



Press Release

For Immediate
Release

10 October 2018
Singapore

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More Information

<http://asef.org/projects/programmes/536-culture360-org>

Download the Australia Guide here:

<http://asef.org/projects/themes/culture/4546-creative-responses-to-sustainability-%7C-new-guide-for-australia-launched>

culture360.ASEF.org

Creative Responses to Sustainability: Australia Guide launched

Since 2015, the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) has published the series Creative Responses to Sustainability through its arts & culture portal, culture360.ASEF.org. In August 2018, ASEF launched the Australia Guide, the 5th in this ongoing series.

This series of country-specific guides provides an overview of creative responses to sustainability across Asia and Europe. The Australian edition features a directory of **25 of the most pioneering and significant organisations** contributing to social and environmental change, as well as insights of the current trends in the sector and an interactive map. The Guide outlines some of the key ways of working in the Australian context and explores themes such as cross-disciplinary collaborations, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander connection to land, environmental advocacy and disaster recovery.

The series of practical Guides, including Singapore (2015), Korea (2016), Indonesia (2017) and Berlin (2017), are starting points that allow artists, arts organisations, networks or those interested in art and sustainability to quickly assess how their practice could align to the priorities and activities across diverse countries in Asia and Europe.

Culture is increasingly recognised as an important dimension for achieving the sustainable development, as it offers the potential to inspire a critical and constructive view on the current approaches to sustainability. As Oron Catts, the Director of Perth-based SymbioticA observes: *"Institutionally there needs to be less expectation that artists will be drivers of innovation, because that's not their role. But they do play a very important role in trying to make sense of new approaches, new knowledge, because artists, to a large extent, are meaning-makers."*

Initiated in collaboration with Yasmine OSTENDORF from the EU funded network Green Art Lab Alliance (GALA), the Guides are an extension of ASEF's engagement with art and environmental sustainability, which was spearheaded with their *Connect2Culture* programme (2008-2011). The initiative is also a part of culture360.ASEF.org's on-going commitment to ensuring public access to information and to protecting fundamental

freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements (SDG #16). The platform, where the Guides are freely available to download, makes information about arts and culture accessible to the 51 countries of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) region and beyond.

The Australia Guide is published during the 10th anniversary of *culture360.ASEF.org*. The platform has received global recognition as a good model of information exchange between two regions by UNESCO, the UN's agency for culture, in its 2018 Global Report titled [Reshaping Cultural Policies \(2nd edition\)](#), as well as by the European Union in its report [Preparatory Action on the Role of Culture in EU External Relations](#) (2014).



About the ASEM, ASEF and culture360.ASEF.org



Asia-Europe Meeting

The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) is an intergovernmental process established in 1996 to foster dialogue and cooperation between Asia and Europe. Presently it comprises 53 partners: 30 European and 21 Asian countries, the European Union and the ASEAN Secretariat. ASEM addresses political, economic, social, cultural, and educational issues of common interest, in a spirit of mutual respect and equal partnership.

For more information, please visit www.ASEMinfoboard.org



The **Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)** promotes understanding, strengthens relationships and facilitates cooperation among the people, institutions and organisations of Asia and Europe. ASEF enhances dialogue, enables exchanges and encourages collaboration across the thematic areas of culture, education, governance, sustainable development, economy and public health.

ASEF is an intergovernmental not-for-profit organisation located in Singapore. Founded in 1997, it is the only institution of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM).

ASEF runs more than 25 projects a year, consisting of around 100 activities, mainly conferences, seminars, workshops, lectures, publications, and online platforms, together with about 125 partner organisations. Each year over 3,000 Asians and Europeans participate in ASEF's activities, and much wider audiences are reached through its various events, networks, and web-portals.

For more information, please visit www.ASEF.org



culture360.ASEF.org is ASEF's arts and culture portal, initiated by the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) and managed by ASEF's Culture Department since 2005. It is designed to stimulate cultural engagement and enhance mutual understanding between Asia and Europe by providing relevant information through weekly updates on news, events, opportunities and resources. It also features a magazine with in-depth articles, interviews and profiles, and social media tools to enable online networking between individuals, as well as organisations across the ASEM region. It also hosts the website of the Asia-Europe Museum Network (ASEMUS).