

[PRESS RELEASE]

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**Exploring Asian Aesthetics & Contemporary Curating through the Buddhist perspectives:  
< Decoding Curatorship -- Lecture Series on  
Buddhist Perspectives and Contemporary Curating >  
27 - 30 August @ Hong Kong Art School Main Campus**

**Exclusively presented by Hong Kong Art School (a division of Hong Kong Arts Centre)  
with *Mr. Fumio Nanjo, Dr. Roger McDonald & Ms. Catherine Maudsley***

**7 June 2016 | Hong Kong** — Following the heated discussion on the essential core of Curatorship in the first series of the brand new **Lecture Series on Curatorship** launched in mid-March 2016, **Hong Kong Art School (a division of Hong Kong Arts Centre)**, in partnership with Arts Initiative Tokyo (AIT) / Making Art Different (MAD) School of Contemporary Art, is delighted to present the second lecture series in the coming August, **<Decoding Curatorship -- Lecture Series on Buddhist Perspectives and Contemporary Curating>**.

**Buddhist perspectives** contribute to the shaping and the development of Asian Aesthetics. It can perhaps be compared with the way Christian perspectives contribute to the consolidation of Western or European Aesthetics over the long course of history. Revisiting Buddhist perspectives holds a key to further understanding Asian Aesthetics, which in turn facilitates the perceiving of contemporary **curating in Asian regions or with Asian context**.

**Through the eyes of three distinguished Curators (also the hosts of this Lecture Series), *Mr. Fumio Nanjo***, Art Education International Director of Hong Kong Art School as well as an internationally renowned Art

Curator, **Dr. Roger McDonald**, Deputy Director and Founding Member of Arts Initiative Tokyo (AIT) and **Ms. Catherine Maudsley**, the well known curator as well as Council Member of Hong Kong Art School, this Lecture Series revisits the role of Buddhist perspectives over the consolidation of Asian Aesthetics, exploring relevant applications in modern times, and investigating how related perspectives come together with contemporary curatorial notions.

From an **overview of Buddhist art forms across Asian regions**, to a particular review on **Zen Buddhism and Art** as well as the connection between **Esoteric Buddhism and Art**, this Series of 5 Lectures opens up a window to the contemporary reinterpretation of traditional subject matters.

This series is open to **ALL** who are interested in the topics and the inside story of art industry, and are hoping to gain more knowledge about the making of exhibition.

Details of the Lecture Series are as follows:

### Lecture Outlines

<b>Lecture 1:</b>	<b>Buddhism - Essential Concepts, Practices and Art Forms</b> An overview by Catherine Maudsley	27 August 2016 (Saturday)	3pm - 5pm
<b>Lecture 2:</b>	<b>Filling the Void (I) - Zen and Architecture</b> Introduction and Case Study by Fumio Nanjo	28 August 2016 (Sunday)	11am - 1pm
<b>Lecture 3:</b>	<b>Filling the Void (II) - Zen and Art</b> Introduction and Case Study by Roger McDonald	28 August 2016 (Sunday)	3pm - 5pm
<b>Lecture 4:</b>	<b>Visualizing the Universe - Esoteric Vision</b> Introduction and Case Study by Fumio Nanjo and Roger McDonald	29 August 2016 (Monday)	7pm - 9pm
<b>Lecture 5:</b>	<b>Recent Curating and the Buddhist Imaginary</b> Case Study and Experience Sharing by Fumio Nanjo and Roger McDonald	30 August 2016 (Tuesday)	7pm - 9pm

**Venue:** All lectures will be conducted at the Main Campus of Hong Kong Art School (Address: 10/F, Hong Kong Arts Centre, 2 Harbour Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong)

**Fee for Each Lecture:** HKD1,250

**Fee for Whole Series (Total 5 Lectures):** HKD5,500

(Interested parties can enroll into individual lecture without completing the whole series)

**Medium of Instruction:** English (Unless otherwise stated)

For details, please visit:

<http://www.hkas.edu.hk/en/decoding-curatorship-lecture-series-on-buddhist-perspectives-and-contemporary-curating>

For photos related to the Lecture Series, please download from here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/b7nz1ttp8pwjrs8/AABNvv5BMAoLK6xV4WAYTZHaa?dl=0>

### **More about the Hosts:**

***Mr. Fumio Nanjo***

**Art Education International Director, Hong Kong Art School**

Mr. Nanjo is one of the most important Art Curators in the contemporary art scene of Japan. He has been the Director of the Mori Art Museum, Japan since 2006. He has also been an art critic and a lecturer at the Keio University for a substantial period of time. Throughout the years, Mr. Nanjo has been initiating and conducting a large number of art projects on international basis, and has been travelling worldwide for his art advisory services and curatorial works which include his involvement in the Singapore Biennale, the Sao Paulo Biennale, the Venice Biennale and more.

***Dr. Roger McDonald***

**Deputy Director and Founding Member of Arts Initiative Tokyo (AIT)**

AIT is a non-profit arts organization established in Tokyo in 2001 for a general public to come together and learn about art. Dr. McDonald is one of its founding members, and the Program Director of Making Art Different (MAD) the educational component of AIT. Based in Nagano, Dr. McDonald has worked as an independent curator since 1989 (working with Fumio Nanjo on several exhibitions), and is the Director of the Fenberger House that opened in 2013 in the mountain of Saku city, Nagano.

Dr. McDonald was educated in the United Kingdom, studying International Politics (BA, Wales), Mysticism and Religious Experience (MA, Kent) and received a PhD in History and Theory of Art from the University of Kent.

***Ms. Catherine Maudsley***

**School Council Member, Hong Kong Art School**

Ms. Maudsley is well-known as a curator, art historian and art advisor. A pioneering fine arts professional who has lived in Hong Kong for more than three decades, she is privileged to work with distinguished private collectors worldwide. She is also well versed in Buddhist Studies, having trained as in the History of Religion at the University of Toronto where she received many distinctions including a Gold Medal in Religious Studies. She was also a Connaught Research Scholar, a Canada-China Scholar and a Commonwealth Scholar. She has travelled extensively throughout Asia to important Buddhist sites and throughout the world to museum collections of Buddhist art.

Ms. Maudsley has lectured and has acted as a moderator for a wide range of institutions, including the University of Hong Kong's Department of Fine Arts, Christie's Education, Sotheby's Institute of Art, and Asia Society. She has also served on the Executive Committees of the University of Hong Kong Museum Society and the Oriental Ceramic Society, Hong Kong.

### ***About Hong Kong Art School***

Hong Kong Art School (HKAS), founded in 2000, is a division of the Hong Kong Arts Centre (HKAC). Closely associated with HKAC's environment of cultural venues, client art groups and creative enterprises, HKAS offers a unique setting for students to draw on a vast spectrum of artistic practices.

HKAS is an accredited institute staffed by a group of dedicated artists, who are active and distinguished practitioners in the field. The focus of HKAS award-bearing curriculum lies in four core academic areas, namely, Fine Art, Applied Art, Media Art, and Applied Theatre & Drama Education, and its scope covers programmes with academic levels ranging from Higher Diploma, Professional Diploma, Bachelor Degree to Master Degree. The short courses and the outreach projects of the School that run parallel to the award-bearing curriculum span an even wider variety of artistic disciplines, and they genuinely bridge art and the community. [www.hkas.edu.hk](http://www.hkas.edu.hk)

### ***About Arts Initiative Tokyo (AIT)***

Arts Initiative Tokyo (AIT) is a non-profit arts organization established in Tokyo in 2001 for a general public to come together and learn about art. For details, please also visit: <http://www.a-i-t.net>.

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### **Media Enquiry**

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