

PRESS KIT

25th General Conference of the International Council of Museums
Museums as Cultural Hubs: The Future of Tradition

1 – 7 September 2019



During the week of 1–7 September, the city of Kyoto will welcome more than 3,000 museum professionals from around the world for ICOM Kyoto 2019, the 25th General Conference of the International Council of Museums (ICOM). Every three years, this international organisation gathers the global museum community around a topic of crucial interest to facilitate cultural exchange, to promote international cooperation, and to inspire local actions in order to allow museums to continue their public service mission to the society.

This year, the conference will be dedicated to the theme Museums as Cultural Hubs: The Future of Tradition. The topic is itself a statement about the central role museums have come to play in the future of our diverse societies. While sustaining their primary missions – collecting, conservation, communication, research, exhibition – they have transformed their practices in the pursuit of relevance for the communities they serve. They are now more aware than ever of the power they have to establish dialogue between cultures, to build bridges for a peaceful world and to define a sustainable future.

The conference will revolve around six main topics concerning museums and their role in society: sustainability, the museum definition, disaster risk management, decolonisation, cultural diversity and local development. ICOM Kyoto 2019 will also feature three world-renowned keynote speakers (architect Kengo Kuma, photographer Sebastião Salgado and contemporary artist Cai Guo-Qiang) and host the International Museum Fair and EXPO Forum, where companies will showcase state of the art technology and innovations for museums and exhibitions.

Press conference and registration

Registration to the conference for the media is free of charge. A press conference will be held on September 7 at the Kyoto International Conference Center.

[More information and registration](#)



“ICOM Kyoto 2019 will be an exceptional experience, not only because of the multitude of discussions and events taking place, but also because of the opportunity to encounter the rich cultural heritage of Japan.”

Suay Aksoy, President of ICOM



“Museums are finding that they must play new social roles that go beyond their traditional functions of preserving and exhibiting their collections.”

Johei Sasaki, President of the ICOM Kyoto 2019 Organising Committee

ICOM KYOTO 2019

25th ICOM General Conference

Museums as Cultural Hubs: The Future of Tradition



- Keynote speech
- Plenary
- Panel
- Social event
- Workshop
- Excursion
- ICOM Members only

1 september GOVERNANCE MEETINGS

- 85th ICOM Advisory Council Meeting
- Separate meetings of ICOM's Committees

2 september SUSTAINABILITY DECOLONISATION

- Opening Ceremony
- Kengo Kuma: Age of the Forest
- Curating Sustainable Futures through Museums
- Curating Sustainable Futures
- Publishing and Writing: How to get published in scholarly and professional publications
- Decolonisation and Restitution: Moving towards a more holistic perspective and relational approach
- ICOM Committees' Conferences
- Opening party

Museum Fair and Expo Forum

3 september MUSEUM DEFINITION

- Sebastião Salgado: A Brazilian Amazon Forest Initiative
- The Museum Definition: The backbone of ICOM
- The backbone of museums? Roundtables on a new museum definition
- Smart and Digital: Create and run communication campaigns and partnerships
- Membership Database workshop for ICOM Committee managers: How to start using IRIS
- Memorial Lecture in commemoration of Dr. Stephen E. Weil
- ICOM Committees' Conferences
- Social event at Nijo castle

Museum Fair and Expo Forum

4 september HERITAGE PROTECTION CULTURAL DIVERSITY

- Museums in Times of Disaster: Be prepared, respond effectively, and preserve cultural heritage
- Cai-Guo Qiang: My Museum Years
- Asian Art Museums & Collections in the World
- ICOM-OECD Museums and Local Development Panel
- Possibilities and Impossibilities of Exhibiting Manga and Comic
- Membership Database workshop for ICOM Committee managers: How to start using IRIS
- ICOM Committees' Conferences
- Social event at Kitayama
- ICOMxPECHAKUCHA Kyoto Night at Rekisaikan

Museum Fair and Expo Forum

5 september OFFSITE MEETINGS

- Offsite meetings of ICOM's Committees
- Social event at Okazaki

6 september EXCURSIONS

- Kyoto city
- Kyoto prefecture
- Kansai area

7 september GOVERNANCE MEETINGS

- ICOM Extraordinary General Assembly
- 34th ICOM General Assembly
- 86th ICOM Advisory Council Meeting
- Closing Ceremony and closing party



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#ICOMKyoto2019

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

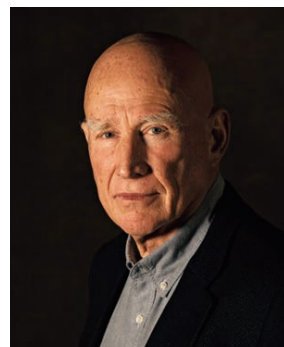
KENGO KUMA: AGE OF THE FOREST

Kengo Kuma (1954) is one of the most significant contemporary Japanese architects. His buildings, writings and installations have been internationally acknowledged and received prestigious awards worldwide. He established Kengo Kuma & Associates in 1990 and in 2009 he was installed as Professor at the Graduate School of Architecture, the University of Tokyo. His keynote speech will focus on the role of architecture to connect people and places once again, after the widespread use of concrete and steel in the 20th century had severed the ties between human beings, nature and traditional materials: from the “Age of Concrete” to the “Age of Forest”.



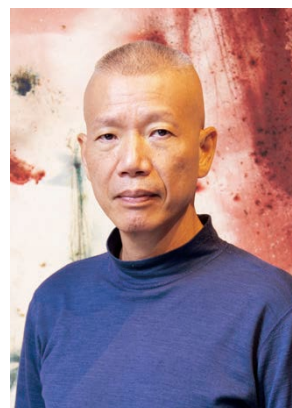
SEBASTIÃO SALGADO: A BRAZILIAN AMAZON FOREST INITIATIVE

Sebastião Salgado (1944) began his career as a professional photographer in 1973 in Paris, working with photo agencies until 1994, when he and Lélia Wanick Salgado formed Amazonas images, created exclusively for his work. His multi-award winning works were presented in press publications, books and exhibitions throughout the world. His speech will focus on his ongoing photographic project on the theme of the Brazilian Amazon forest ecosystem and its inhabitants, the indigenous communities, and their central role as old guardians of the forest.



CAI GUO-QIANG: MY MUSEUM YEARS

Cai Guo-Qiang (1957) is a multi-award winning artist internationally renowned for his signature outdoor explosion events. Drawing upon Eastern philosophy and contemporary social issues as a conceptual basis, his artworks establish an exchange between viewers and the larger universe around them. His keynote speech will recount his interactions with the museum system over the past decades through a series of projects across the globe, and will address some contemporary key issues in museology: how do museum classics inspire artists today? How do we build museums that will be embraced by the local public and what is the role of the museum for local communities?



PLENARY SESSIONS

CURATING SUSTAINABLE FUTURES THROUGH MUSEUMS

Considering the various local and global aspects of sustainability, this session will explore different paths and innovative strategies that museums are following and can follow to support society to meet unprecedented challenges and nurture sustainable futures. This panel will encourage all participants to consider how they can get involved in creating this shared story of positive transformation.

THE MUSEUM DEFINITION: THE BACKBONE OF ICOM

Over recent decades museums have adjusted, transformed, and re-invented their purpose, policies and practices, to the point where the ICOM museum definition no longer seems to reflect our challenges and manifold visions and responsibilities. In this plenum ICOM will bring together network experts and external voices to discuss about the overall need for a change in the museum definition and of the visions and potentials for a new definition.

MUSEUMS IN TIMES OF DISASTER: BE PREPARED, RESPOND EFFECTIVELY, AND PRESERVE CULTURAL HERITAGE

In the event of a major disaster museums should react in an effective, conscious and rapid way. To be able to save lives and cultural heritage, they should analyse and prepare response mechanisms. This plenary session provides a forum to share experiences, to discuss the challenges and threats that museums are facing, and to explore the opportunities of international cooperation and knowledge exchange.

ASIAN ART MUSEUMS & COLLECTIONS IN THE WORLD

With the growing number of ICOM memberships from Asian countries, ICOM Kyoto 2019 provides the ideal chance to consider the significance of Asian art museums and collection, how they might better connect to local and foreign audiences, and how they can benefit by coordinating with international colleagues around the world in the future. This session also considers the case study of Asian art, examining recent moves to promote deeper understanding of Asian art in museums around the world.

TOWARDS A NEW MUSEUM DEFINITION?

A shared definition of the museum serves as the backbone for ICOM as a global organisation. After almost 3 years of a process of active listening, collecting and collating alternative definitions, ICOM announced on July 25 an alternative definition, which will be voted during the ICOM Extraordinary General Assembly on September 7. Find out more on the [ICOM website](#).

ABOUT ICOM

The **International Council of Museums** is an international organisation of museums and museum professionals which is committed to the research, conservation, continuation and communication to society of the world's natural and cultural heritage, present and future, tangible and intangible.

ICOM is a membership association and a non-governmental organisation which establishes professional and ethical standards for museum activities. With more than 44,000 members in 138 countries and territories, the ICOM network is made up of museum professionals from a wide range of museum and heritage related disciplines. As forum of experts, it makes recommendations on issues related to cultural heritage, promotes capacity building and advances knowledge. As the only global organisation in the field of museums, ICOM is the voice of museum professionals on the international stage and raises public cultural awareness through global networks and co-operation programmes.

ICOM's commitment to culture and knowledge sharing is reinforced by its 30 International Committees, which are dedicated to a wide range of museum specialities and conduct advanced research in their respective fields for the benefit of the museum community. The organisation's International and National Committees, Regional Alliances and Affiliated Organisations hold conferences and symposiums worldwide that focus on pre-defined themes with a view to fostering exchange among museum professionals of all nationalities.

Facts and figures (2018)

41,677 museum professionals members

3009 institutional members

138 countries and territories represented

118 National Committees

30 International Committees

ABOUT THE ICOM GENERAL CONFERENCE

The ICOM General Conference is a renowned worldwide hub for exchanging on topical issues museums tackle today, as well as the most innovative solutions. Since 1948, every three years, our organisation gathers the international museum community around a theme of crucial interest to foster cultural exchange, promote international cooperation, and to inspire local actions in order to allow museums to continue their mission in service of society.

From Paris to Milan, after 24 successful editions, ICOM's flagship conference attracts around 3,000 participants from all international backgrounds, renowned speakers and world-class experts that come together to attend debates, round tables, panels, networking events and cultural activities. The ICOM General Conference also hosts the International Museum Fair and EXPO Forum, which presents the state of the art technology and where participants interact with the latest technological advances available for museums. This fair provides a unique opportunity for tech companies to display their innovative solutions to a global audience of heritage and museum experts.



CONFERENCE ORGANISERS



ICOM Secretariat



ICOM Japan



ICOM Kyoto 2019 Organising Committee



Japanese Association of Museums

CONFERENCE CO-ORGANISER



Science Council of Japan

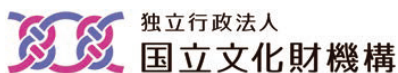
PARTNERS



Kyoto Prefecture



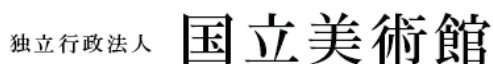
City of Kyoto



National Institutes for Cultural Heritage



Agency of Culture Affairs, Government of Japan



Independent Administrative Institution

National Museum of Art



The Getty Foundation

The Getty Foundation

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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ICOM Kyoto 2019 official website

<https://icom-kyoto-2019.org/>

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