

## CONFERENCE: Nordic or Global Visual Culture?

COPENHAGEN, Friday 4<sup>th</sup> of November 2011

Located at Design Museum Denmark, Bredgade 68, Copenhagen C.

### Program

**09.30:** Arrival, coffee/tea

**10.00:** Welcome by Design Museum Denmark

**10.05:** Foreword, Director of Danish Arts Agency, Poul Bache

**10.10:** Foreword, John Frandsen, Danish Arts Council

**10.20:** Program intro: *The Nordic constellation* by moderator Tone Olaf Nielsen

**10.35:** Presentation: *Art Institutional Policies in the Nordic Region: National, Multicultural, or Intercultural?* by ass. Professor Anne Ring Petersen, University of Copenhagen

**11.20:** 15 minutes break

**11.35:** Presentation: *Cultural Diversity – Responses and Responsibilities* by Tessa Jackson, chief executive of INIVA, London

**12.35:** Lunch Break, 50 minutes

**13.25:** Short artistic feature: *Arctic Hysteria* by Pia Arke, 9 min, introduction by Tone Olaf Nielsen

**13.45:** Presentation by Hedwig Fijen, Director of the Manifesta, The European Biennial of Contemporary art

**14.45:** Presentation: *Arts Institutions and the Intercultural Challenge: Rhetoric and Practice* by Yudhishtir Raj Isar, Professor of Cultural Policy Studies, The American University of Paris

**15.45:** 15 minutes break

**16.00:** *A new format*, panel discussion between the speakers and the audience

**16.45:** Closing remarks and conclusion by the moderators Tone Olaf Nielsen and advisor at the Danish Arts Agency, Khaled Ramadan

**17.00:** The conference closes

### More Info

Please contact intercultural advisor Khaled Ramadan, [khaled@kunst.dk](mailto:khaled@kunst.dk), tel. + 45 33 74 45 86 or advisor Mette Lyng Hansen, [melyha@kunst.dk](mailto:melyha@kunst.dk), tel. + 45 33 74 45 07. Concerning press related issues, please contact chief of communication, Marianne Strøm, [strom@kunst.dk](mailto:strom@kunst.dk), tel. + 45 2145 2440.

## **ABOUT THE CONFERENCE: Nordic or Global Visual Culture?**

The conference will take place on November 4th, 2011 at Design Museum Denmark, Bredgade 68, 1260 Copenhagen from 9.30 AM – 5 PM.

*Visual art sometimes followed its prescribed root, other times it revolted against its rationality – Rasheed Araeen*

The conference Nordic or Global Visual Culture attempts to diagnose and reflect on the position of Interculturalism in relation to visual culture in Denmark and the wider Nordic region. (Interculturalism refers to the existence and equitable interaction of diverse cultures and the possibility of generating shared cultural expressions through dialogue and mutual respect. UNESCO Convention).

In the Nordic region, Interculturalism is still not articulated or seen as having a valid relationship with Internationalism, nor is it perceived as a progressive category with great potential and worth.

The few artistic intercultural initiatives that have occurred across the Nordic region have managed to address Interculturalism primarily as a dilemma related to socio-economic affairs. This conception has positioned the intercultural aesthetical experience in a difficult situation. Therefore, intercultural aesthetics as a category is trapped between socio-political demands and puzzled cultural institutions.

### **Keynote speakers:**

Anne Ring Petersen, ass. Professor, Department of Arts and Cultural Studies, University of Copenhagen

Tessa Jackson, CEO of INVIA, International Institute of Visual Arts, London

Hedwig Fijen, Manifesta Director, Holland

Yudhishtir Raj Isar, Professor of Cultural Policy Studies, The American University of Paris

John Frandsen, The Danish Arts Council

Moderators: Tone Olaf Nielsen & Khaled Ramadan

**Tessa Jackson** is Chief Executive of Iniva (Institute of International Visual Arts), London. Iniva explores key issues in society and politics, offering a platform for artistic experiment, cultural debate and exchange of ideas. Tessa has over 25 years experience within the visual arts as a curator, gallery director, writer and consultant on cultural policy in Britain and internationally. She was the founding Artistic Director of Artes Mundi, Wales' International Visual Art Exhibition and Prize, and co-author of the Review of the Presentation of the Contemporary Visual Arts which led to Arts Council England's 10 year visual arts strategy Turning Point (2006). As Director of the Scottish Arts Council (1999-2001) she contributed to Scotland's first National Cultural Strategy, and as Director at Arnolfini, Bristol (1991 - 1999) she curated a range of significant exhibitions and prepared the way for its building re-development. During her time in Glasgow (1982-1991).

**Hedwig Fijen** is based in The Netherlands and in the Manifesta host cities as being founding Director of the Manifesta, The European Biennial of Contemporary art. Fijen is trained as an historian and art historian. She has been working for Manifesta since its beginning in the nineteen's and has helped it develop as the most iconic visual arts platform in Europe specifically devoted to function as a medium or platform for social change. She has intensively worked together with a generation of international artists and curators in the periphery of Europe and its immediate neighbours. Hedwig Fijen has been a member for five years of the Netherlands Arts Council (Raad van Cultuur) in its International and Inter cultural Committee of which she recently stepped down in 2010.

**Yudhishtir Raj Isar** is an independent writer, public speaker and advisor on cultural policy issues. Former Director of Cultural Policies and of the International Fund for the Promotion of Culture at UNESCO. Co-founder and co-editor of The Cultures and Globalization Series published by SAGE. In 2004-2008 he was President of the European arts and culture platform Culture Action Europe. Member of the Board of the Institute of International Visual Arts (INIVA), London, since 1994, currently Acting Chair; Special Advisor to the World Monuments Fund (New York) and the Sanskriti Foundation (New Delhi); International Advisor to Aid to Artisans (ATA) and to the World Bank's Development Gateway. Consultant to the European Commission, the Organization of American States (OAS) and the European Cultural Foundation. Member of the International Council of Museums, and the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH).

**Anne Ring Petersen**, associate Professor, Dr.Phil., PhD, Department of Arts and Cultural Studies, University of Copenhagen. Her primary field of interest is the visual arts after 1960 explored in relation to their cultural and historical contexts and in a transnational perspective. Current research deals with the relationship between migration and art/aesthetics, including the issues of cultural encounters and translation as well as cultural memory, cultural identity, globalisation and interculturalism. She is coordinator of the interdisciplinary research network Network for Migration and Culture. Her most recent publication is the co-edited anthology Contemporary Painting in Context (2010) and a study of installation art, Installation Art Between Image and Stage (2009).

**Tone Olaf Nielsen** is an independent curator, member of the all-female curatorial collective Kuratorisk Aktion (with Frederikke Hansen). She has curated a large number of projects that critically engage the phobias and inequalities produced first by historical colonialism and later globalized capitalism, including: Democracy When?! Activist Strategizing in Los Angeles (2002), Minority Report: Challenging Intolerance in Contemporary Denmark (2004), Rethinking Nordic Colonialism (2006), TUPILAKOSAURUS: Pia Arke's Issue with Art, Ethnicity, and Colonialism, 1981-2006 (2010), and Troubling Ireland: A Cross-Borders Think Tank for Artists and Curators Engaged in Social Change (2010-11). In addition, Nielsen is one of the founders of a user-driven culture house for asylum seekers and Danish asylum activists working for a just and humane refugee and asylum policy in Denmark.

**Khaled Ramadan** is a documentarist, curator and cultural writer. Intercultural advisor at the Danish Art Council. Fields of specialties are contemporary alternative aesthetics and constructed media, the culture and history of visual culture in Europe and the Middle East. Published several articles and books, the latest IBRAAZ, Venice Biennale. 2011, Brumaria and Peripheral Insider, Museum Tusulanum Press.