

A Gutai Panel at Guggenheim (New York, 18 Nov 09)

Gutai: A "Concrete" Discussion of Transnationalism

November 18, 2009, 6:30pm

Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York

Program

Remark by Paul Jenkins, artist

"Global Gutai" (paper) by Ming Tiampo, Associate Professor
of Art History, Carleton University, Ottawa

"American Reception: Gutai and the New York Scene" (paper)
by Judith Rodenbeck, the Noble Foundation Chair in Art and
Cultural History, Sarah Lawrence College

Commentary by Reiko Tomii, independent scholar/co-founder,
PoNJA-GenKon

Discussion moderated by Alexandra Munroe, Senior Curator
of Asian Art, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York

Fifty-five years have passed since the Gutai Art Association (Gutai) was founded in the city of Ashiya, west of Osaka, in 1954. The group's aspiration to "present concrete (gutai-teki) proof that our spirit is free" resulted in an amazing body of work, ranging from gestural abstraction to performances, outdoor and indoor installations to Conceptualism. Already in the 1950s, Gutai's work prefigured many of the newest and most important tendencies of 1960s art. Their radical experimentalism was enabled and disseminated by leader Yoshihara Jiro's engagement with the international art world. Using his extensive library and connections, he kept the group in dialogue with artists internationally, even bringing the group's journal Gutai to the library of Jackson Pollock, among others.

Today, as the contemporary art world becomes more globalized, Gutai's transnationalism feels even more compelling and relevant than before. In the panel, art historians working at the forefront of Gutai scholarship in a "concrete" manner will explore Gutai's transnationalism.

With support from the Japan Foundation and the Pollock-Krasner

House and Study Center, East Hampton, New York, this program is conceived by PoNJA-GenKon in conjunction with the exhibition "Under Each Other's Spell": Gutai and New York.

Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum
1071 Fifth Avenue (at 89th Street)
New York NY 10128
10, 7 Members, Free to students with ID and RSVP.
www.guggenheim.org/publicprograms or
call the box office: 212 423 3587, M-F, 1-5 pm

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"Under Each Other's Spell": Gutai and New York has been curated by Ming Tiampo, for the Pollock-Krasner House and Study Center (July 30-October 17, 2009). To examine the fruitful relationship that developed between Gutai and New York artists in the 1950s and 1960s, it draws in particular on material in the Pollock-Krasner House collection, and a group of paintings in the collection of Paul Jenkins, who was an artist-in-residence at the Gutai Pinacotheca in Osaka in 1964. The paintings were given to Jenkins in exchange for his own works as an act of friendship. As he recalled the time he and the Gutai artists spent together, Jenkins said that they were "under each others' spell." In addition to paintings by several Gutai members, the exhibition will include examples of the Gutai journal and other publications, works by New York artist who related strongly to Gutai, videos of Gutai exhibitions and performances in Japan, and photographs of American artists - including Jenkins, Alice Baber, Robert Rauschenberg, Jasper Johns and John Cage - visiting the Gutai group in 1964.

Curator Dr. Ming Tiampo's Gallery Talk, Friday, November 20
at noon

An accompanying catalogue includes essays on the interaction between Gutai and New York artists by guest curator Ming Tiampo, and on Jackson Pollock's relationship to Gutai by Oshma Tetsuya (Curator, Aichi Prefectural Museum of Art, Nagoya, Japan). It also includes a new translation of "Gutai Art Manifesto" by Reiko Tomii.

The exhibition travels to New Jersey City University's Harold B. Lemmerman Gallery (Director: Midori Yosimoto) and is on view through December 16, 2007.

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For information about Guggenheim, visit <http://www.guggenheim.org>

For information about Pollock-Krasner House and Study Center, visit

naples.cc.sunysb.edu/CAS/pkhouse.nsf

For information about PoNJA-GenKon (Post-1945 Japanese Art Group / Gendai Bijutsu Kondankai), visit

www.ponja-genkon.net

For information about New Jersey City University's Harold B. Lemmerman Gallery, visit

<http://www.njcu.edu/dept/art/galleries/default.asp#lemmerman>

Reference:

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