

CREATIVE EXPRESSION AMONG YOUNG CAMBODIANS

Virtual workshop, May 27th-28th, 2021

Thursday 27th - ICT Time zone

14:00 CONTEMPORARY ART MAKING AND CREATIVE EXPRESSION IN CAMBODIA'S NATIONAL POLICY FOR CULTURE

The research revealed that young artists see a strategic role for government in developing Cambodia's art sector, and aspire to work with government productively in the policy arena, despite having limited knowledge in this field currently. The research also identified opportunities to go further in policy areas like international cultural exchange and arts education, which can serve the development of the arts sector. With this in mind, the first session of the workshop will explore:

- What framework does Cambodia's national policy for culture set for contemporary art making and creative expression?
- How can artists engage with policymakers to share their ideas and concerns?
- What policies exist to support young people to learn about and appreciate contemporary arts?
- What are the implications of nurturing creative expression and contemporary arts making among young people?



15:30 BREAK

During the break we will screen *The Pillar*, by Sok Nalys, which was commissioned for CLA's 2020 Cultural Season.

15:50 RESEARCH FINDINGS: CONTEMPORARY ARTS MAKING AND CREATIVE EXPRESSION AMONG YOUNG CAMBODIANS

Dr Amanda Rogers and Yean Reaksmey will present a report on their research and its findings. The report will cover issues such as:

- Young artists' perspectives on the legacies of the Khmer Rouge; the tradition-contemporary continuum; the idea of 'art as a mirror to society'; and identity.
- Who are young audiences? What do they get from contemporary arts today? What do they want from arts for the future?

After a short presentation, the session will be open for conversation, including questions and answers from the audience.

17:00 CLOSE

Friday 28th - ICT Time zone

14:00 WHO IS THE ARTS FOR?

This research report includes the first substantial audience research conducted in Cambodia that we are aware of. It gives new insights into who is participating in the arts, and what their motivation is for doing so. It raises questions, particularly for artists and arts organizers, as to who arts are being created for and shared with, and where there may be different desires and capacities between creator, producer and audience. It looks at the arts in the context of the other interests and concerns among young people in Phnom Penh today.

In this panel conversation the speakers will discuss questions including the types of youth engaging with the arts, the possibilities for entertaining and socially driven content, and the platforms through which the arts are presented and how those influence youth interest. Please join us to share your ideas and questions on this topic.

15:05 DANCE FILM: SHAPING THE PRESENT FOR THE FUTURE

Captured in film -- *CELL* traverses the circle of life from birth to death. The story begins with a fetus in the womb and continues to the trials and tribulation of life: struggle, happiness, greed and obstacles. All of this is reflected through Ka Kou's creative concepts and materials expressed in new experimental dancing techniques to newly composed music in new landscape. Followed by Q&A with the artists.

15:50 BREAK

16:00 SOURCES OF INFLUENCE AND INSPIRATION?

This final session of the workshop takes a more detailed look at where Cambodian artists find sources of influence and inspiration when creating new work. It also considers if and how this has changed over time. The research found that although artists often talked about finding inspiration in daily life and social events (the idea of 'art as a mirror to society'), personal experiences and Cambodian arts themselves were also important influences. The session will therefore explore:

- Where do artists find sources of inspiration when making contemporary works?
- To what extent are traditional arts a source of inspiration?
- Is art - particularly contemporary art - actually a 'mirror to society'?
- What is the role of digital media in these processes?

17:00 CLOSE