street Arts Festival. This was a work inspired by site then developed and reimagined in a new site where it premiered.

- The contextual understanding about where the work you might be making needs to be talked about more. How to talk about work, how collaboration looks and sounds like in an international context.
- Tim's experience at ADAM really transformed the idea of experimental or how and where the experiment can be situated. Projects where traditional and the experimental/contemporary become multilayered – it's a holistic experiment.

Asia Discovers Asia Meeting (ADAM)

- ADAM founded in 2017 by Taipei Performing Arts Centre (still under construction) serves as a performing arts platform – cultivating a progressive approach towards performance.
- Impetus behind ADAM is that many platforms are focused on institutions and producers – at ADAM artists are at the centre for exchange of ideas and practice.
- ADAM is curated by River Lin with the artist lab curated by Natsuki Ishigami (JP) jointly facilitated by JK Anicoche and Wen Szu-Ni.
- It starts as a two-week artist lab accompanied industry platform for the last four days which is ADAM. The four days is made up of:
 - Assembly – where current issues of the sector and Asia are discussed with artists, curators and producers.
 - Kitchen – A creative development process supported in conjunction with the Taipei Arts Festival and ADAM where works in progress are presented.
 - Artist Lab – Happening two weeks prior to the meeting. The participants of the artist lab then present an early-stage sharing.
- The theme of the artist lab was “Performing (with/in) Communities: Relations, Dynamics and Politics” and brought together international artists from Asia and Europe to explore the social context of the city of Taipei and the diverse communities which reside there.
- It was about site and community the invitation to the artists was around considering community, site, why you want to want to work that way and who you are working for. Where we are and who we are.
- Curators developed a process where artists met many communities driven by who the artists were interested in meeting.
- What does it mean you be an artist in your own context and what context you can create together?
- The process during the artist lab included the first week being exploration, points of convergence explored in the second week and then being divided into groups based on interests.
- Curators assisted this process by creating islands of interest from the week's explorations.
- ADAM is a unique model, markets and summits can be formulaic, but the dynamic model felt alive with opportunity and new discourse.
- The final four day meeting where the delegates attend has had mixed reviews with some feedback that there were diverging agendas and processes, particularly between the artist lab participants and presenters/delegates arriving.
- The value of ADAM is that it is much less about buying and selling but instead about deeper conversations around practice.
- Model is that of artist speaking to institution – organiser passionate about this.
- The theme of the lab around site and community did not necessarily match up with agenda of the final four days.
- There was discussion around a more planned pathway for presenters and whether the final four days was needed.
- Kitchen (works in progress) picks up on what was developed in the previous year's Artist Lab with a number of artists returning to this edition with works in progress.
- There have been two from the Kitchen 2018 which will premiere in Australia and Taipei in 2019/2020
 - [What is Chinese by Xiao Ke and Zi Han](#)
 - [歸屬 GUI SHU \(BELONG\) by Steam Works Arts](#)
- Performance Space is a partner with ADAM and it is a great space to cultivate very relevant ideas with artists.
- In the past Australia Council has led delegations to ADAM. There has been support for artists more so than presenters.

More information

- Asia Discovers Asia Meeting adam.tpac-taipei.org
- TPAC www.tpac-taipei.org
- TPAM <https://www.tpam.or.jp/info/en/#>
- West Kowloon <https://www.westkowloon.hk/en>
- AsiaLink <https://asialink.unimelb.edu.au/arts>
- Kinonsaki Arts Residency <http://kiac.jp/jp/post/5585>
- Seoul Street Arts Festival http://www.ssaf.or.kr/html_eng/
- Setouchi Arts Festival <https://setouchi-artfest.jp/en/>