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72-13 Mohamed Sultan Road Singapore 239007 // +65 67377213 (T) // +65 67377013 (F) // TWorks@singnet.com.sg  
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**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**15 March 2024**

**Per°Form Open Academy**  
**Arts + Activations**

**13-30 April, 2024**

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

**Registration [here](#)**  
**[www.performfellowship.org](http://www.performfellowship.org)**

***Per°Form Open Academy of Arts and Activations (POA) returns with an expanded 18-day programme and kicks off with a Rave by Endless Return.***

**Per°Form Open Academy of Arts and Activations (POA)** is the live gathering of 15 Per°Form Fellows from the Global South—Africa, Arab world, Asia, and South America. These fellows, intersectional practitioners across diverse disciplines of activism, film, fashion, design, curation, research, education, visual culture, spoken word, performance, will present their strategies for activating contexts and communities. The 15th Per°Form Fellow from Singapore is Endless Return, a visceral platform of ravers - performance, dance, sound, and conceptual artists - known for their raw, irreverent, unexpected, and migratory pop-up parties.

The other 14 Global South Fellows are Aziz Sohail (Karachi/Melbourne); Chathuri Nissansala (Colombo); Diamantina Arcoiris (Bogotá); Etcétera (Buenos Aires/Santiago); Hira Nabi (Lahore/Amsterdam); Marianne Fahmy (Alexandria); Radhika Hettiarachchi (Colombo); Saodat Ismailova (Tashkent/Paris); Selma & Sofiane Ouissi (Tunis/Paris); Sharareh Bajracharya (Kathmandu); Sunday Obiajulu Ozegbe (Lagos); Ujjwala Maharjan (Kathmandu), YoNoFui (Buenos Aires).

The theme of Per°Form this year is **'Decoloniality'**. Coloniality of power being defined as “the structures of power, control, and hegemony in all dimensions of social life including sexuality,

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authority, subjectivity, and labour.” A big part of exploring ‘Decoloniality’ is understanding it in relation to lived experiences and contexts of the different Fellows.

Dr. Ong elaborates, “our main research has been our public, what are they looking for in a world that has transformed itself with Netflix and digital stay-at-home flexibility? Why do we gather today “live”? Is there no other option to our existence on this planet, except to be at the marketplace? Our response is the Per<sup>o</sup>Form Open Academy, an open academy, open to everyone. It is a festival of arts and activations where Global South fellows presenting their proposals for a liveable society in their contexts – a mapping of the translocal, which substitutes the notion of the international. In short, it is an urban picnic with hammocks where we are transported around the world, where we listen to inspiring narratives of artists and cultural innovators who are transforming their communities.”

In this second iteration, POA is bigger and bolder, expanding beyond the keynotes, workshops and marathon that anchored the programme in 2023, featuring two new platforms: *POA Rave* and *POA Studio*.

Beginning 13 April, POA amps it up with a durational rave theatre **4LLEN** led by Endless Return, butoh dance artist Xue and electronic music producer Mervin Wong. Together they lead an immersive sonic experience with Singapore gamelan musician, sound artist and vocalist Rosemainy Buang and two of the edgiest underground club and electronic musicians from the Philippines, obese.dogma777 and Teya Logos. Want to be part of the sonic co-creation? Audiences are invited to contribute their music in a speculative sonic environment throughout the course of the evening.

On 17 April, there will be two **Opening Keynotes** focusing on self-care and our sustainable relationship with nature - *Redesign Lives* with fashion designer Diamantina Arcoiris (Bogotá) and *How to Love a Tree* by filmmaker and visual artist Hira Nabi (Lahore/Amsterdam). Drawing on therapeutic aspects of creativity and creative production, fashion designer Diamantina Arcoiris empowers marginalised communities to explore alternative possibilities and ‘redesign’ their lives. For her keynote, 72-13 is transformed into a fashion atelier. Leaving the atelier, the audience enters the cinematic world of Hira Nabi. Engaging in environments of former colonial hill stations in and around the towns and villages of Pakistan, *How to Love a Tree* is an investigation into the disappearance of ecosystems and environments rich in flora and fauna.

On 25 April, the **Closing Keynote** will be given by award-winning Uzbek filmmaker and artist Saodat Ismailova who has dominated major exhibitions in Europe in recent years. Saodat is an important voice within the first generation of Central Asian artists to come of age in the

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post-Soviet era. She will embark on unpacking her most recent film archives, continuously over the next five days, in the **Per°Form Open Academy Studio**. There will be numerous screenings as Saodat articulates her trajectories of ecology, tradition, living with the non-human, colonialism, and the female universe through the lens of her key film, *The Haunted*.

Saodat interweaves myths, rituals and dreams with everyday life. She calls our attention, in a nuanced way, to social issues such as the drying up of rivers and women’s right to decide whether to wear the veil. Women’s identities and emancipation is a recurring theme in her work. Women play an important role in keeping Central Asian cultural and spiritual heritage alive – for example by passing on stories and customs from mother to daughter, generation after generation.

Per°Form is conceptualised and led by T:>Works Artistic Director, Dr. Ong Keng Sen. With Per°Form, T:>Works aims to cut across silos, disciplines, and fields to support translocal knowledge production, situated practices, and contextualised research as shared resources for the future. In particular, Per°Form focuses on the arts practitioner as a thought leader engaged in care and repair, actively engaging histories, the precarious present, and world-creating.

For Per°Form Open Academy of Arts and Activations, Dr. Ong draws inspiration from his seminal work investigating nomadic alternative universities and world-creating in the arts: *The Flying Circus Project* (1996–2013), as well as the *Curator’s Academy* (2018–22), a collaboration between Singapore and Berlin.

The 18-day programme:

- 13 April 2024: POA RAVE - *4LLEN* by Endless Return (Singapore)
- 17 April 2024: POA OPENING KEYNOTES:
  - Redesign Ourselves* by Diamantina Arcoiris (Bogotá)
  - How to Love a Tree* by Hira Nabi (Lahore/Amsterdam)
- 18–20 April 2024: POA WORKSHOPS
- 20–21 April 2024: POA MARATHON
- 25–April 2024: POA CLOSING KEYNOTE by Saodat Ismailova (Tashkent/Paris)
- 26–30 April 2024: POA STUDIO with Saodat Ismailova:
  - 26 April - trajectory of ecology
    - Screening: *Aral Fishing*
  - 27 April - trajectory of tradition, landscape
    - Screening: *Stains Of Oxus*

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- 28 April - trajectory of living with the non-human
  - Screening: *The Haunted*
- 29 April - trajectory of colonialism
  - Screening: *Her Right*
- 30 April - trajectory of female universe
  - Screening: *Chillhona*

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.

For media enquiries, interviews and images, contact Sarah Bagharib:  
Email: [sarahb.tworks@gmail.com](mailto:sarahb.tworks@gmail.com) / Contact Number: +65 8952 3770

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## Annex 1

### About Per°Form Global South Fellows

#### POA Rave



#### **Endless Return** (Singapore)

Endless Return (ER) is a music platform from Singapore run by butoh dancer XUE and artist/producer Mervin Wong. ER rejects capitalist event structures, opting instead for gatherings that prioritise creative exploration over financial motives. ER happenings cannibalise and iterate on themselves in the form of eternal Returns — unique events that allow for exciting artistic intersections across art, music and performance. Initially conceived during the pandemic as a virtual rave, ER has evolved into a music label and experimental series dedicated to charting the sonic badlands of Singapore and Southeast Asia. ER is dedicated to unearthing and showcasing the most subversive of the Singapore underground and like-minded regional acts. ER recent releases include "Parodyse City" (2023) by Singaporean DJ and producer Vangoth666. ER has been featured on publications like Mixmag Asia, Female Magazine Singapore and Life in Arpeggio and was also the recipient of a Creative Grant by Refraction Festival in 2022. ER has also been a resident with Hong Kong Community Radio for the past two years and running.

#### POA Opening Keynotes



#### **Diamantina Arcoiris** (Bogotá)

Diamantina is a fashion designer who uses her knowledge and skills to help those marginalised by society. In the challenging environment of one of Bogotá's barrios, she has set up Fundación Rediseñándonos (Redesign Ourselves Foundation), which offers a welcoming community and inspiring workshops. Drawing on the therapeutic aspects of creativity and creative production, she is empowering people to explore alternative possibilities and redesign their lives.

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**Hira Nabi** (Lahore/Amsterdam)

Hira archives testimonials and witnessing through cinema, performance, and writing. Her practice explores plural temporalities, sites of collapsing ecologies and vulnerable landscapes, linking histories of colonial extraction with ongoing violence, networks and infrastructures of labour, and articulating gestures of care as a way to find justice and dignity, alongside survival. She lives and works between Amsterdam and Lahore.

**POA Closing Keynote / Studio**



**Saodat Ismailova** (Tashkent/Paris)

Saodat is an Uzbek filmmaker and artist graduated from Tashkent State Art Institute and Le Fresnoy, National Studio of Contemporary Arts. Interweaving myths, rituality, and dreams within the tapestry of everyday life, her films investigate the historically complex and layered culture of Central Asia which stand at the crossroads of diverse material histories and migratory legacies. Departing from her personal history marked by growing up in the post-Soviet Uzbekistan, Ismailova reaches out to the collective dimension of memory. Her research encompasses the region's ancestral knowledge and traditional spiritual practices as well as modern history of Uzbekistan which manifests through the interlacing of archival footage from its cinematic history. She initiated Davra research group in Central Asia, 2021. In 2022 she participated in 59th Biennale of Venice and presented new work at documenta fifteen. In 2022, she received The Eye Art & Film Prize, Amsterdam. Her works are in the collection of Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, The Centre of Pompidou, Paris and others.

## POA Marathon



**Aziz Sohail** (Karachi/Melbourne)

Aziz is a Pakistani-born curator, writer and researcher whose work builds interdisciplinary connections between art, history, archives, literature, theory and biography and supports new cultural and pedagogical infrastructures. Their research and resultant projects honour and recognise the power of queer and feminist collectivity, sociability, joy and wayward encounter.



**Chathuri Nissansala** (Colombo)

Chathuri is a multidisciplinary visual artist working with performance, sculpture, painting, and graphics. Her works interrogates notions of gender, queer culture, justice and equity, traditions, and histories. A recipient of the Commonwealth Scholarship, South East Asia by Indian Council for Cultural Relations, ICCR (2012), she acquired a Bachelor in Fine Arts (Painting) from Chitra Kala Parishath, Bengaluru (2017) and Master in Visual Arts (Painting) from Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Vadodara (2019).



**Etcétera** (Buenos Aires & Santiago)

Formed in 1997 in Buenos Aires, Etcétera is a multidisciplinary collective composed of visual artists, poets, and performers. Since 2007 it has been led by co-founders Loreto Garín Guzmán (Santiago) and Federico Zukerfeld (Buenos Aires). In 2005, they were part of the founding of the International Errorist movement, an international organization that proclaims error as a philosophy of life. In addition to participating in exhibitions in museums and biennials such as the biennials of Jakarta (2015), São Paulo (2014), Athens (2013), Istanbul (2009), and Taipei (2008), they often work with street-art, public interventions, actions, and performances that are necessarily contextual, ephemeral, and circumstantial. In 2015, they received the Prince Claus Award in the Netherlands.



**Marianne Fahmy (Alexandria)**

Marianne is an artist living and working in Alexandria, whose works span film and installation. Through her video, photography, sculpture, and mixed media works, she takes on the role of a new historicist, using parafiction to deconstruct the social and political issues of the present. She is recipient of the 2024 Prince Claus Mentorship Award: Cultural & Artistic Responses to the Environmental Crisis. Her work has previously been shown at the Sharjah Biennale (2023), 7th Yokohama Triennial (2020), Manifesta 13 (2020), Towner International (2020), Mediterranea 19 Young Artists Biennale (2020), Havana Biennale (2019), Dakar Biennale (2018), and Gherdeina Biennale, Italy, (2024)



**Radhika Hettiarachchi (Colombo)**

Radhika is a public historian, researcher, and peacebuilding practitioner with nearly 20 years of experience. She works through art, oral history, and facilitates public discourse on issues of gender, security, history, justice and sustainable peace. She is the co-founder of the "Herstories project" ([www.theherstoryarchive.org](http://www.theherstoryarchive.org)), "The Community Memorialisation Project" ([www.memorymap.lk](http://www.memorymap.lk)), and is presently documenting women's histories of sex work during conflict as an extension of the work on women, history and transitional justice. As a curator, she curated the first iteration of travelling history museum, "It's About Time", as well as for Colomboscope (2014, 2015), the multi-country exhibition of marginalised histories "Shared Journeys" (2020) for International Coalition of Sites of Conscience, and created exhibitions to share conflict histories through multiple perspectives. She holds a Masters in Development Management from the London School of Economics and Political Science.





**Selma & Sofiane Ouissi (Tunis/Paris)**

Selma and Sofiane conceived the 2019 edition of their festival, Dream City, as a civic and artistic parliament: a shared and protected space that offers a critical platform for rare forms of emancipation, and exchange between a diversity of African voices, who are key to developing new narratives and networks for the future of the continent. Selma and Sofiane Ouissi both attended the National Conservatory of Music and Dance in Tunis. They have performed with major Tunisian and international theatre directors and choreographers, at venues and performing-arts platforms around the world.



**Sharareh Bajracharya (Kathmandu)**

Sharareh is an arts educator who believes in the power of the arts to make the earth tremble, loosen up for change, change that begins with expressing and listening. She is one of the founders of Srijanalaya, a nonprofit organisation, which creates safe spaces of learning through the arts. She was a CISA 2018 Fellow at KHOJ. Her curatorial endeavour is to open up questions that have been silenced and to unlearn different forms of indoctrination. She completed her BFA in Painting and Art Education from the Kathmandu University Centre for Art and Design, her Bachelor's in Early Childhood Development from Tufts University, and her Master's in Education, Culture, and Society from the University of Pennsylvania.



**Sunday Obiajulu Ozegbe (Lagos)**

Valu is a dancer, activist and creative. He is the founder and artistic director of Ennovate Dance House, a collective of dancers and movement artists, that are addressing social issues. In 2017, he was selected for training in Artistic Activism by the Center for Artistic Activism, New York. Through his work he focuses on amalgamating performance with community development, bringing the style of dance activism to the fore.

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**Ujjwala Maharjan (Kathmandu)**

Ujjwala is a poet, performer and educator. She is one of the co-founders of Word Warriors, a leading poetry group of the spoken word movement. Post her Masters in Education from the University of Pennsylvania, she has been exploring arts activism and community-based education programs focusing on storytelling through varied creative mediums. Inspired by her students and colleagues, she started experimenting with rap during the pandemic. Collaborating with other artists, she blends ethnic music into the soundscape of punk, hip-hop and musical monologues and tells stories of women's bodies, sexuality and liberation. Writing in English, Nepali and the ethnic minority language, Newari (Newah), she is interested in subverting the language and culture of misogyny.



**YoNoFui (Buenos Aires)**

Maria Medrano (poet, editor, and activist) and Alejandra Rodríguez (educator, researcher, and activist) are members of YoNoFui, a transfeminist, grassroots, and anti-prison collective made up of LGBTQNBA+ individuals and cis women, some of whom have been or are currently incarcerated. In their 22 years of activism, they established a School of Arts, Crafts, and Political Experimentation, both inside and outside prison facilities. Additionally, they formed a Workers' Cooperative with various productive units, including a beauty shop (body care), textile design, screen printing, and a collective publishing house: Tinta Revuelta. They've created "seconding spaces" to support each other in affective and material community networks of mutual aid, addressing everyday life management, mental health, and legal issues. They conduct workshops on Alternative Justice and Penal Abolition, write books, and initiate discussions to critically examine the role of prisons and punitive measures in our social structure. They've also established a collective house that hosts all these activities.

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### **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 renown 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.

### **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 are 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. T:>Works also serves to investigate the current urgencies of being located in Singapore, and larger Asia, through different creative expressions in the public sphere. It is a recipient of the National Arts Council Major Company Grant from 1 April 2022 until 31 March 2025. T:>Works is an Institute of Public Character with charity status.