MEDIA RELEASE

EMBARGOED UNTIL 18 FEB 2016



TALK EVENT

AfterLandscapes: Designing in Uncertainty

The complexity of post-disaster recovery



The Japan Foundation, Sydney presents 'AfterLandscapes: Designing in Uncertainty', a public talk by Dr Marieluise Jonas (RMIT University) on March 18 (Friday), 6:30pm – 7:30pm at The Japan Foundation, Sydney. This talk is part of an event program titled, After 3.11: Have you met the new Japan?, commemorating the 5th anniversary of the earthquake and tsunami that hit Japan on March 11, 2011.

Many towns along Japan's northeast coast were wiped out by the tsunami, which travelled several kilometres inland and reached a height of over 40 metres in some areas. Nine months after the disaster, landscape architecture researcher Marieluise Jonas travelled to the tsunami-affected city of Kesennuma to work with local communities on a rebuilding strategy. This meeting spawned multiple research projects which aimed to resolve the tensions faced by tsunami-affected communities who somehow hoped to continue living by, and with, the sea.

In this talk, Marieluise shares recent developments and critical reflections on the ongoing process of recovery in Japan's northeastern **Tōhoku region** through the lens of her work in Kesennuma.

Marieluise Jonas says, "This story is based in Japan, but ultimately what I would like to share is universal. I want to show complex it is to rebuild after a disaster of this magnitude. People think, there's a disaster, we fix things, it's fine. But we can't just replace what we had before and assume everything will be the same. We have seen this with flood- and fire-affected communities in Australia, and we can see it happening in Japan now too, albeit on a much larger scale. I hope that looking closely at the successes, failures and stalemates of post-disaster rebuilding will make us better equipped to cope with disasters in the future."

This talk is part of the event program, <u>After 3.11: Have you met the new Japan?</u>, which runs March 1 – April 15 and includes an exhibition, film screening and further talks.

PROGRAM DETAILS

After 3.11: Have you met the new Japan?

[EXHIBITION]

March 1 – April 15 Icons of Time by Tomohiro Muda

Gallery Hours

Monday – Friday: 10am – 6pm Selected Saturdays (March 19, April 9): 10am – 3pm Closed Sundays & public holidays

Admission is free.

Opening Reception & Artist Talk

March 4, 6:30pm – 8:00pm Admission free. RSVP essential.

[DEMONSTRATION]

March 10 Obori Soma Ware: Rebuilding Kiln & Kin

Masanori Sue (Ceramicist) & Takeshi Matsunaga (Speaker)

6:30pm – 7:30pm (doors open 6pm) @ The Japan Foundation, Sydney. Admission is free. RSVP essential (via website).

[TALKS]

March 18 AfterLandscapes: Designing in Uncertainty

Marieluise Jonas (RMIT University)

April 1 The New Wave of Activist Culture in Post-3.11 Japan

Akihiro Ogawa (Melbourne University)

April 15 3.11 in Literature and Film

Tamaki Tokita (University of Sydney)

6:30pm – 7:30pm (doors open 6pm) @ The Japan Foundation, Sydney. Admission is free. RSVP essential (via website).

Free CHOYA tastings available at venue.

[FILM]

April 8 Tell the Prime Minister (2015; 109 mins; Japanese with English subtitles)

Feat. Q&A with director Eiji Oguma

6:30pm (doors open 6pm) @ University of Technology Sydney (Bldg 2, Lecture theatre 3.02)

Admission is free. RSVP essential (via website).

Venues: [EXHIBITION, DEMONSTRATION & TALKS]

The Japan Foundation, Sydney

Level 4, Central Park (access via lifts)
28 Broadway, Chippendale NSW 2008

[FILM]

University of Technology, Sydney (UTS)

Building 2, Lecture Theatre 3.02 (via UTS main entrance, Broadway)

Admission: Admission is free.

RSVP essential for talks, film and opening reception.

RSVP via website.

Enquiries: reception@jpf.org.au / 02 8239 0055

Website/RSVP: www.jpf.org.au



Free **CHOYA** tastings available on talk nights

ABOUT MARIELUISE JONAS



Dr Marieluise Jonas is a senior lecturer in landscape architecture in RMIT University's School of Architecture and Design. Prior to entering academia, she practiced as a landscape architect in Germany, Japan and Australia. Marieluise earned her PhD at the University of Tokyo, where she researched informal gardening practices in dense urban conditions. Since 3.11, she has been highly involved with communities in tsunami-affected Tohoku, and continues her affiliation with the University of Tokyo through urban research and post-disaster

reconstruction projects. She has recently returned from Tōhoku, where she convened a conference called "Living with the Sea", funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Australia-Japan Foundation. Her talk is based on her current book project, AfterLandscape: Designing in Uncertainty—Post Disaster Futures Japan [forthcoming, 2016], which seeks to document innovative rebuilding in Tōhoku.

ABOUT 3.11

On March 11, 2011 a magnitude 9.0 quake struck Japan, causing the nation's biggest tsunami in over a millennium. The wave hit the northeastern Tōhoku region, destroying thousands of homes and sparking the explosion of a nuclear power plant in coastal Fukushima. This triple disaster of earthquake, tsunami and plant explosion is known in Japan as "3.11". Five years on, the effects still echo in the physical, civil and artistic landscape. The After 3.11 program shines a spotlight on some of these changes.

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 1978.



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For more information please see www.jpf.org.au or contact:

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