



Siem Reap, Cambodia

Online Festival

28 Nov - 5 Dec 2020

Visual Storytelling Workshop

10 - 16 Jan 2021

"METAMORPHOSIS OF AN ANCIENT IDENTITY" BY NILARGHA CHATTERJEE

*This is an amendment following our previous press release on 3rd November. Following a rapidly evolving situation with Covid-19 in Cambodia, we have had to adapt the programme in light of new restrictions and following the directive of Siem Reap's Department of Health to ensure the health and safety of our participants and community.*

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

13 NOVEMBER 2020

### 16<sup>th</sup> ANGKOR PHOTO FESTIVAL & WORKSHOPS FORGES AHEAD

The Angkor Photo Festival & Workshops (APFW) will continue to hold its 16th Edition with a renewed focus on local talent and a continued commitment to Asian curatorial voices. The festival will take place online from 29 Nov - 5 Dec with a week of talks and slideshow projections by invited guest curators, culminating with its Closing Night in a shared online event with Nepal's Photo Kathmandu.

*"Like so many other arts and cultural events around the world, we've had to adapt to travel restrictions and the need to prioritise the health and safety of our attendees and the community that we live in. It has been challenging but it has also given us new vigour and the opportunity to launch new initiatives, which we hope will become part of our regular programme for years to come," said festival director, Jessica Lim.*

The inaugural new Visual Storytelling Workshops (VSW) will bring together 15 Cambodian participants and 6 Cambodian tutors. The workshop shares the same objectives as the Angkor Photo Workshops, which previously involved participants and tutors from around Asia, and is aimed at developing visual storytelling skills, a deeper understanding of visual language, and each participant's unique artistic vision.

Initially slated to take place in Siem Reap in November, the workshop has been moved to 10-16 January 2021 following the recommendation of Siem Reap's Department of Health in light of new Covid-19 restrictions in the country.

The festival's beloved projection evenings will continue online, featuring the work of 65 visual artists from around the world to be shown over two weekends. The projection programme continues our commitment to being a space for the promotion of Asian and Majority World curatorial visions and voices, and we are proud to share the selections by Dennese Victoria (Philippines), Swastik Pal (India), Sadia Marium (Bangladesh), Tania Bohóquez (Mexico) and Musuk Nolte (Peru).

There is no set theme, and each of the guest curators has used this opportunity to find works, from the personal, social and political spheres, which respond and reflect on their interpretation of the current global situation. The collective focus of all three showcases gives space to a deeper exploration of the photographic language, and the curators' selections show an emphasis on creating conversations, deepening mutual understanding, and the promotion of sincere, original artistic voices.

Other activities online will be artist talks in conjunction with Offset Projects, an initiative by alumni Anshika Varma in New Delhi which creates channels of engagement with photography and book-making, as well as talks with photo collectives and artist talks by photographers.

The festival has the distinction of hosting the 50 shortlisted books from this year's Kassel Photobook Dummy Awards, which awards the best unpublished photobook mock-up of the year and is selected from hundreds of entries around the world. This activity will be held on-site at Mirage Contemporary Art Space.

All events online will be free, live-streamed and open to the public. On-site events will strictly follow the COVID-19 health and safety protocols recommended by Siem Reap's Provincial Department of Health.

**The full programme for the festival will be announced at [angkor-photo.com](http://angkor-photo.com)**

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## KEY 2020 PROGRAMME

### ◆ PROJECTION SHOWCASE EVENINGS

**Sat, 28 November 2020 (Online)**

*Even though the world is burning*

Invited Guest Curators: **Dennese Victoria** (Philippines) & **Swastik Pal** (India)  
[24 photographers, 14 countries]

Silence threads together this meeting of works—not due to a lack of voice, but rather, a need to listen, to be present, and to deepen their understanding of themselves and the world around them. The diverse collection is characterised by an open-ended approach to the work, in which the photographer is more interested in sharing rather than telling.

**Sun, 29 November 2020 (Online):**

*Symptom (Latin America Contemporary Photography)*

Invited Guest Curators: **Tania Bohórquez Salinas** (Mexico) & **Musuk Nolte** (Peru)  
[12 photographers, 7 countries]

Bringing us a perspective from within, the showcase by co-curators and artists Tania Bohorquez and Musuk Nolte is a portrayal of work by contemporary Latin American photographers who are questioning history, reformulating their own identity by finding a visual language in dialogue at the intersection of the urgent conditions of the region's situation.

**Sat, 5 December 2020 (Online):**

*Words: shouted, blabbered, shattered in between the walls*

Invited Guest Curator: **Sadia Marium** (Bangladesh)  
[19 artists, 10 countries]

Photographer, curator and lecturer Sadia Marium presents a collection of work by artists who inquire about the time and space in which we orientate ourselves, and our ways of claiming shares in virtual spaces. The works draw on personal experiences of past, present and imaginary futures.

#### ◆ **VISUAL STORYTELLING WORKSHOPS**

(10 - 17 January 2021)

We are pleased to launch a new series of Visual Workshops for Cambodians. The workshop is specifically aimed at guiding participants to develop their visual storytelling skills through the mediums of photography and video. 15 participants were selected to join our free workshop, which will be conducted in both Khmer and English.

The tutors include **Kim Sophea**, one of the nation's budding filmmakers and a founding members of the Cambodian International Film Festival, who will be partnering with **Narin Saoborin**, a Sundance Institute Fellow with over a decade's experience in the film industry. **Neak Sophal**, a well-known figure in Cambodia's contemporary photographic scene who has exhibited internationally will be pairing up with **Chan Vitharin**, a professor of the arts at the Royal University of Phnom Penh and one of the founders of Cambodia's first printmaking studio. Rounding up the tutor panel is **Roun Ry**, recently awarded the prestigious Creative Generation Award 2020 and up-and-coming photographer **Lux Mean**, who came onto the scene after attending the 2018 Angkor Photo Workshops as one of the country's emerging photographic talents.

[> Tutors & Participants](#)

## ABOUT THE ANGKOR PHOTO FESTIVAL & WORKSHOPS

Since it first began in 2005, the annual Angkor Photo Festival & Workshops has nurtured Asia's photographic community by providing an affordable and accessible platform for professional development and exchange. The longest-running international photography event in Southeast Asia, the festival aims to create a space for interaction, exchange and dialogue with a focus on Asia.

Since 2018, Angkor Photo Festival has had a change in its leadership and direction. The festival is now led by a 13-member committee of photographers from Cambodia and around Asia, helmed by the director of the festival, Jessica Lim.

#### **Note to editors:**

Press images for all featured photographers are available for publication. Interviews with individual photographers and curators can also be arranged on request.

[> Download Press Images Catalogue](#)

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