Contributors

Jake Abrams is an illustrator.
Sancha Briffa is a design historian, currently working on the cultural history of wood.
Lin Chuan-chu is an artist based in Taiwan.
Leo Duff is a graphic artist.
Pablo Helguera is an artist living in New York and a visiting professor at Kingston University, London.
Sarah Jones is an artist.
Juliette Kristensen is a material culture theorist, currently examining the relationship between mechanised writing and the body.
Dave Loder has recently completed MA Art & Space at Kingston University, London.
Christoph Lueder is acting Course Director of BA Architecture at Kingston University, London.
Anne Massey is Professor of Design History at Kingston University, London.
Alice Maude-Roxby works with photography and archives.
Jordan McKenzie is a performance artist and a curator of public programmes.
Paul Micklethwaite is a sustainability demi-god.
Ariana Mouyiari is Studio Manager and Assistant Stylist to Faye Toogood.
Louis Nixon is Head of Fine Art at Kingston University, London.
Regina Peldszus is a designer researcher specialising in extreme habitats.
Paul Stafford runs the Foundation Programme in Art and Design at Kingston University, London.
Alexandra Stara is Director of Graduate History and Theory in the School of Architecture and Landscape at Kingston University, London.
Nicholas Tromans is the curator of ‘The Lure of the East: British Orientalist Painting’ at Tate Britain through the summer of 2008.
Aaron Williamson is a performance artist.

The Team

Simon Ofield: Publisher
Juliette Kristensen and Marquard Smith: Editors
editorial@kioskmagazine.co.uk
Anna Caldicott: Commercial/Distribution
commercial@kioskmagazine.co.uk
advertising@kioskmagazine.co.uk
us design studio: Design and Production
www.usdesignstudio.co.uk

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## CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Article Title</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>05</td>
<td>Editorial</td>
<td>Juliette Kristensen and Marquard Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06</td>
<td>The Future of Orientalism</td>
<td>Nicholas Tromans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Art Car Boot Fair 2008</td>
<td>Louis Nixon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>The Narrator is an Englishman, Recently Returned from China: Or, Internationalism &amp; Sustainability</td>
<td>Paul Micklethwaite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Space, The Final Frontier ... For Designers</td>
<td>Regina Peldszus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>You are a peach</td>
<td>Jake Abrams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Interrobang, for the Incredibility of Modern Life: Or, How to Punctuate the Zeitgeist</td>
<td>Juliette Kristensen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Five Aphorisms After Shaker Dances</td>
<td>Pablo Helguera</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>The Hibakusha’s Portraits</td>
<td>Paul Stafford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>A Correspondent Reports on ‘Living in Britain’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>Just What Is It That Makes The Independent Group So Different, So Appealing?</td>
<td>Anne Massey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44</td>
<td>Lost Properties</td>
<td>Alice Maude-Roxby and Faye Norman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48</td>
<td>Aislin</td>
<td>Ariana Mouyiari</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56</td>
<td>Architecture is no picture</td>
<td>Alexandra Stara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>Licking the brick</td>
<td>Sarah Jones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64</td>
<td>The Wood Effect: Made from Wood – Better than Wood!</td>
<td>Sancha Briffa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>72</td>
<td>Drawing on Landscape</td>
<td>Lin Chuan-chu and Leo Duff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80</td>
<td>Click, Click, Click.</td>
<td>Dave Loder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>84</td>
<td>Quadject</td>
<td>Jordan McKenzie and Christoph Lueder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92</td>
<td>Stumbling into the Future Facing the Past</td>
<td>Aaron Williamson</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Welcome to KIOSK. Welcome to The World.

In an age of heightened globalization, spectacularized terror, rendition flights and civil war, all seen through the prism of a seemingly all-encompassing media, we live in strange times for democracy and for the citizen. How do we come to grips with the complexities of the Rights of Man on the humanitarian stage?

This second issue of KIOSK takes geo-politics and geo-aesthetics as its main focus. In exploring how one feeds into and off the other, we bring you some dispatches, investigations and meditations on other worlds, times, and places. Plus some unexpected surprises along the way.

What of these other worlds, these real worlds, lived worlds, imagined worlds, desired worlds, or worlds as yet unimaginable? We urge you to grasp them, and their otherworldliness, in all of their intricacies.

And in grasping them, we hope to show you how the images, objects, and environments under the spotlight ‘travel’ from place to place, from one time to another, from one cartography to another. So many memories, so many histories, so many possible futures.

This issue of KIOSK docks at many times and places including, in no particular order:

Chile, Iceland, Switzerland, Serbia, Russia, Armenia, Warsaw, Poland, Potsdamer Platz, Berlin, Germany, Milan, Paris, France, London, Winchester, Kingston, England, Wales, Whitby, Blyth, Britain, UK, Dover, Europe, the Mediterranean, the USA, Texas, America, Abu Ghraib, Harvard, Yale, New York, Buffalo, the north, the south, the west, the east, the Middle East, Hebron, the Holy Land, Zion, the UAE, Asia, Arabia, Palestine, Istanbul, Chongqing, Dongtan, Kichijoji, the Yangtze, China, Japan, Gion, Nagasaki, Hiroshima, Taiwan, Zimbabwe, the world, the Galaxy, space, the future.

Find them all in this issue of KIOSK. Read it and weep. Read it and be filled with hope. It’s a big world out there, whichever one you think you’re in.

Juliette Kristensen
Marquard Smith
The Editors