

For Immediate Release

The Museum of Transformation

Praxis of a New Museology: Challenging the Western Gaze on the Asian South

A Public Lecture by Davide Quadrio, Director, Museum of Asian Art, Turin, Italy

Followed by conversation with Laura Vigo, Curator of Asian Art, Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, and Alice Ming Wai Jim, Professor of Contemporary Art, Concordia University



When: May 30, 2024, 4:00-5:30 pm

Where: 4th Space, Concordia University, 1400 Maisonneuve Blvd W. Wheelchair accessible. Free admission. Join us in person or online by registering for the [Zoom Meeting](#) or watching live on [YouTube](#).

A celebrated curator of contemporary Chinese art and cultural organizer for over thirty years, Davide Quadrio will share some insights on his experience as the director of MAO, the Museum of Asian Art in Turin, Italy. Starting from the collection, its historical provenance and appearance in Turin, Davide will delve into the processes of historical and semiotic deconstruction, the rethinking of Asian so-called ethnographic collections with their complex stories of entanglement and biases based on a distinctive Western gaze. Denouncing the annihilation of non-Western ritual and religious objects through their musealization, Quadrio will end with his vision of a museum where these objects are reactivated – and liberated – through ad-hoc performative acts carried out by contemporary practitioners.

Davide Quadrio, Director of the MAO Museum of Asian Art in Turin, Italy, is a leading figure in the development of contemporary art in China since the late 1980s. In 1988, he founded BizArt Art Center, the first not-for-profit art organization in Shanghai that he directed for more than a decade. From 2005 to 2008 he was the artistic director of Bund18 creative space in Shanghai. In 2007, Quadrio established Arthub, a production and curatorial proxy active in Asia and worldwide. He was curator of contemporary art at the Aurora Museum, Shanghai (2013-2016) and in 2015 founded Kaleidoscope Asia, a sibling publication of Kaleidoscope Magazine. Since 2020, he has been a visiting professor in the Department of Art and Architecture at the Università Iuav di Venezia.

This event is organized by the [South-South](#) Working Group of the [Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies in Society and Culture](#) (CISSC) and made possible thanks to the generous support of the Department of Art History, the [Concordia University Research Chair in Critical Curatorial Studies and Decolonizing Art Institutions](#), the [Istituto Italiano di Cultura in Montreal](#), and the [Montreal Museum of Fine Arts](#).

Have questions? Send them to info.4@concordia.ca

