



Introduction

By *Anemone Platz*

In an innovative collaboration between the University of Copenhagen, Aarhus University and several Danish art institutions, two weekend seminars were held in spring of 2009 under the title "Visualising Asian Modernity: The Global Rise of Contemporary Japanese and East Asian Visual Arts". The seminar was supported by a wide range of institutions and entities, as listed below. With the rise of the Asian economies there has also been a substantial re-centering of global visual art culture on Asia as a major producer of the world's images and visual culture. Asian images and visual culture have become the everyday currency of popular culture everywhere, upturning the traditional monopoly of the West, whether it is in European traditions or America as the paragon of modernity.

On the background of this pre-assumption speakers, art specialists and the audience discussed the popularity and diversity of different "Asian imaginaries" and its influence on a so-called Western context as well as within the respective framework of their culture of origin. The academic debate was then taken to a higher stage by supplying and deepening it through *in-situ* talks with curators and art critics (re-)presenting Asian art in Denmark. The aim was not only to bridge academia and practices in the art scene, but to invite to a critical reflection and exchange of ideas concerning modes and manners of (re-)presenting Asian art in a non-Asian environment.

The present special issue gathers a selection of some of the important topics discussed at the seminars. An audio-visual file of the seminars can be found on <http://www.vam.ku.dk>.

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Main sponsors for Visualising Asian Modernity:

- Asian Dynamics Initiative (ADI), University of Copenhagen
- Globalisation Research Initiative in the Humanities at Aarhus University
- Danish Arts Council Committee for Visual Arts
- Japan Foundation

Institutional partners:

- Embassy of Japan in Denmark
- ARoS Aarhus Kunstmuseum
- ARKEN Museum of Modern Art
- Aarhus Kunstbygning