

Microresidency and Res Artis Kyoto 2019 conference Report

Pouarii Tanner and Sam Thomas representing Te Arerenga, Rarotonga, Cook Islands

The Microresidency network invited and assisted us to attend their conference and the Res artis conference in Kyoto. We are very grateful Tatsuhiko and Hiroko Murata for reaching out to us because without their support we wouldn't have been able to attend.

The opportunity to meet many AIR and microresidencies from around the world was valuable to our thinking around how we operate. Being able to present at both the Res Artis meeting and Microresidency conference helped to define how we are a unique program and we had a lot of interest from the audience who approached us afterwards.



Tatsuhiko and Hiroko Murata with Sam Thomas at Kyoto arts centre.

The presentation and speed meetings held on the 9th of February inside the temple were very productive for us. They were well organised and ran very smoothly to time. Pouarii Tanner the Director of Te Arerenga gave a great presentation on the design of our residency facility. The presentation intrigued many of the Japanese artists present who approached us afterwards

during the speed meetings with many questions about how they could become a part of our program. Some of these discussions are ongoing and we hope will be fruitful in the future.



Pouarii Tanner Te Arerenga Director attending the Microresidency conference on February 9th.

One of the best features of the conference was meeting the other microresidence operators who attended the event. Gidion Smilansky who runs Artist Alliance website as well as a residency in Tel Aviv stayed at the same art hostel as us Yosuga and we spent many hours discussing the artist run industry together. We have remained in touch and intend to collaborate in the future.



Gideon Smilansky and Tatsuhiko Murata preparing for the meetings.

We really appreciated the care to detail Tatsuhiko Murata and his team achieved in the organising of the weeklong events. This was especially evident in the way they arranged our accommodation. We stayed with Numa san at his AIR in a beautiful part of Kyoto. Numa san was a fantastic host and most evenings we would sit and chat while he made us delicious drinks in his Lounge bar. He is a fascinating person and also presented a great account of how he founded his AIR during the Res Artis meeting.



Sam Thomas, Numa san and Pouarii Tanner outside Yosuga AIR.

The many cultural events and tours that were part of the meetings gave a great taste of the cultural community in Kyoto including the very experimental tea ceremony at the Kyoto art centre. We believe many new connections were formed during our stay in Kyoto and we hope to collaborate more with Japanese artists and AIRs.

