



in cooperation with

museum im lagerhaus.
stiftung für schweizerische **naive kunst**
und **art brut**.

International Symposium: Art Brut – Japan – Switzerland

October 17-18, 2014

PROGRAM

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17: University of Zurich main building, room KOL-H-317 (floor H)

09:00 – 09:30 **Registration**

09:30 – 10:00 **Welcoming Remarks**

Prof. Dr. Hans Bjarne Thomsen (University of Zurich)
Dr. Monika Jagfeld (Director, Museum im Lagerhaus)

10:00 – 12:30 **Panel 1: Basic Concepts**

Panel Chair: Prof. Dr. Bettina Gockel (University of Zurich)

Daniel Baumann (Curator, Adolf Wölfli-Stiftung, Museum of Fine Arts Bern)

Outsider Switzerland

Why do many famous outsider artists come from Switzerland? Is it true, as some claim, that Switzerland's mental asylums were the country's art academies?

Prof. Dr. Johann Feilacher (Director, Museum Gugging, Vienna)

Gugging: The Development from Psychiatry to an Art Museum

During the sixties, the psychiatrist Leo Navratil started to discover artistic talented patients in the Gugging Hospital. After the retirement of Navratil in 1986, the presenter established what eventually became the House of Artists as a separate institution from the clinic. Consequently he established an art gallery, organized international exhibitions, and founded the Museum for Art Brut.

--- coffee break ---

Prof. Dr. Roger Cardinal (Professor Emeritus, University of Kent)

Responding to Outsider Art

This illustrated talk will show examples of Outsider Art (Art Brut) originating in a variety of material contexts and involving a range of belief systems and mental perspectives. Many images relate to private fantasy, although some speak directly of the artist's material experiences. The talk will seek to clarify what is at stake when we come into contact with such productions, and seeks to define appropriate ways of responding to them - and of appreciating them.

Discussions

12:30 – 14:00 **Lunch break**

14:00 – 16:30 **Panel 2: Japan and Art Brut**

Panel Chair: Dr. Michaela Reichel (Director, Textilmuseum St. Gallen)

Prof. Satomi Yamamoto (Kyoritsu Women's University, Tokyo)

The Construction of Discrimination, Dread, and Salvation: Depiction of Outsiders in Japanese Medieval Narrative Handscrolls

In medieval Japan, Buddhist ideas of karmic causes and effects were widely believed; therefore mental or physical disabilities were seen as evidence of bad karma. On examining images of people with disabilities one becomes aware of the complex ways that such people were understood, from reflecting the results of karmic retribution to becoming subjects of dread and personal salvation.

Mario Del Curto (Art Brut Photographer)

Could Photography Reveal an Interior World?

The presenter will show short moments of insight from his encounters in Japan, for example, from his meeting with Eijiro Miyama: "I do this to amuse and bring up humor and colorfulness in Japanese life." The photographer creates his works in order to amuse the viewer and to point out the vivid colourfulness of life in Japan.

--- coffee break ---

Prof. Dr. Shunroku Okudaira (Osaka University)

Omnipresence of Foreign Cultures: Original Images of Assorted Sages

The presenter argues that individuals with mental and physical disabilities were sometimes used as models for images of eccentric Buddhist sages. Disabilities were present in any society and historical period and the popularity of such Buddhist images may relate to the regular presence of people with disabilities in contemporary societies.

Discussions

17:00 – 17:30 **Special Greetings**

Vice-Ambassador Yukihiro Nikaido (Japanese Embassy in Switzerland)

Prof. Dr. Andreas H. Jucker (Dean of the Philosophical Faculty, University of Zurich)

Dr. Peter Schorer (President Foundation Board, Museum im Lagerhaus/Stiftung für schweizerische Naive Kunst und Art Brut)

17:30 – 18:30 **Keynote Speaker: Edward M. Gomez (Senior Editor, Raw Vision)**

Japanese Art Brut: The International Context

A look at some of the main issues and accomplishments in the still-young field of Japanese *art brut* from a specialist in both outsider art and Japanese modern art, who has been closely following and writing about developments in this field. His remarks will place the latest activities in the Japanese *art brut* field in relevant critical and historical contexts.

18:30 **Reception dinner** with speakers, panel chairs, and organizers in Zurich

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18: St. Gallen, Architektur Forum Ostschweiz at Lagerhaus (close to the Museum im Lagerhaus)

09:30 **Arrival in St. Gallen**

09:45 – 10:00 **Welcoming Remarks**

Prof. Dr. Hans Bjarne Thomsen (University of Zurich)
Dr. Monika Jagfeld (Director, Museum im Lagerhaus)

10:00 – 12:30 **Panel 3: Art Brut as Exhibition**

Panel Chair: Dr. Daniel Studer (Director, Historisches und Völkerkundemuseum, St. Gallen)

Mizue Kobayashi (Art Director, Aiseikai Tokyo)

The Birthplaces of the Fascination and the Artworks of Japanese Art Brut.

The speaker will introduce the artists and artwork of Japanese Art Brut, and also the fascination of the movement. A number of artists and artwork have been discovered in various parts of Japan, so that every time an exhibition is shown outside the country, many new artists and artwork have been introduced to foreign audiences. The very places that the artworks are created help to explain why so many Art Brut artists continue to be discovered in Japan.

Sarah Lombardi (Director, Collection de l'Art Brut, Lausanne)

The Collection de l'Art Brut and the Dissident Productions of Japan: Encounters and Collaborations

The presenter will explain various aspects of her collaborations between the Collection de l'Art Brut and the Borderless Art Museum NO-MA. She will also discuss the idea of Art Brut and its current impact within Japan.

--- coffee break ---

Kengō Kitaoka (Chairperson, Shiga Prefectural Social Welfare Organization)

The Cooperation of Governmental Agencies in the Promotion of Art Brut in Japan

The speaker will introduce Japanese Art Brut from its origins to its current trends and thereby outline the changes in the way that Japanese Art Brut has recently developed and gained attention within Japan. Through the developments in the artistic appreciation of Art Brut, collaborate work within various disciplines and organizations have created a new artistic and cultural property of Japan.

Discussions

12:35 – 14:00 **Lunch break**

14:00 – 15:00 **Panel 4: Art Brut in the Academia**

Panel Chair: Kathrin Linder, lic. phil. (Assistant to the Director, Museum im Lagerhaus)

Prof. Dr. Bettina Gockel (University of Zurich)

Out is In. History and Methods of "Outsider-Art" in the Mirror of Persisting Dualisms

The notion «outsider-art» as well as earlier categories like «artistry of the mentally ill» and «art brut» implicate dualisms like out versus in, raw versus refined, insane versus healthy. During the current phase of a globalization of «outsider art» such dualisms seem to persist. They produce specific approaches and outcomes that shape the ways how such art works are presented in exhibitions, and how art critiques and art historians write about «outsider-art». My paper draws attention to such methodological and theoretical dualisms and attempts to trace down some of its historical and cultural origins and contexts.

Sarah Rebecca Schmid (Graduate Student, University of Zurich)

The Biographies of Art Brut Artists - A Closer Look

The term 'Art Brut' essentially unites an enormous variety of very different artists and forms of art. It makes every artist's biography unique, but at the same time, every biography contains the same focus: the artist's act of creation.

- 15:00 – 16:30 **Final Discussions and Remarks**
Prof. Dr. Hans Bjarne Thomsen (University of Zurich)
Dr. Monika Jagfeld (Director, Museum im Lagerhaus)
- 16:30 – 18:00 **Reception**
Museum im Lagerhaus
- 18:00 **Dinner** for speakers, panel chairs, and organizers in St. Gallen

ADDRESSES:

University of Zurich

Rämistrasse 71, 8006 Zurich
Tel: +41 (0)44 634 11 11

Floor plan:

http://www.plaene.uzh.ch/KOL/floor/H?z=6&lon=951811.74744172&lat=6003424.9123264&f=showAll&w=938&h=565&m=marker_building_KOL

(The welcome desk inside the entrance of the main building can guide you on how to get to the room.)

Museum im Lagerhaus

Stiftung für schweizerische Naive Kunst und Art Brut

Davidstrasse 44
9000 St. Gallen
Tel: +41 (0)71 223 58 57
www.museumimlagerhaus.ch

Architektur Forum Ostschweiz at Lagerhaus (close to the Museum im Lagerhaus)

Davidstrasse 40
9000 St. Gallen
<https://goo.gl/maps/Q1MST>

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