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MEDIA RELEASE

T:>Works' PerForm returns with Ho Rui An and a critical perspective on the Asian "miracle"

Singapore, 17 November 2021 – After a successful inaugural keynote in May 2021 by PerForm fellow Shubigi Rao, T:>Works' **PerForm** returns with a second fellow, artist and writer Ho Rui An. He will deliver a two-part programme beginning with a digital keynote, **From Crisis to Value***. The keynote draws from his in-situ research in multiple Asian countries investigating the effects of globalism on Asian financial capitals. Following the keynote is a video installation of his **Asia the Unmiraculous** which opens in artspace 72-13, Singapore.

PerForm, a fellowship platform initiated by Dr. Ong Keng Sen, Artistic Director of T:>Works, harnesses "the translocal", such as contextualised knowledge, situated practices, or a fellow's sustained engagement with local communities. The translocal honours a local which is simultaneous and interdependent on other locals. It emphasises that all localities are dependent on each other, even though they may be physically very distant, to collaborate together, for instance in saving the endangered planet. *PerForm* is a gathering of artists, scientists, writers, curators, activators, creative communities, amongst others, whose knowledges are grounded on a lived history of peoples affected by complexities of modernity, yet charting pathways for regeneration and transformation. *PerForm* brings the audience of this fellowship programme back to the basics of **acting** in our personal capacities and **performing** our personal responsibilities to create **liveable societies**.

Dr. Ong elaborates, "we live in a technologically interconnected world with information exchanged and traded at high frequency. What is often overlooked and left behind are possible futures that are occurring in less obvious ways and are positively impacting communities. PerForm zooms into these situated or local projects that put forward viable ways of living as responsible custodians of our planet. Be it through environmentally conscious approaches to living, or demystifying the promises of financial capitalism, each PerForm fellow engages in generative dialogue on the relationship between power, control and ethical living."

Digital Keynote From Crisis to Value*

In the digital keynote *From Crisis to Value**, Ho discusses his recent and ongoing bodies of work exploring the material networks and geopolitical imaginaries that have animated the

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regions of East and Southeast Asia. He will guide us through his research trajectory that began with his investigation of the so-called Asian financial crisis of the late nineties, to the political economy of post-reform China, and is now focused on the impact of the pandemic and the new socioeconomic realities it presents us with. Spanning the mediums of performance, film, and installation, the works produced from this research have variously examined the relationship between race and financial capitalism, the student as a figure of capitalist modernity and radical culture, the displacement of class politics by a discourse of anti-corruption amidst the systemic crises of late capitalism, and, most recently, the textile industry and its many afterlives within the Greater China region.

Exhibition

PerForm: Ho Rui An & Shubigi Rao

Ho's video installation *Asia the Unmiraculous* seeks to diffuse the aura of a "miraculous" Asia by examining the entirely profane conditions that set the stage for the first large-scale crisis of globalisation. Ho considers the conditions that made possible the "Asianisation" of the miracle and the crisis that followed.

Accompanying the video installation are fourteen digital prints in the style of real estate listings. One such example is a poster detailing the construction of high-speed rail networks as part of China's ongoing Belt and Road initiative, revealing a juxtaposition when one recalls the history of Chinese immigrants' labour and involvement in the First Transcontinental Railroad of the United States back in the 1860s.

Hosted in conjunction with Ho's work, we see a return of Shubigi Rao as she presents her film, **The Pelagic Tracts**. Shubigi, visual artist, writer, and theorist is no stranger to *PerForm* having been its inaugural fellow presented in May 2021. *The Pelagic Tracts* brings to focus her concern with lived histories of painful destructions and challenges the way we view what is worthy of preservation. In this film, she charts the history of lost and damaged books through a mythical history of book smugglers who used Kochi as one of their bases. She constructs this mythical world from existing letters and records from the libraries, archives, and her interactions in Kochi with local librarians and paper pulpers, as well as the libraries devastated by floods in 2018.

This is the first time that both works will be exhibited in Singapore.

- A digital keynote
From Crisis to Value* by Ho Rui An
25 November, 8pm (Singapore) on Zoom webinar
11pm (Sydney) / 3.30pm (Tehran) / 1pm (Berlin) / 11am (Cape Verde) / 7am (New York)
Register at bit.ly/fromcrisistovaluezoom

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- Exhibition

PerForm: Ho Rui An & Shubigi Rao

- **Asia the Unmiraculous** by Ho Rui An (2018–20, 71 min), and

- **The Pelagic Tracts** by Shubigi Rao (2018, 25 min)

26 November to 5 December at 72-13.

Free admission on timed entries

Tue - Sat: 12pm - 7.30pm (Closed on Mondays)

Sun: 12pm - 6pm

Registration on Peatix at <https://perform-tworks.peatix.com>

Images can be accessed through [here](#).

For more information, please contact:

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Annex A: Bio of artists

About Ho Rui An

Ho Rui An is an artist and writer working in the intersections of contemporary art, cinema, performance, and theory. Working primarily across the mediums of lecture, essay, and film, he probes the ways images are produced, circulate, and disappear within contexts of globalism and governance. He has presented projects at the Bangkok Art Biennale; Asian Art Biennial Bangladesh; Gwangju Biennale; Jakarta Biennale; Sharjah Biennial; Kochi-Muziris Biennale; Kunsthalle Wien; Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin; Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven; NTU Centre for Contemporary Art Singapore; and Para Site, Hong Kong. In 2019, he was awarded the International Film Critics' (FIPRESCI) Prize at the International Short Film Festival Oberhausen, Germany. In 2018, he was a fellow of the DAAD Artists-in-Berlin Program.

About Shubigi Rao

Artist and writer Shubigi Rao's interests include histories of literature and violence, lies, and fraught ecologies. Her artworks, books, and films examine displacement of people, cultures, and knowledge bodies. Shubigi has written a number of books, with her earlier works including *Useful Fictions* (2014) and *History's Malcontents: The Life and Times of S. Raoul* (2013), which was written under the pseudonym S. Raoul and chronicled ten years of artwork and writing. Her 2017 work, *Written in the Margins*, won the Juror's Choice Award at the triennial APB Signature Prize 2018. Her current project on book destruction and knowledge systems, "Pulp: A Short Biography of the Banished Book" has garnered numerous awards from AIGA, APB Foundation, D&AD, and the Singapore Literature Prize 2020 for nonfiction. Shubigi is the curator of the fifth edition of Kochi-Muziris Biennale (2022-2023). She will be the artist representing Singapore at the 59th Venice Biennale in 2022.

About Dr. Ong Keng Sen

Dr. Ong Keng Sen is the Artistic Director of T:>Works and the artspace 72-13 in Singapore. Apart from creating renowned productions, Ong founded the Arts Network Asia, a micro-grant peer organisation, and the international Curators Academy focused on the synergy between contexts and curation. His seminal work was the nomadic artist residency, *The Flying Circus Project*, travelling international artists through Asia, sharing their contexts amongst themselves and young people in the local sites. Ong was the Founding Festival Director of the all-new Singapore International Festival of Arts (SIFA). He directed four editions of SIFA from 2014 to 2017. He was a Fulbright Scholar and was awarded the prestigious Fukuoka Asian Arts and Culture Prize in 2010 for his creations in Asian contemporary performance. He holds a Ph.D. in Performance Studies from Tisch School of the Arts, New York University.

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About PerForm

A fellowship platform by T:>Works to situate practices in the diverse local contexts around the world. The Fellow may be based in another localised context, and will digitally share knowledge as well as research produced there, with the publics in Singapore and internationally. The fellowship is open to collaborative ventures between artists, scientists, writers, curators, activators, creative communities, amongst others. PerForm is particularly attuned to the making of potential futures that speak to the ethical interconnections between humans, species, and other forces, including technology, that animate our physical world.

About T:>Works

Established in 1985, [T:>Works](#) is an independent and international arts company based in Singapore at its space, 72-13. It is currently led by Artistic Director, Dr. Ong Keng Sen. T:>Works' mission and vision is the pioneering of thought leadership in the arts focused on transdisciplinary, transcultural, and inclusive processes. To this end, there is a strong educational perspective with research and discourse contextualising the histories, lived contemporary experiences, and situated art practices. T:>Works also serves to investigate the current urgencies of being located in Singapore through different creative expressions in the public sphere. It is a recipient of the National Arts Council Major Company Grant for the period from 1 April 2019 – 31 March 2022. T:>Works is an Institute of Public Character with charity status.

T:>Works Social Media Channels

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