



Explore with an Artist's Eye

“Through art, through travel, you experience a different way of living or a different philosophy,” says international art curator David Elliott (profiled below), who has headed museums in Tokyo, Stockholm, and Istanbul. By exploring another country’s art—and making it yourself—you learn directly from local people about their passions, traditions, and ways of life. Here are seven trips that use art to help you get inside cultures around the world.

THE CURATOR

NAME: David Elliott

BASED IN: Berlin and London

PROFESSION: Curator and cultural historian

UPCOMING PROJECT: Curating the 17th Biennale of Sydney, Australia, summer 2010

SPECIALTY: Exhibitions that integrate non-Western cultures and contemporary art

ON ART AND GLOBALIZATION: “The art world has become more global, but this can be homogenizing. We don’t want conformity. Art is really about the individual.”

FAVORITE CREATIVE CENTERS: “Mexico—in that it’s got things that are 2,500 years old, as well as remnants of the colonial period, the muralists of the early 20th century, and a very strong contemporary field. Thailand, where there are a lot of very good contemporary artists. India is really heating up, with an active art scene and a quite well-developed art market.”

HOW TO EXPLORE OTHER CULTURES

THROUGH ART: “You have to be curious to understand art, and if you’re curious, you start traveling. There isn’t a culture in the world that does not produce art, and no culture is better than another. Going to *biennales* [international contemporary art exhibitions] and museums is a good way of exploring, but it really helps to speak to someone you can trust who has local knowledge. All you need to get connected is the curiosity to find out about someone else’s culture.”

