





PauseTalk Vol. 50

To commemorate this Vol. 50 of PauseTalk (on May 9, 2011), I thought I'd put together a little booklet -- a digital one -- that takes a look at how it all started, and to say thank you to everyone who has attended an edition over the past 5 years, and contributed to the *talk*.



The Origin

The first PauseTalk was held on June 5, 2006, and the idea was announced on my personal blog, JeanSnow.net, in a post on May 1, 2006. Here's what the post looked like:

I've been sitting on this idea for about a month now, and I figure it's about time I put it out there, and get some feedback. Partially inspired by PechaKucha, I'd like to create some sort of monthly meetup at Cafe Pause for creators/designers/writers to get together and talk about current projects, current trends, etc. Unlike PechaKucha, the idea here is for an intimate setting, where a small group of people can get together and have a conversation. Of course, it could eventually include using the cafe's projector to do more, but for me, the interest is really in getting a small group of people together to see what sort of interesting talk can come out of it. So PauseTalk (thank you Craig for the name idea) would probably be just right for something like 4-8 people. Now, I'm wondering if it would be best to create some sort of agenda, or just leave everything freeform, and let things go wherever. I'm still in the early planning stages, but I think it would be nice to start this within a month (May or June), and I'd love to hear from anyone who would be interested in participating.

It's only after re-reading this post that I remembered that the name was originally suggested by *Craig Mod*, and for that I need to thank him. I continued trying to come up with a format that would work (posted on May 4, 2006):

I'm trying to figure out if it's better to come up with some sort of loose agenda, just to give the conversation a focus, or rather to let things go freely. As I said in the previous post, I want to keep the group small (I think a max of 8 is good), which would mean putting 3 tables at the cafe together. So instead of just doing something where it's open and anyone can show up, I'll be getting in touch



with the people who have shown interest. We'll see where things go from there. If you're wondering whether you fit in the format, I'm looking at anyone who is involved culturally in the city, be it as a designer, artist, musician, writer, etc. Any suggestions on topics to be discussed? I figure we'll spend time on what people are working on (to get feedback on projects), but I also want to talk about currents in the city, as a way of gauging the cultural beat.

In the end I decided to just make it a public event -- and it remains that way -- and the first edition brought together a group of 10 (counting me). It was a mix of people I knew and people I didn't know, and some of those I didn't know eventually became friends.



The Format

Over the years, the format has changed slightly, although it has still always kept the idea of being an event where a group of creatives -- in any field -- can get together and share ideas and opinions on various topics. I wanted to have a “salon,” where discussion was the order of the day. I did experiment for a while with presentations, in which some of the participants would share images at the cafe through a projector, and although this eventually stopped (in part because I wasn’t satisfied with the quality of images through the projector), I always still encouraged everyone to ask questions and bring up topics throughout these “casual” presentations -- I didn’t want this to be a one-way kind of thing.

Today, the format remains loose, although this is how I generally run things:

1. I start by welcoming everyone, and then ask that everyone briefly introduce themselves (mostly just name and occupation), so that we all know who we’re dealing with.
2. I then start asking people directly what they are up to, to get things going. The rest of the “official” session continues from this, as the discussion organically moves from person, to various projects, to other topics and questions that these may bring up.
3. I try to keep the “official” session going for just over an hour (we start at 20:00, and I end it around 21:00-21:30). I do this as I want participants to then have a chance to chat some more, make connections, etc. The cafe closes at 23:00, and there are usually people that stay until then.



The Future

Something I recently announced and that I will be working on this month is a document that lays out everything about PauseTalk, with the purpose of letting anyone around the world use the name and format (however loose it may be), with no licensing fee. It's something that various people have been suggesting over the years, and so I want to let anyone who would like to organize an event like this to do so.



The Creatives

Just to give you an idea of the diverse creatives that have attended a PauseTalk since its inception, here are all of the “occupations” that have been given to me on the attendance sheet (which I provide at each edition, to then list on the PauseTalk website).

Accessory Designer, Architect, Architect/Artist, Architect/Designer, Architect/Professor, Art Curator, Art Director, Art Director/Designer, Art Director/Photographer, Art Project Manager, Artist, Author, Branding, Cameraman, Cartoonist/Artist, Chef/Musician, CM/Film Director, Computer Science Student, Crafts Maker, Creative Consultant, Creative Director, Creative Strategies, Curator, Curator/Producer, Designer, Designer/Artist, Designer/Illustrator, Designer/Photographer, Digital Publishing Designer, Director, Director/Producer, DJ, DP/Cameraman, Editor, Engineer, Entrepreneur, Event Organizer, Event Producer, Fashion and Textile Designer/Artist, Fashion Design Assistant, Fashion Designer, Fashion Retailer, Film Director, Filmmaker, Filmmaker/Animator, Game Developer, Game Developer/Musician, Game Journalist, Games Industry, Graphic Designer, Graphic Designer/Artist, Graphic Designer/Crafter, Hair Colorist, Human Rights Activist, Illustrator, Illustrator/Designer, Illustrator/VJ, Indie Publisher, Industrial Designer, Information Media Major, Interaction Designer, Interactive Designer, Interior Coordinator, Interior Designer, IT, Journalist, Label Producer, Marketing, Marketing Manager, Mixed-Media Artist, Modeler/Photographer, Motion Graphic Designer, Musician, Musician/Curator, Musician/Filmmaker, Musician/Promoter, New Media, Graphic Artist, Online Gallerist, Online Retailer, Performance Artist, Photo Editor, Photographer, Photographer/Animator, Photographer/Filmmaker, Photographer/Illustrator, Podcaster, PR Manager, Producer, Product Designer, Production Manager, Programmer, Project Manager, Proofreader/VJ, Publisher, Radio Planner, Researcher, Researcher/DJ, Researcher/Entrepreneur, Retailer, Robotics Researcher, Salaryman, Sandwich Maker/Zine Distributor, Shodo Artist, Software Engineer, Space/Event Producer, Storyboards/Illustrator, Strategic Insight, Teacher, Translator, Trend Researcher, Trumpeter, VFX/Mograph/Video, Visual Artist, Web Designer, Web Developer, Writer, Writer/Artist, Writer/Designer, Writer/Editor, Writer/Editor, and Writer/Tour Leader.



The Participants

And finally, let me thank every single person who has attended one of the 50 editions of PauseTalk that have been held at Cafe Pause over the past 5 years. Below is a partial list (composed of the people who signed the attendance sheet) of those who have attended at least one PauseTalk.

Without you, PauseTalk would never have lasted this long.

Adam Carstens, Adir Darmon, Adrian Favell, Adrian Francis, Adrian Guerra, Agatha Wara Romero, Aiko Suzuki, Alastair Townsend, Aldis Seaton, Aleksandra Ubukata, Alexandre Onaisy, Alexis Alvarez-Suzuki, Alin Huma, Amir Ossanloo, Andre Peathy-Johns, Andrea Hope, Andrew Conti, Andrew Lee, Angie Salisbury, Anke von der Heide, Anna Antoniadis, Anna Lena von Helldorff, Anssi Vallius, Antonin Gaultier, Arika Sekiba, Arthur Huang, Ash Bolland, Athena Moore, Aya, Ayako, Beatrice Oleari, Beatriz Inglessis, Benjamin Parks, Bianca Beuttel, Brian Thomas, Bruce Spangler, Calvin Chan, Cameron Eeles, Carmen Yuen, Carsten Schneider, Chihiro Murakami, Chris Kirby, Chris Palmieri, Christophe Sautot, Christopher Ek, Claire Tanaka, Cody Norenberg, Craig Mod, Dana Kulic, Daniel Johansson, David Coll Blanco, David D'Heilly, David Macklem, David Marx, David Rodwell, David Roy, David Steinberg, David Tang, Dayne Barton, Denis Goguen, Diana Heinz, Didier Kerloch, Diego Bello, Dustin Heerkens, Ed Thompson, Edward Harrison, Ega Hiroshi, Eiko Nagase, Elliot Thoburn, Emiko Hayakawa, Emjee, Eri Kato, Eric Chan, Erik Katerborg, Erika Nishizato, Felicity Hughes, Felix Minkus, Franck Stofer, Gen Higashikawa, Gleb Netchvolodov, Gozi, Greg McMaster, Gudrun Rau, Hawken King, Hikaru Miyakawa, Hioko Ueki, Hiroaki Koshiba, Hiroki Otsuka, Hiroko Oda, Hisako Emura, Huschang Pourian, Ian Lynam, Imre Ostmann, Ivan Kovac, Jaira Ebihara, James Bowskill, James Jack, James Kay, James Okubo, James Wadsworth, Jan Rod, Jane Chan, Jane Kitagawa, Jane Stockdale, Jason DeGroot, Jean Snow, Jeff Wichmann, Jeremie Nuel, Jeremy Staples, Jeriaska, Jesper Larsson, Jim Patterson, Jody Godoy, Johan Prag, John, Paul Cotton, Jose Luis Olivares, Joseph Keenan, Josephine Gianni, Josh McKible, Joshua Lieberman, Joshua Wolf Shenk, Julian Thomas, Julie Forgues,



Julien Feltesse, Juniper Stokes, Kaeko Kumamoto, Kaoru Sato, Kate Holdsworth, Katrin Paul, Katrina Toshiko Grigg-Saito, Kayoko Ohtsuki, Keiji Ashizawa, Keio Pamjudji, Kim Ahlstrom, Koki Hikichi, Kristina Dryza, Kumi, Kumi Yasuda, Kyle Johnson, Lars Eberle, Laura Lewis, Lauren Cerand, Lauren Elkin, Linde Richter, Lindee Hoshikawa, Luis Mendo, Magdalene Klosek, Marc Tuters, Marcus Bird, Mariko Kato, Mariko Mizukami, Mark Cooke, Mark Hill, Mark Thompson, Martin Holtkamp, Maryan Zalusky, Masanori Sugiura, Masao Tamaoki, Matt Evans, Matthew Hagles, Max Hodges, Megumi Nishikura, Melanie Feindt, Michael Holmes, Michael Keferl, Michael Lam, Michael Mahoney, Michael Thorsby, Mieko Sai, Mike Field, Miki Amano, Milan Claudio, Min Jin Lee, Mina Wu, Mio Sasano, Mio Yamada, Natsuko Fukue, Natsuko Nakamura, Neda Dehghan, Neil Stalnaker, Nica Junker, Nicholas Hester, Nicholas Ridley, Nick Bruscia, Niko Lansuisi, Noriko, Ola Lauren, Oliver Klimpel, Panthea Lee, Patrick Juchli, Patrick Tsai, Patrick W. Galbraith, Paul Baron, Paul Cooper, Paul Vincent Farrell, Perrine Valli, Philomena Keet, Rafael de Lima, Ralf Baehren, Rasa Tsuda, Rebecca Milner, Remo Camerota, Rennie Foster, Reuben Stanton, Richard Knobbs, Rob Judges, Robb Englin, Robert Patterson, Robin Anthony Coe, Ronnie Kattan, Ryan Ruel, Ryan Winterhalter, Ryoko Tsukada, Samson Adjei, Samuel Cockedey, Sandra Barron, Sanja de Boer, Sarah Alexander, Scott Lockman, Scott Popular, Scott Silvey, Seiko, Sergio Paolantonio, Shantell Martin, Shige, Shihoko Fujiwara, Sofie Tanaka Sonia Chow, Sophie Knight, Stefan Riekeles, Stefano Redaelli, Stephan Hauser, Stephan, Schmidt, Stephen Lebovits, Steve Curcuru, Susanne Mooney, Suzannah Hertrich, Sverine Zajtman, Taka Sudo, Takaaki Koshiba, Takafumi Suzuki, Takashi Otagiri, Tamio Teshima, Tanya Tanaka, Taro Irei, Tetsuya Imamura, Thomas Antonietti, Tim Rudder, Toby Klupfel, Todd Porter, Tokyo Alice, Tom Spindler, Tom Wilkinson, Tomas Rovina-Roquero, Tomohiko Hayakawa, Tomohiro Morie, Tomoko Okazaki, Tomoko Suga, Verena Dauerer, Viktor Kelemen, Vincent Morris, Vivienne U.H. Doan, Von Dekker, Warren Holder, Wayne Moskwa, Will Goodan, William Andrews, Yariv Revah, Yasunobu Yamashita, Yasutoshi Ezumi, Yoko Iwao, Yuka, Yamaguchi, Yuki Inoue, Yuki Nakano, Yuko Minamide, Yuko Sawamoto, and Yun Hee Lee.



More Info

PauseTalk is held on the first Monday of every month at Cafe Pause in Ikebukuro (address below). The “official” session kicks off at 20:00.

For more information, visit the official website or Facebook group, or contact Jean Snow: jean@jeansnow.net

PauseTalk Website

<http://pausetalk.jeansnow.net>

Facebook Group

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=4945013212>

Cafe Pause

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