

Public Talk

## Tokyo Void: Possibilities in Absence



The Japan Foundation, Sydney proudly presents a public talk by Dr Heike Rahmann, a landscape architecture and design researcher at Melbourne's RMIT University. The talk is titled 'Tokyo Void: Possibilities in Absence', and runs on **March 14 (Saturday), 2-3pm** at The Japan Foundation Gallery.

Based on her recent co-authored book, *Tokyo Void: Possibilities in Absence* (2014), this talk explores the conceptions and uses of temporary vacant space in the dense urban landscape of Tokyo. It discusses the distinct morphology of Tokyo's vacant spaces, and explores possibilities for rethinking them in the context of creative practice.

Says Rahmann, "Tokyo's urban landscape is full of contradictions: it is a densely packed megalopolis, yet it is also home to thousands of vacant spaces. The lens of vacancy calls into question the notion of a finished ideal in the urban landscape. Vacant spaces are often discounted and undervalued, but the more we think about it, the more we realise that they are actually integral and valuable aspects of urban space. The aim of my book and also this talk is to encourage a renewed appreciation of the imperfect and flexible, which I think we can all benefit from embracing."

'Tokyo Void: Possibilities in Absence' runs alongside the '*Mono no aware: The Poignancy of Things*' exhibition of photography by Brett Boardman at The Japan Foundation Gallery, February 26 – April 11.

These events run in conjunction with **Art Month 2015** and **The Sydney Morning Herald Spectrum NOW** presented by ANZ.

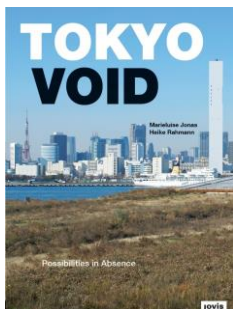
<b>Venue:</b>	<b>The Japan Foundation Gallery</b> The Japan Foundation, Sydney Level 4, Central Park 28 Broadway Chippendale NSW 2008
<b>Admission:</b>	Admission free; RSVP essential.
<b>Enquiries/RSVP:</b>	<a href="mailto:reception@jpf.org.au">reception@jpf.org.au</a> / 02 8239 0055
<b>Website:</b>	<a href="http://www.jpf.org.au">www.jpf.org.au</a>

#### ABOUT DR HEIKE RAHMANN



Heike Rahmann holds a PhD in Architecture from the University of Tokyo, and is a lecturer in Landscape Architecture in the School of Architecture and Design, RMIT University. Her research examines contemporary design practices at the intersection of landscape and urbanism. She has published widely on the creative, ecological and cultural manifestations of interstitial spaces in contemporary urban environments. In 2014, she was [awarded a Japan Foundation Fellowship](#) to research trends and practices in contemporary landscape architecture in Japan. More recently, in collaboration with Dr Jillian Walliss, she has been exploring the role of digital technologies in advancing landscape architecture practice. Outcomes of this research will be published in the forthcoming book, *Digital Technologies and Landscape Design* (Routledge, 2015).

## ABOUT TOKYO VOID: POSSIBILITIES IN ABSENCE



The book, *Tokyo Void: Possibilities in Absence*, is co-authored by Dr Heike Rahmann and Dr Marieluise Jonas, both of RMIT University's School of Architecture and Design. The book explores the role of temporary vacant spaces within the dense urban fabric of Tokyo. It was released by Jovis in 2014.

## ABOUT MONO NO AWARE: THE POIGNANCY OF THINGS



[Mono no aware: The Poignancy of Things](#) is an exhibition by photographer Brett Boardman of images captured in Kyoto, Japan, in 2011. The images juxtapose Katsura Rikyu, an iconic 17th-century imperial villa, with a makeshift shelter under a bridge nearby. Further details available in the [exhibition media release](#).

## ABOUT THE JAPAN FOUNDATION, SYDNEY

The Japan Foundation, Sydney is the Australian arm of the Japan Foundation, which was established by the Japanese government to promote cultural and intellectual exchange between Japan and other nations. It runs a diverse range of programs and events, including exhibitions, talk events, grant programs and Japanese language courses for all levels from beginner to advanced. The Japan Foundation was established in 1972 with a global network of 22 offices in 21 countries. The Australian office was founded in 1977.



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