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72-13 Mohammed Sultan Road Singapore 239007 // +65 67377213 // TWorks@singnet.com.sg // TWorkssg.wordpress.com
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MEDIA ALERT

PerForm presents Digital Lecture by Nurul Huda Rashid *Image, Data, Actor: Unpacking Images of Muslim Women*



SINGAPORE, 18 March 2022 - T:>Works' **PerForm**, a fellowship platform that cuts across silos, disciplines, and fields, to support contextualised research, situated practices, and translocal knowledge production as a shared resource for the future, features its third fellow, artist-researcher-writer Nurul Huda Rashid. Currently pursuing her PhD in Cultural Studies, Nurul's research focuses on images and narratives, visual and sentient bodies, feminisms, and the intersections between them.

Coalescing 10 years of photographic, annotative, and participatory research, Nurul's digital lecture **Image, Data, Actor: Unpacking Images of Muslim Women** introduces and plots her engagement with visual representations of Muslim women from the daguerreotype to data. The digital lecture will be hosted and moderated by T:>Works' Artistic Director Dr. Ong Keng Sen.

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The Muslim woman has been a consistent subject of representation across regimes of historical colonialism and Orientalism, in events such as the Arab Spring and post-9/11 and mediated widely via news and social media. These have included variegated representations from the odalisque to the ‘oppressed’, which have converged the identity of the Muslim woman to the single image and symbol of the hijab (veil). Nurul’s digital lecture will focus on three main areas of her research, categorised as Image, Data, and Actor:

Image - the first segment discusses how images of Muslim women are made and circulated through photography via her works *Hijab/Her* series, *Editing Hijab/Her*, and *unknown woman/wanita kami*.

Data - the second segment introduces how selves are transformed into data and how it impacts the circulation of images via news media and algorithms, with example from another work *Women in War*.

Actor - the final segment centres on the findings of workshops, held in preparation for the lecture with participants that identified as Muslim women.

These projects will be discussed alongside the medium of photography and the data shift, which transforms the self into data, rendering those in the margins as ‘absent data’. Through self-reflexive means and methods, the context of ‘absent data’ will become site for artistic exploration and aspire towards a recalibration of Muslim women identities via the role of the Muslim woman as ‘actor’ in rethinking processes of image-making.

Details are as follows:

Digital Lecture

Image, Data, Actor: Unpacking Images of Muslim Women
Moderated by Dr. Ong Keng Sen

Date

Thursday, 31 March 2022

Time

8pm (SGT) / 8am (EDT) / 2pm (CEST)

Register for the Zoom Webinar [here](#).

Check your local time for the lecture [here](#).

For enquiries, email: connect.tworks@gmail.com.

For press images: please access [here](#).

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About Nurul Huda Rashid

Nurul Huda Rashid (she/her) is a researcher-writer currently pursuing her PhD in Cultural Studies. Her research focuses on images and narratives, visual and sentient bodies, feminisms, and the intersections between them. These have been articulated through projects such as *Women in War* (2016-ongoing), *unknown woman/wanita kami* (2021), *Hijab/Her* (2012-2014), and through collaborations such as *Pulau Something* (2021) and *New Curriculum for Old Questions* (2019).

About Dr. Ong Keng Sen

Dr. Ong Keng Sen is an artist-curator as well as 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*, traveling 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.

About PerForm

Led by Artistic Director Dr. Ong Keng Sen, T:>Works continues to expand its mission of pioneering thought leadership in the arts, and providing educational perspectives through situated research and discourse. Moving beyond the art world and collaborating with Arts Network Asia, T:>Works introduces a fellowship platform from 2021 to 2024 that cuts across silos, disciplines, and fields, to support contextualised research, situated practices, and translocal knowledge production as a shared resource for the future. T:>Works has named this fellowship platform, *PerForm*, which is centred around the idea of leaving nobody and nothing behind.

PerForm harnesses the contexts of multiple 'locals', such as situated knowledge, local practices, or a fellow's sustained engagement with local communities around the world. It honours a local which is simultaneous and interdependent on other locals, and emphasises that all localities are dependent on each other, even though they may be physically very distant, to collaborate together. The Fellow may be based in another localised context, and knowledge and research produced there will be digitally shared with publics in Singapore and internationally. The fellowship is open to collaborative ventures between artists, scientists, writers, curators, activators, creative communities, amongst others. *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.

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In this new decade and over the next three years, T:>Works seeks to develop knowledge production in hopes of sustaining futures on a planetary level, beyond cultural, geographical, ideological and national borders. To this end, T:>Works is particularly attuned to the making of potential futures that speak to the ethical interconnections between cultures, humans, species, and other forces that animate our physical world.

The first group of fellows of *PerForm* 2021/2022 are: Ho Rui An, Jerrine Tan, Nurul Huda Rashid, Shubigi Rao, and Wong Bing Hao. Earlier PerForm events include the inaugural digital lecture by Shubigi Rao, a digital keynote: *From Crisis to Value** by Ho Rui An, and an exhibition featuring the works of Ho Rui An & Shubigi Rao. More information on PerForm can be found on our [website](#).

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, contemporary experiences, and art practices of Southeast Asia. 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.

For more information and interviews, please contact:
Ms. Deirdre Chang
Communications & Engagement Associate
T:>Works T: +65-67377213, Mobile: +65-8418 7246
E: deirdre.tworks@gmail.com