



The art of tea infuses Adelaide for the 2018 World Tea Gathering

The Art Gallery of South Australia will host the 2018 World Tea Gathering this November as part of the OzAsia Festival. Tea artists from Australia, France, Japan, Brazil and Germany will assemble from the 2nd to 9th of November, presenting a week of pop-up events and performances celebrating the art of tea.

Building on the inaugural World Tea Gathering held in Reykjavik, Iceland in 2014, the 2018 gathering will see six leading tea artists deliver a program that celebrates the art of tea, infusing the traditions of the tea ceremony with contemporary performance, creating impromptu and unique tea experiences throughout Adelaide.

Russell Kelty, Associate Curator Asian Art, Art Gallery of South Australia, says, 'The World Tea Gathering presents an exclusive platform for tea artists to express contemporary approaches to the traditions of the tea ceremony, while extending knowledge, customs and experiences of tea ceremonies to new audiences. We are thrilled to bring this immersive celebration of tea and tea culture to Adelaide.'

During the week-long gathering, members of the public are invited to discover pop-up tea performances at the Art Gallery of South Australia and select venues across the city including the Botanic Gardens and the Adelaide Festival Centre. From large-scale, participatory performances, to unique one-on-one tea encounters, members of the public are invited take part in contemporary tea practices.

In addition to interactive tea gatherings, there will be a host of events including a 'Togetherness Through Tea' Symposium led by the World Tea Gathering co-founders Adam Wojciński and Mai Ueda, held at the Art Gallery of South Australia on Saturday 3 November.

2018 World Tea Gathering participating tea artists include:

Adam Wojciński | France

A co-founder of the World Tea Gathering, Adam is highly regarded in both his traditional tea school and formal circles of Japanese tea ceremony. In a shift away from tradition, Adam incorporates elements of Butoh, poetry, esoteric Buddhism, shamanism, and durational performance in his tea practice.

Mai Ueda | Japan

Mai is a multi-disciplinary artist and co-founder of the World Tea Gathering. Mai believes the tea ceremony can bring people together to connect and experience a heightened awareness that makes shared moments more enjoyable.

Yumi Umiumare | Australia

An established dancer and choreographer, Yumi presents a captivating hybrid of tea ritual, Butoh, humour and physicality in her interactive performances. Yumi's production, the *PopUp Tearoom Series*, has been performed and adapted to over 20 locations nationally and internationally. Yumi is the recipient of a number of prestigious national awards and was described by the Herald Sun as a 'living treasure'.

Erika Kobayashi | Brazil

Erika is a performer, artist, sociologist, journalist and independent researcher specialising in Japanese culture and aesthetics. Erika's tea gatherings have been held in gardens, museums and cultural spaces, and combine Zen principles with an investigation of body and movement, and the tea culture of South America.

Ying Le | Germany

Ying was born in China, raised in Oslo and lives in Berlin where she has established a career in tea and the arts. Ying is the founder of Thirsty Moon, a tea garden specialising in ancient tea leaves. Here, Ying hosts workshops focused on the history of tea as well as its preparation, fermentation and tasting. Ying understands tea as a meditative practice that inspires peaceful affection for daily life.

Masahito Tame | Japan

Masahito began his formal tea training at the age of twenty-seven and, after graduating at the age of forty, commenced the life of a wandering tea monk dedicated to cultivating a holistic approach to tea known as 'TEAcosystem'. From his portable tea house he performs his own distinct tea ritual called 'Kamo-cha', which takes place on the Kamo River in Kyoto.

World Tea Gathering Performances | Sunday 4 November to Friday 9 November 2018

Impromptu ceremonies led by tea artists will be held between 10am and 4pm at the following locations:

Art Gallery of South Australia
Adelaide Festival Centre
Adelaide City Library
Adelaide Botanic Gardens
State Library of South Australia

Symposium | 'Togetherness Through Tea' Saturday 3 November, 11am | Art Gallery of South Australia
Places limited. Please arrive early to avoid disappointment.

For further details and list of 2018 World Tea Gathering events visit
http://artgallery.sa.gov.au/agsa/home/Events/World_Tea_Gathering

Images available for download from https://files.artgallery.sa.gov.au/ftp/marketing/WorldTeaGathering_Images.zip

Image: Yumi Umiumare; photo: Joseph Gabriel

MEDIA CONTACTS Georgia Walker | Communications Coordinator | Art Gallery of South Australia P 08 8207 7402 |
M 0467 882 182 | E walker.georgia@artgallery.sa.gov.au

