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Thursday, July 12, 2012, 9 am, Hörsaal, Seminarstr. 4

John Clark, University of Sydney

# The Worlding of the Asian Modern

## Abstract

This paper reconsiders the historical depth and global range for art works and practices we might call 'The Asian Modern' from the 1850s-1980s. It does so by identifying five cohorts of around five artists each across Asia and typifies them in terms of their relative access to and integration with inner, domestic and external, international art discourses of their time. It conceives of the processes of 'worlding' as a kind of double-othering where domestic discourses are relativized by the inter-position of the external and 'new' discourses, but also where the external discourses are themselves relativised in return by the very conditions of such transfer. The lecture also includes observations about recent Biennales and their curators in their exhibition and selection of contemporary Asian art. It gives some views of the interactions of contemporary Asian art with new kinds of patronage and art markets.

Students can find recommended readings in connection with Professor Clark's lecture on the moodle platform linking to Prof. Juneja's Lecture Series "From Modernism to the Global Contemporary" (SoSe 2012). In order to access the password-restricted platform please contact: Jennifer Pochodzalla, [pochodzalla@asia-europe.uni-heidelberg.de](mailto:pochodzalla@asia-europe.uni-heidelberg.de).

## John Clark

is Professor of Asian Art History at the University of Sydney, where he is an Australian Research Council Professorial Fellow working on 'The Asian Modern'. Among his books are *Modern Asian Art* (Honolulu, University of Hawai'i Press, 1998), the co-edited *Eye of the Beholder* (Sydney, Wild Peony, 2006), *Modernities of Chinese Art* (Leiden, Brill 2010). His *Asian Modernities: Chinese and Thai Art in the 1980s and 1990s* (Sydney, Power Publications 2010) won the Best Book Prize of the Art Association of Australia and New Zealand in 2011. His collected essays on modern Japanese art will be published by Brill as *Modernities of Japanese Art* in November 2012.

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**This lecture is jointly organized by the chair of Global Art History (Prof. Monica Juneja) and the Institute of East Asian Art History (Prof. Melanie Trede).**



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