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MEDIA ALERT **20 March 2023**

Per°Form Open Academy of Arts and Activations

13-16 April, 2023

**Live @ 72-13, Mohamed Sultan Road
Singapore 239007
Home of T:>Works**

**Free admission with registration [HERE](https://www.performfellowship.org)
www.performfellowship.org**

Per°Form Open Academy of Arts and Activations updates with keynote and workshop information

Per°Form Open Academy of Arts and Activations is the inaugural live gathering of 14 Per°Form Fellows from the Global South – Africa, Arab World, Asia-Pacific, the Caribbean, South America – and its diaspora. These Fellows, intersectional practitioners across diverse disciplines of curation, research, education, visual culture, and performance, will present their strategies for activating contexts and communities. It is conceptualised and led by T:>Works Artistic Director, Dr. Ong Keng Sen.

Adding to the exciting line-up, PerForm Open Academy of Arts and Activations is proud to announce **Art Labor** as the Open Academy **Keynote**.

Art Labor, comprising Thao Nguyen Phan, Truong Cong Tung & Arlette Quynh-Anh Tran, is an artist collective based in Ho Chi Minh City, working at the intersection of visual arts, social and life sciences in various public contexts and locales. The collective does not produce art works but is immersed in ground-up initiatives and longitudinal projects with various publics and in different locales within Vietnam. Each project bears their hallmark rhizomic connections, where one endeavour seeds an inspiration for the next, forming a network of projects and materials.

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Also made available to the public are **five experiential workshops** by Fellows Nirlyn Siejas, Tara Fatehi and Helia Hamedani, Giuliana Kiersz, Rola Khayyat, and Keren Lasme.

With the workshops, intimate gatherings are created to enable deeper connections with the works and processes of the five Fellows. Singaporeans will be treated to a gamut of experiences: from oracle reading as a tool to strengthen understanding of art history, activating women solidarity globally, critical engagement with histories, contexts and biographies through language, photography and African literature.

Entry to all events at Per°Form Open Academy of Arts and Activations is free admission by registration.

One final update to come from Per°Form Open Academy of Arts and Activations: the schedule for the marathon starting on 15 April stretching from 11am to 1am the next day. **The schedule is expected to be revealed end March.** Included in the final update is **a list of art pals** – 14 arts practitioners based in Singapore. The art pals programme, a spin on pen pals is a research-driven social and networking platform as a strategy for translocal dialogue, solidarities and alliances. A Singapore-based arts practitioner is introduced and matched with a Global South Fellow. They meet, get to know each other, and share their respective ‘local’ contexts enabling each to research on their interests and develop connections beyond their localities.

The 14 Global South Fellows are Aouefa Amoussouvi; Chidumaga Uzoma Orji; Giuliana Kiersz; Helia Hamedani; Keren Lasme; Ladji Kone; Martha Luisa Hernández Cadenas; Mona Benyamin; Nirlyn Seijas; Rah Naqvi; Renan Laru-an; Rola Khayyat; Soukaina Aboulaoula; Tara Fatehi.

Per°Form Open Academy of Arts and Activations is presented by **T:>Works**, an independent and international arts company based in Singapore at its space 72-13. T:>Works’ mission and vision include 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 histories, contemporary experiences, and situated art practices of the global south.

For media enquiries, interviews and images, contact Sarah Bagharib:
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Annex 1

About Art Labor

Art Labor, led by Thao Nguyen Phan, Truong Cong Tung & Arlette Quynh-Anh Tran, is an artist collective based in Ho Chi Minh City, working in between visual arts, social and life sciences in various public contexts and locales. The collective does not produce singular artworks but develop many-year-long journey during which one inspiration is a seed to cultivate. The seed grows – the inspiration expands and bears into rhizome of projects and artworks.

Their previous journeys include Unconditional Belief (2012-2015), Jrai Dew (2016-ongoing) and JUA (2019-ongoing).

They have been exhibited widely in Vietnam and international, notably such as Paradise Kortrijk, Triennial for contemporary art, Belgium (2021); Carnegie International 57th, Bangkok Art Biennale, ‘A beast, a god, and a line’ at Dhaka Art Summit, Para Site and Modern Art in Warsaw (2018); Cosmopolis #1: Collective Intelligence at Centre Pompidou, Paris; Asian Art Biennial, Taiwan; ‘Salt of the Jungle’ at KF Gallery, Korea, (2017); Jrai Dew Sculpture Garden in Central Highlands of Vietnam (2016-17); The Adventure of Color Wheel at Pediatrics Department, Eye Hospital HCMC (2015); Unconditional Belief at Sàn Art, Ho Chi Minh City (2014).

Thao Nguyen Phan, artist

Trained as a painter, Phan is a multimedia artist whose practice encompasses video, painting and installation. Drawing from literature, philosophy and daily life, Phan observes ambiguous issues in social conventions and history. She started working in film when she began her MFA in Chicago. Phan exhibits internationally, with solo and group exhibitions including WIELS (Brussels, 2020), Rockbund Art Museum (Shanghai, 2019); Lyon Biennale (Lyon, 2019); Sharjah Biennial (Sharjah Art Foundation, 2019); Gemäldegalerie (Berlin, 2018); Dhaka Art Summit (2018); Para

Site (Hong Kong, 2018); Factory Contemporary Art Centre (Ho Chi Minh City, 2017); Nha San Collective (Hanoi, 2017); and Bétonsalon (Paris, 2016), among others. She was shortlisted for the 2019 Hugo Boss Asia Art Award. In addition to her work as a multimedia artist, she is co-founder of the collective Art Labor, which explores cross disciplinary practices and develops art projects that benefit the local community. Thao Nguyen Phan is expanding her “theatrical fields”, including what she calls performance gesture and moving images. Phan is a 2016-2017 Rolex Protégée, mentored by internationally acclaimed, New York-based, performance and video artist, Joan Jonas.

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Truong Cong Tung, artist

Born in 1986, Trương Công Tùng grew up in Dak Lak among various ethnic minorities in the Central Highlands, Vietnam. He graduated from the Ho Chi Minh Fine Arts University in 2010, majoring in lacquer painting. With research interests in science, cosmology and philosophy, Trương Công Tùng works with a range of media, including video, installation, painting and found objects, which reflect personal contemplations on the cultural and geopolitical shifts of modernization, as embodied in the morphing ecology, belief or mythology of a land. He is also a member of Art Labor (founded in 2012), a collective working between visual art and social/life sciences to produce alternative non-formal knowledge via artistic and cultural activities in various public contexts and locales.

Trương Công Tùng has exhibited extensively in Vietnam and abroad as a solo artist and as part of Art Labor Collective. Select recent exhibitions include Bangkok Art Biennale (2018), "Between Fragmentation and Wholeness" at Galerie Quynh in Ho Chi Minh City (2018), "A Beast, a God, and a Line" at Para Site, Hong Kong (2018) and Museum of Modern Art, Warsaw (2018), Dhaka Art Summit, Dhaka (2018), Carnegie International 57th edition at Carnegie Museum of Art (2018), Cosmopolis at the Centre Pompidou, Paris (2017).

Arlette Quynh-Anh Tran, curator

Arlette Quynh-Anh Tran (b. 1987, Berlin) lives and works in Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon). She has participated in various cultural and visual art projects as coordinator, curator, researcher or advisor. She is currently a member of Art Labor, and Assistant Curator at Sàn Art. In 2007 she curatorially assisted Rirkrit Tiravanija and Gridthiya Gaweewong for the Saigon Open City project, the first large-scale biannual exhibition of contemporary art in Vietnam. Tran is also a writer on creativity and contemporary art for a number of publications. Recently, she curated series of Sàn Art Productions x PhuongMy (2013-now), Echoing Nostalgia. Collecting Countermemory (2013), Unconditional Belief (2014) and was a researcher for Asia Art Archive (2011-13).

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Open Academy Workshop Synopses

The Latinas Grandmas Oracle: Artist strategies from art history By Nirlyn Seijas.

Recommended age: 18 years and above
Date/Time: 14 April 2023, 7.30pm – 9.30pm

This workshop is an on-going engagement with Nirlyn’s curatorial research on 11 Latin American female artists. One of the findings of the research resulted in the creation of “The Latinas Grandmas Oracle” which will be presented as a possible strategy to connect with, reactivate and mobilize knowledge from art history. During the workshop, participants will learn about each artist, each card of the oracle, and the meaning and interpretation of each card as proposed by the curatorial research outcomes. Through the experience with the Oracle, participants are invited to reflect how the knowledge gained is translatable and applicable to their contexts.

‘Then she stood on the table and ...’: A Collective (Mis)Remembering By Tara Fatehi and Helia Hamedani

Recommended age: 18 years and above
Date/Time: 14 April 2023, 7.30pm – 10pm

How do we activate forces of remembering as tools for global solidarity? How do we connect distant points on the map through sharing our experiences? What remains from a taste, a home, a passion, a dance, a togetherness?

This is a cross-generational, cross-disciplinary conversation between people who care: about the social, the personal, history, the ordinary, global solidarity and our bodies together. Together we will explore non-violent methods while finding joyfulness in simple everyday actions.

As artists and creative-critical thinkers we are interested in practices of listening and sharing, hospitality, conversation, and storytelling – nonsensical as it may be – through words and forms, and our bodies.

Participants need to have an interest in cultural, political, social, queer or feminist activism, conversation, social justice, sharing and questioning.

Writing Gathering By Giuliana Kiersz

Recommended age: 16 years and above
Date: 15 April 2023, 2 – 4.30pm

What words do we use to describe the world? What ideas, structures, and beliefs inhabit these words? How could we, collectively, re-write our societies? The Writing Gatherings (2017 - ongoing) are sensitive spaces to enact writing as a social and communal practice. We aim to re-think and re-write the narratives that we have inherited, to create new landscapes for our thoughts, feelings, and relationships. We use an empathic approach, working in groups and from questions, letting our practice be contaminated by collecting, observing, and listening together. Everyone is welcome to join, no previous knowledge is required and participants can write in the language they feel most comfortable in.

While stationary and materials for writing is provided, we also invite participants to bring specific writing instruments of their choice, specifically if there is one of significance and resonance.

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Reading Photographs By Rola Khayat

Recommended age: 18 years and above
Date/Time: 15 April 2023, 5 – 7pm

Both personal archives and personal histories help us better understand the complex forces that shape our world. In this workshop, we'll look at and talk about photos, letters, documents, and other artefacts from our own families' albums to communicate personal narratives that fit into a broader, more global context. Participants will be brought to a greater understanding of their own intentions, thoughts, and choices, as well as how to combine them while creating a personal body of work. Participants will be urged to think about how their personal archives fit into and speak to the larger framework of collective histories.

Activating [Archived] Knowledge: Kokoba, a study session By Keren Lasme

Recommended age: 18 years and above
Date/Time: 15 April 2023, 7.30 – 9.30pm

A curated sacred space for collective study that sparks new conversations about the richness and breadth of African literatures, literary arts and heritage. By tapping into the ancient technology of knowledge sharing and storytelling, we will gather in a circle to engage with a selection of provided texts from Kokoba's library in order to activate their archived knowledge. As we travel through the landscapes they reveal pages after pages, immersed into the writers' imagination, we will experiment with words, investigate themes and ideas and stretch our minds.