JAPAN : AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVES

An exhibition at the Incinerator Art Space Willoughby NSW

6 May – 24 May 2015

Curated by Dr Mark Stiles

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JAPAN : AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVES

*Australian architects and designers and Japan*

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This exhibition will present the work of seven Australian designers reflecting the influence the art and culture of Japan has had on their own practice.

The Willoughby Incinerator Art Space, designed as a municipal incinerator in 1934 by Walter Burley Griffin and Eric Nicholls and renovated in 2006 by SJB/GML, is the perfect showcase for the work of these innovative architects and designers.

Those participating will be Adrian Boddy (photography), Tony Caro (photography), Ro Cook (textiles), Tony Coote (architecture), Diane Jones (interior architecture), Stefan Lie (sculpture) and Keith Pike (architecture).

The exhibition is open 10am – 4pm, Wednesdays to Sundays, and will run from 6 May to 24 May 2015.

PHILOSOPHY OF EXHIBITION

*The print is more autobiographical than you can imagine. If Japanese prints were deducted from my education, I don’t know what direction the whole may have taken.*

*Frank Lloyd Wright 1912*

The culture of Japan has influenced Western artists and architects since the late nineteenth century. There is a particular link between modern architecture and Japan, a link first established by the great American architect Frank Lloyd Wright and followed by many others since. And not only architects : Western print-makers and ceramic artists have also sought inspiration and technique from the Japanese tradition and continue to do so.

*Japan : Australian Perspectives* is a proposed exhibition for the Incinerator Art Space about this link. It will present the work of seven contemporary Australian creative practitioners who have been inspired by Japan.

The principles uniting the work will be the same ones that attracted Frank Lloyd Wright to Japanese art : its clarity, its elimination of the insignificant and above all its “candid and gracious being” which, Wright said, represented the material means to a spiritual end.

The presentation of the work will reflect the essential Japanese aesthetic virtue of contrast – juxtaposing the old and the new, the rough and the smooth, the grand and the humble, but projects united by their sincerity and integrity.

The architects and designers taking part include Adrian Boddy (photography), Tony Caro (photography), Ro Cook (textiles), Tony Coote (architecture), Diane Jones (interior architecture), Stefan Lie (sculpture) and Keith Pike (architecture). All live and work in Sydney.

*Japan : Australian Perspectives* will be a stimulating look at the important and constantly refreshing relationship between an old culture and a new. We will also be exploring the possibility of touring the show to selected regional galleries in New South Wales and the Australia House gallery in Japan.

THE INCINERATOR ART SPACE

2 SMALL STREET

WILLOUGHBY NSW 2068

THE PARTICIPANTS

ADRIAN BODDY

TONY CARO

RO COOK

TONY COOTE

DIANE JONES

STEFAN LIE

KEITH PIKE

MARK STILES

ADRIAN BODDY taught at the University of Technology Sydney for many years and is a former director of its architecture program. He is the principal of Adrian Boddy Photography and his work has appeared in many architecture and design publications in Australia and overseas.

www.adrianboddy.com

TONY CARO is a Sydney architect and the principal of Tony Caro Architecture. He has recently completed work at Jackson’s Landing in Pyrmont and is currently working on a project in the Barangaroo site at Darling Harbour.

tonycaroarchitecture.com.au

RO COOK is a Sydney designer and textile artist and a former head of the design program at the Australian Film Television and Radio School. Her interest in textiles has taken her all over Asia and she will be showing some hand-printed drop panels especially made for the Incinerator Art Space.

[www.rokoco.com.au](http://www.rokoco.com.au)

TONY COOTE is a Sydney architect who has been fascinated by Japanese architecture and culture for over forty years. He is a practicing Buddhist and the designer of the Kodoji Zen retreat on the Hawkesbury River which he has been helping to build since 1984.

[www.tonycootearchitect.com](http://www.tonycootearchitect.com)

DIANE JONES is an architect and interior designer who is an associate at the Sydney firm PTW. Her interior work for public and heritage buildings has been widely admired and she will be showing some recent projects at the Incinerator Art Space.

[www.ptw.com.au/team/diane-jones](http://www.ptw.com.au/team/diane-jones)

STEFAN LIE is a Sydney industrial designer and sculptor. He has worked for clients around the world and is a past winner of the Shizuoka Good Design Award in Japan. His work can currently be seen at the Spiral Art Centre in Tokyo.

www.stefan-lie.com

KEITH PIKE is a Sydney architect whose work has been very widely published. He studied in Japan under the distinguished Japanese architects Arata Isosaki and Kazuo Shinohara and has worked in Tokyo and Hong Kong as well as Sydney. He will be showing five recent residential projects in our exhibition.

[www.keithpikeassociates.com](http://www.keithpikeassociates.com)

MARK STILES received his PhD from the University of NSW in 2010. He first visited Japan in 1967 when his parents were posted to the Canadian Embassy in Tokyo, and he has returned many times since. In 2013 Mark curated the successful exhibition at the Incinerator Art Space to mark the centenary of the designers of Canberra, Walter Burley Griffin and Marion Mahony Griffin.

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