

Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM] Exhibition

SERRUM

KURIKULAB: Moving Class

Saturday, September 18 – Sunday, December 19, 2021
 Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM] Foyer

Indonesia-based artist collective Serrum's first solo exhibition in Japan

The Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM] presents the exhibition "KURIKULAB: Moving Class" by Serrum, an artist collective based in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Serrum gathers members from diverse backgrounds, who mainly work in the realms of art and education. The group operates across various formats and media, ranging from platforms for discussing education, politics, and urban issues, to video and comics that have been shown internationally.

This exhibition is the first showcase of its kind in Japan, and features three "local community" and "learning" themed event style works that encourage dialogue among visitors, while at once giving an overview of Serrum's activities to date. The event as a whole is designed to function as a platform for accumulating and sharing the values and the knowledge of those visiting.

As a stage for people of various generations and backgrounds to engage in a dialogue about "learning," the exhibition will be an opportunity for encountering new possibilities in collaboration and education, and for reconsidering forms of friendly behavior toward others. We hope you will take this opportunity to join us.



Serrum, "Knowledge Market" at the Asia Art Biennale 2017.
 Photo credit: National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts

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A new project rethinking the relationship between art centers and the community



"YAMA KITCHEN" developed in the kitchen space of the museum (2016)
Photo credits: Naoyuki Obayashi

Since its opening, YCAM has been exploring new forms of expression using media technology, and has produced and presented numerous original works in the fields of contemporary art and performing arts. While producing artistic works, YCAM has also been developing educational programs aiming to connect artworks with their viewers, and in recent years, making additional efforts to interlink their accumulated knowledge and experience in media technology with local issues and resources.

With an eye to the 20th anniversary of the Center's opening in 2023, YCAM launched the "Alternative Education" project to reconsider the role of art centers as places of learning for local communities and citizens. The first exhibition in this series introduces the activities of Serrum, an artist collective based in Indonesia that has been addressing educational issues by means of art.

Serrum comprises artists, designers, and curators, many of whom were trained as art teachers. They take various approaches to social, political, urban, and educational issues, and have presented their works in various exhibitions and art festivals worldwide. In the area of education, the collective mainly focuses on the relationship between art and educational systems, and is known for activities that question the concept of "learning" and the roles of teachers and students, while also speculating about the past, present, and future of the education system. This exhibition showcases their works and activities that continue to explore new forms of learning together with local communities.

■ Serrum



Photo credit: Serrum

Established in 2006, Serrum is an artist collective based in Jakarta, Indonesia, focusing on art and education. The name Serrum is a portmanteau from the words "share" and "room", meaning "to share a room". Focusing on education, politics, and the city, Serrum has collaborated with people from various backgrounds in Japan and abroad. They also take a wide range of approaches, including discussions, workshops, videos, murals, graphics, comics, installations, art projects, exhibitions, and visual propaganda activities.

Diverse learning opportunities for sharing values and knowledge

The word "KURIKULAB" in the title of this exhibition is a coined word combining the Indonesian word "kurikulum" (curriculum) and the English word "laboratory", which indicates their experimental stance toward the existing educational system.

This exhibition consists of three works by Serrum – "KURIKULAB", "Ideal School", and "Knowledge Market" – each of which takes the form of an event that encourages dialogue among people while unfolding across various topics and formats. Visitors are invited to participate, get to know the ideas of others through records of past events displayed at the respective venue, and leave their own comments. There will be spaces at the venues for visitors to engage in conversations over a cup of tea, and thereby accumulate diverse values and knowledge through the total experience of the exhibition.

KURIKULAB

Participants in this workshop think about the ideal school from the learner's perspective. Using a school model, we will consider the physical aspects of a school, and the rules and systems that govern it. Serrum's approach is intended to explore the imagination of learners about schools from the three aspects of school culture, school system, and school building design.



"KURIKULAB" in Jakarta (2014)
Courtesy of Serrum

IDEAL SCHOOL

A workshop to think about the ideal school from the learner's perspective: using a school model, we will consider the physical aspects of a school and the rules and systems that govern it. Serrum's approach is intended to explore the imagination of learners about schools from the three aspects of school culture, school system, and school building design.



"The Ideal School" Model of the school completed by the
"Ideal School" (2016), Courtesy of Serrum

KNOWLEDGE MARKET

This work is a program in which participants exchange their knowledge with each other on a one-to-one basis. The program is based on the idea that "everyone is a teacher and everyone is a student." This Market is a place where participants can exchange knowledge through dialogue, and where the "learner" and the "teacher" are mutually interchangeable rather than representing a one-way acquisition of knowledge.



Knowledge Market in Jakarta, 2017,
Courtesy of Serrum

General Information

SERRUM

KURIKULAB: Moving Class

Saturday, September 18 - Sunday, December 19, 2021

10:00-19:00

Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM] Foyer

Free admission

Closed on Tuesdays

Organized by Yamaguchi City, Yamaguchi City Foundation for Cultural Promotion
In association with Yamaguchi City Board of Education
Supported by the Agency for Cultural Affairs, Government of Japan, Fiscal Year 2021

Co-developed by YCAM InterLab

Produced by Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media [YCAM]

How to apply

Please fill out the application form on the website below and submit it to us.

www.ycam.jp/en

*)Please refer to the YCAM website for details on measures against the COVID-19 infection.

Exhibition Events

KNOWLEDGE MARKET

September 18 (Sat), November 13 (Sat), December 18 (Sat)

14:00-15:00

Venue: Foyer Free admission

*)Registration required (first-come-first-served basis)

Capacity: 50 people per session

IDEAL SCHOOL (Closed Session)

October 2 (Sat), October 16 (Sat), November 6 (Sat)

The program is limited to participants from elementary school to university students. After the event, records will be available at the venue.

KURIKULAB (Closed Session)

October 9 (Sat), October 30 (Sat)

This program is limited to participants working in education. Records will be available at the venue after the event.

Events held at the same time

YCAM Open Lab 2021

Friday, November 26 - Sunday, November 28, 2021

For this "alternative education" themed event, we will invite experts in related fields from Japan and abroad, to take part in discussions. We will talk about the role of art centers, the relationship between art and urban development, and art as a tool for learning.

Mini-Guide

October 3 (Sun), 10 (Sun), 17 (Sun), November 7 (Sun), December 5 (Sun), 11 (Sat) 15:00-15:15

Venue: Foyer

Capacity: 10 people/session

Free of charge (no registration required)

For this program, support staff (volunteers) involved in the operation of the exhibition will provide simple introductions. For each of the exhibited works, they will briefly explain what visitors can experience.

Capacity: 50 people per session

Gallery Tour

September 26 (Sun), October 31 (Sun), December 12 (Sun)
14:00-16:00

Venue: Foyer

Capacity: 20 people/session

Free of charge (reservation required)

This program is a tour-style event around the exhibition with the curator and other production staff. We will introduce the artists and the backgrounds of the exhibition, and discuss the featured works.