

CONTEMPORARY ART IN ASIA: TRADITIONS/TENSIONS

Asia Society Museum / Queens Museum of Art / Grey Art Gallery, New York University
New York, NY, 1996

Walker ended his decade at NYU's Grey Art Gallery with a major three-museum exhibition organized by the Asia Society Galleries. *Contemporary Art in Asia: Traditions/Tensions* was the first major U.S. museum exhibition of contemporary art from Korea, the Philippines, India, Indonesia, and Thailand. It was organized by Vishakha N. Desai, director of the Asia Society Galleries, and curated by Apinan Poshyananda. Walker served as exhibition designer for all three museums, and part of his mandate was to create an identity and overall design concept that unified the exhibition while satisfying the specific needs of each museum. He worked closely with the teams at Asia Society and the Queens Museum of Art, alongside the team at Grey Art Gallery, with Desai overseeing the entire design process. After getting approved plans, Walker worked with each Museum, including the Grey, to hire a site manager and team responsible for the installation at that museum. He then rotated daily between the three museums during the installation period to respond to particular needs with the artist installations, and personally did the lighting for all three museums.

Designing Traditions/Tensions was a very unique experience. Having three very different Museums with very different galleries, in very different locations in the city, was already a challenge. Of course, getting back and forth between The Queens Museum and the Grey and Asia Society in Manhattan added particular challenges. I always love working with artists doing site specific installations. We had several in this exhibition. The main challenge is often creating barriers that don't become part of, or interfere with, the artist's work. Lighting is obviously not a barrier, but it is very effective in guiding people without text if used in the right way, and it was perfect for this exhibition. (VW)

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ASIA SOCIETY GALLERIES



GREY ART GALLERY, NYU



THE QUEENS MUSEUM

