

Supporting Creative Change-Makers: Challenges and Opportunities for Artists Engaging with Environmental Issues Taiwan

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Abstract

Our crashed economies, fossil fuel-based energy consumption, and changing natural environment and climate are just a few examples that prove that our current systems are broken in many ways. We have an urgent need for new structures in society. But moving away from these current systems is complex and requires imagination, vision and creativity. This research is an investigation into the potential as well as challenges for artists and creatives shaping sustainable and resilient societies in Taiwan. This undertaken research aims to stimulate more international cultural collaborations on sustainability themes and seeks to inspire future projects with examples of good practice. The objectives for this research are to strengthen the international network of cultural organizations engaging with environmental issues and thereby stimulating cross-border and cross-discipline knowledge exchange and networking on the issue of sustainability. The second objective is to deliver a set of concrete recommendations for the sector in order to contribute effectively to shaping a more creative and sustainable Taiwan.

The research is conducted in an unconventional way; being mostly based on over 50 conversations and interviews with experts rather than being based on books and literature. The reason for this is the author's desire to tap into an untapped stream of knowledge. Not all experts have published literature, though their experience and opinions are of great importance. They are all key people active in the field, working either as artists, curators, cultural managers or other relevant positions in the arts or related environmental movements. They are the people that know what the real obstacles, challenges and solutions are. This research celebrates and highlights the knowledge of the field, of the grassroots movements, of the artists and practitioners and thereby tries to bridge the worlds of the practical and the theoretical.

Keywords: Climate Change, Response-ability, Creativity, Change-Makers, Environment