

# 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa

PRESS RELEASE

2011.4.16

## Peter McDonald: Visitor



Exhibition Title	Peter McDonald: Visitor
Period / Venue	Saturday, April 16 – Tuesday, March 20, 2012 / 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa
"Salon"	Venue: Long-Term Project and other locations Period: Saturday, April 16, 2011 – Tuesday, March 20, 2012 Admission: Free
"Disco"	Venue: Gallery 13 and other locations Open studio: Saturday, June 18 – Friday, September 16, 2011 Admission: Free Exhibition: Saturday, September 17, 2011 – Tuesday, March 20, 2012 Admission: Free to holders of same day tickets to the Museum's special exhibitions or the collection exhibition.
Hours	10:00 – 18:00 (until 20:00 on Fridays and Saturdays)
Closed	Mondays (except May 2, July 18, August 15, September 19, October 10, 2011/ January 2, 3 & 9, March 19, 2012), July 19, September 20, October 11, December 29, 2011 – January 1 & 10, 2012
Organized by	21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa (Kanazawa Art Promotion and Development Foundation)
Co-organized by	British Council 
Sponsored by	Japan Foundation for Regional Art-Activities
Inquiries	In cooperation with bonnyColArt Co., Ltd 
Media Contact	21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa Exhibition curator: Chieko Kitade Public relations office: Yuko Kuroda, Hiroaki Ochiai, Misato Sawai 1-2-1 Hirosaka, Kanazawa, Ishikawa Prefecture, Japan 920-8509 Tel: +81-(0)76-220-2814 Fax: +81-(0)76-220-2806 <a href="http://www.kanazawa21.jp">http://www.kanazawa21.jp</a> E-mail: <a href="mailto:press@kanazawa21.jp">press@kanazawa21.jp</a>



**About the Exhibition**

With this edition, the Kanazawa Youth Dream Challenge Art Programme (\*1) breaks new ground by setting its sights on an overseas artist.

The Program invites the young, internationally recognized, UK-based artist Peter McDonald to develop an art project for the first time in Japan, marking the first international edition of the Program.

Through the “act of drawing,” McDonald, at the core of the project, rubs shoulders with others, lightly traversing the boundary between genres, genders, countries and the everyday and the extraordinary. As young people (\*2) participate in the work, they experience the diversity of and possibilities for communication. Beginning with a painting exhibition and the production of a wall installation at the museum, various extemporaneous programs will be held using the exhibition space as a stage. As McDonald interacts with the city and the people of Kanazawa, his painted world will permeate the city, establishing pliable connections between one person and another, and between people and places through the fundamental language of expression we know as painting.

\*1. Launched by the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa in 2007 adopting the methodology of the Zon Moderna outreach program at the Moderna Museet in Stockholm, Sweden, the Kanazawa Youth Dream Challenge Art Programme takes the form of a long-term project-based exhibition incorporating a workshop program targeted mainly at young people in the teenage to 30s age group.

\*2. The project is calling for participating team members: 10 or so administrative and 20-30 for the wall painting production. For details please see 'Call for team members' flyer or website.

**Artist Profile****Peter McDonald**

1973 Born in Tokyo. Resides in London.  
 1991-1992 Newcastle College BTEC Foundation course  
 1992-1995 Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design,  
 BA Honors in sculpture  
 1997-2000 Royal Academy Schools, Post-graduate diploma



McDonald, who also produced paintings while in the sculpture department at art university, captures the act of painting as performance. In 2002, while painting a series of works based on performers on stage, a character with a large head appeared. Thereafter, with the image of this character at the core of his visual language, he expresses, with abbreviated (or simplified) iconography and rich colors, everyday situations. These have included: concerts, airports, a bakery, hair salons, classrooms, museums and cafés among many others. He has also referenced the creativity of historical painters such as Matisse and Lucio Fontana. The illusion of transparency created by a layering of color upon color and clarity of composition highlight the openness of the work, the surface of which, cloaked in vivid colors, takes on a sense of floating. The figurative and the abstract merge, and the whimsical two-dimensional world that emerges from the logical illustrations evokes various memories or stories. Peter McDonald has a Japanese mother and a British father, and the richly colored world of his artistic practice, with “painting” as a unique means of communication, has the power to make us acknowledge again that for human beings “drawing” is a fundamental language of expression.

McDonald was the winner of the UK's John Moores Painting Prize in 2008.

**Solo Exhibitions**

2010 "Peter McDonald – Project" GALLERY SIDE2, Tokyo (2008/ 2006)  
 2009 "Peter McDonald" Kate MacGarry, London (2007/ 2005)  
 "Art for everybody" Art on the Underground,  
 2003 "Peter McDonald" Keith Talent Gallery, London

**Awards**

2008 First Prize, John Moores 25 Contemporary Painting Prize  
 2000 Andre Dunoyer de Segonzac Award  
 2000 David Murray Scholarship

**Images for publicity**

Photos of artworks no. A to E below are available for promotional purpose.  
 Interested parties should contact the Public relations office upon reading the conditions below.  
 Email: press@kanazawa21.jp

**<Conditions of Use>**

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**Courtesy the artist and Kate MacGarry, London**
- \*Please refrain from cropping. During layout, please avoid laying type (caption or other) over the photo.
- \*Please allow the Public relations office to verify information at the proof stage.
- \*Please send a proof (paper, URL, DVD or CD) to the museum.

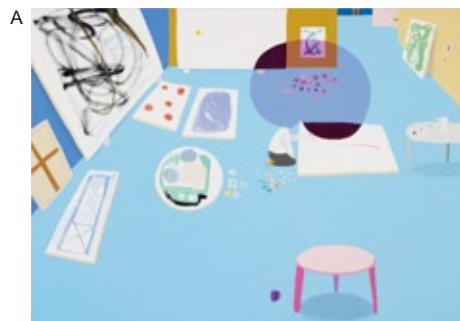
Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in advance.

**About the Project****Salon**

Venue: Long-Term Project and other locations  
 Period: Saturday, April 16, 2011 – Tuesday, March 20, 2012  
 Admission: Free  
 Exhibition of 13 paintings and 25 drawings

Who are the people with the big heads who have continuously made appearances in the paintings of Peter McDonald? The emphasis in this project is placed on an open dialogue between the artist and the viewer, born through his or her encounter with a body of McDonald's works created since 2002 exhibited at the Museum. The aim of this dialogue is to expand the painted world of the artist to the environment in which the viewer lives.

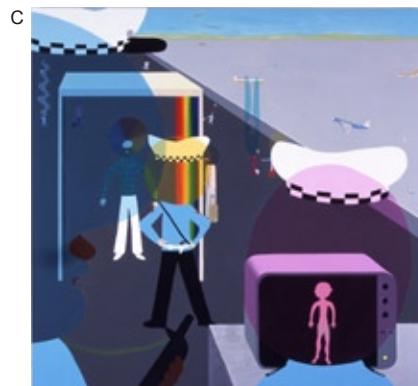
## Images:



*Me Painting*, 2010  
 acrylic gouache on canvas  
 H76 x W104 cm



*Purple Salon*, 2004  
 acrylic gouache on canvas  
 H140 x W200 cm



*Hidden Weapons*, 2006  
 acrylic gouache on canvas  
 H200 x W200 cm  
 private collection



*Mother and Child and the Sea*, 2010  
 acrylic gouache on paper  
 H29.5 x W21 cm

## Disco

Venue: Gallery 13 and other locations

Wall painting production: End of April through June (not open to the public)



\*If you wish to cover the event, please contact the Public relations office in advance.  
TEL 076-220-2814

Open studio: Saturday, June 18, 2011 – Friday, September 16, 2011

Admission: Free



Exhibition and additional programs: Saturday, September 17, 2011 – Tuesday, March 20, 2012

Admission: required

Peter McDonald's painted images will dynamically unfurl in two and three dimensions within a space approximately 17 meters square. He will engage in wall painting with his participants and when the painting is completed, stage various performances (disco, DJ-ing, lectures, workshops) as the occasion arises. The wall painting project allows participants in the workshop not only to engage in the production of the wall painting, but also, after the painting is completed, the venue, as a stage for self-expression, can be expanded into a place for planning and implementing the programs. In this place, every single viewer and the various events become the principal characters in Peter McDonald's painting space.

Images:



*Disco*, 2009  
acrylic gouache on canvas  
H76 x W100cm

### Call for team members

\*Please refer to flyer or website for detailed information.

#### Orientations

Date/time: Wednesday, April 20, 2011 18:30 - 19:30

Saturday, April 23 15:00 - 16:00

Sunday, May 8 15:00 - 16:00

Wednesday, May 11 18:30 - 19:30

Venue: 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa  
Meeting Room 1

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