

Artistic
Directors
Academy

T:>Works

Public Lecture

Celebrate, Educate, Abolish

by **Fadescha**

14 August 2024, 7.30pm

**72-13 Mohamed Sultan Road
Singapore 239007**

as part of
**THE SEASON OF
THOUGHT
LEADERSHIP:
IN THE ARTS,
BY THE ARTS,
WITH THE ARTS**

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About Artistic Directors Academy (ADA)

Part of T:>Works' The Season of Thought Leadership: in the Arts, by the Arts, with the Arts, launched on 7 March 2024, Artistic Directors Academy (ADA), led by T:>Works Artistic Director Ong Keng Sen, is a research laboratory to develop Artistic Directors, harnessing international cultural innovators to helm Masterclass modules, as well as individual mentoring to sharpen and intensify skillsets.

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ADA focuses on giving perspectives to existing and potential Artistic Directors who wish to facilitate creative platforms, collectives, engagement projects, companies, venues, and festivals. ADA is a curriculum-based capacity development project where T:>Works will share its immense skills in the international field, translating international developments to artistic positions in the local context, and therefore opening up creative avenues internationally whilst being based locally.

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ADA strides on with a Public Lecture and 10-session Masterclass #2: Queer Labour by Fadescha.

Masterclass #2 Schedule

9 August (Friday)

Friday, 9 August (1 session)

- 7.30–10.30pm

Saturday, 10 August (2 sessions)

- 2–10pm

Sunday, 11 August (2 sessions)

- 2–10pm

Wednesday, 14 August (Public Lecture)

- 7.30pm

Thursday, 15 August (1 session)

- 7.30–10.30pm

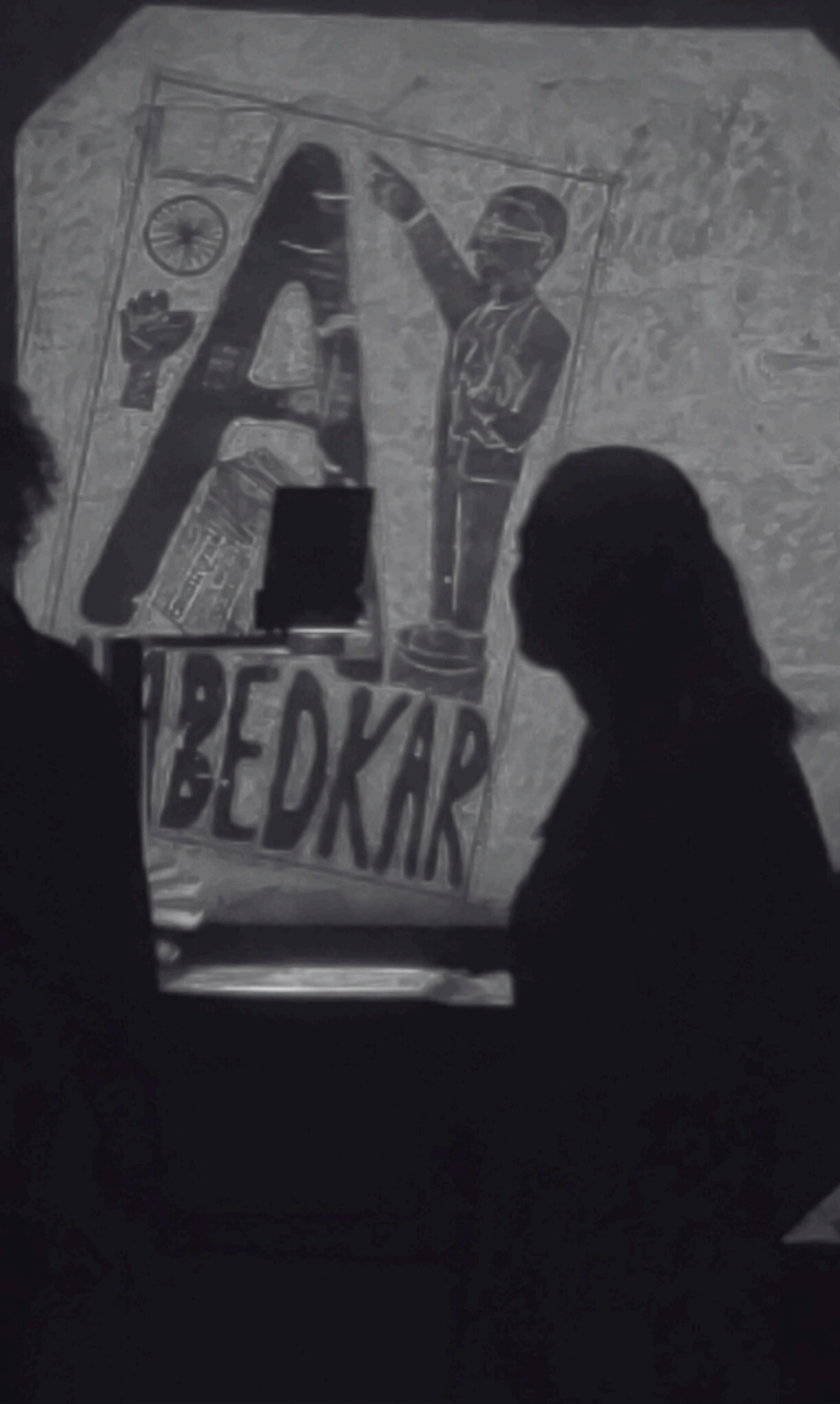
Friday, 16 August (1 session)

- 7.30–10.30pm

Saturday, 17 August (2 sessions)

- 2–10pm

17 August (Saturday)



About Masterclass #2

Queer Labour

Working towards a manifesto for a future space and time essential towards empathetic futures, participants will have opportunities to absorb and discuss through artworks and texts, and sessions of embodied practice. The focus will be on voices and lived-experience of the structurally marginalised, as we witness the sites and forms of Queer Labour, the labour of surviving the everyday.

Participants will assay Fadescha's 'Qworkaholics Anonymous', a project that reimagines the format of de-addiction programs like Alcoholics Anonymous, and creates a time and space for marginalised individuals to acknowledge and celebrate the labour of their very act of survival. Such labour is often dismissed as unproductive by the neoliberal order, whose measures overlook the exhaustion of individuals excluded from the hegemony, who constantly navigate obstacles and defend their identities.

In a society that values isolation and self-abandonment, over self and collective care, prioritising one's own needs and wellbeing is a form of resistance. Together, participants will read through 'The Twelve Steps of Qworkaholics Anonymous' designed to de-addict from the 'burnout' faced while doing this labour, through a metaphysical connection with ourselves and our peers. The masterclass will be guided by emotion and intuition, rather than try to succeed theoretically.

Public Lecture

Celebrate, Educate, Abolish

“Some of us who grow up with an experience of being outcasted can’t discern if it was because of our gender, caste, [race], neuro-divergence or our desires; and all of these intersections are then our queerness.”
- Fadescha, 2022

In this multimedia presentation, Fadescha takes us through their transdisciplinary practice grounded in Queer Anarchist politics, and the intersectionality of caste-based subjugation. Caste is a system of exclusion and untouchability that ranks people at birth into a hierarchy based on alleged purity and pollution.

Fadescha finds voice through curatorial, artistic and theoretical making. They organise, and propose rest, parties and social gatherings as sites and tools for resisting the patriarchal, fascist and neo-liberal order. Fadescha through their curatorial project Party Office have been publishing works centring lived experiences of those structurally marginalised, producing counter archives through self-representation.

Fadescha hopes we abolish various systems of assimilation that become tools of oppression including gender, borders, caste, ability, ethnicity and race; not only structurally on the streets and institutions but also within our colonised minds and at our homes.

“Celebrate, Educate, Abolish” emerges from the call to action made by the Anti-Caste polymath of India Dr. B.R. Ambedkar’s “Educate, Agitate, Organise”^{*} for annihilation of caste towards equality, freedom, justice and liberty.

^{*}[All India Depressed Classes conference in July 1942 in Nagpur, India]



Vidisha-Fadescha (they/them) is an artist, curator and cultural critic. Holding their lived experience of a radical gender, caste, race and disability, Fadescha suggests centring one’s own body and desire towards liberation. Their artistic work includes video, sound installations, text, and performance. They direct collective practices as a norm-critical pedagogy to queer hegemony. Fadescha’s curatorial project, Party Office, is an anti-caste, anti-racist, trans-feminist, art and social, space and time that was founded in New Delhi in 2020. Through publications, grants, archives, conversations of life-lived, social gatherings, and more, they are building transnational dialogues on empathetic futures, care communities, and personal agency.

In 2024, Fadescha (for Party Office) curated the exhibition ‘Resonance Beyond Escape: Qworkaholics Anonymous III’ (June-Oct 2024, Nida Art Colony of Vilnius Academy of Arts), a digital curatorial ‘we’re the ones we’ve been waiting for’ (July 2024, performing borders) and were an artist at the Lagos Biennial. In 2023, Vidisha participated in projects with Prince Claus Fund Biennial Symposium (Colombo), Survival Kit 14 (Riga), Rehearsing Moves on Hazy Paths (at ZK/U Berlin), Kunst im Untergrund (organised by nGbK Berlin), 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art (Sydney), and was a lumbung artist at documenta fifteen, Kassel in 2022.

Fadescha’s work has been published in arts and cultural magazines including Frieze, Flash Art, Texte zur Kunst, Metropolis M, Hyperallergic, Mezosfera, Aperture Magazine, Art in America, Galerie, Dazed, and Vogue.

Credits

Artistic Directors Academy

Founding Director	Ong Keng Sen
Producer	Jennifer Teo
Masterclass Coordinator	Mel Peh
Technical Coordinator	Ian Tan
Masterclass #2 Documenter	Wong Bing Hao

T:>Works

Artistic Director	Ong Keng Sen
Executive Director	Traslin Ong
Digital and Outreach	Jeffrey Kang
Grants and Development	Shania Yusof
Communication & Engagement	Eryka Rashid
Administrator	Ong Soo Mei
Interns	Angeline Ang Charlotte Lee

Board Members

Kathy Lai (Chairperson)
Mahesh Asrani
Mok Wei Wei
Noorlinah Mohamed
Ong Keng Sen
Suriani Suratman

About Dr. Ong Keng Sen



Photo credit: Jeannie Ho

Dr. Ong Keng Sen is Artistic Director of T:>Works and artspace 72-13 in Singapore. Apart from creating renown productions, Ong founded Arts Network Asia, a micro-grant peer organisation, and the international Curators Academy focused on synergy between contexts and curation. His seminal work was nomadic artist residency, The Flying Circus Project, traveling international artists through Asia, sharing their contexts amongst themselves and young people in local sites. Ong became Founding Festival Director of Singapore International Festival of Arts (SIFA), directing four editions. He was awarded the prestigious Fukuoka Asian Arts and Culture Prize for his creations in Asian contemporary performance. A Fulbright scholar, he was bestowed a honorary doctorate by University of Arts London. He was guest professor at Institute of Applied Theatre Giessen University and Freie University Berlin. He earned his Ph.D. in Performance Studies from Tisch School Of Arts, New York University in 2019.

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.

T:>Works 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 (IPC) with Charity Status.

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T:>Works

Artistic
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Masterclass #3: Nature and Ecologies

by Yasmine Ostendorf-Rodríguez

27 September – 5 October 2024



tworksasia.org/ada

Join us as a module-based participant!

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burn all
the books
that call
you the
unknown
- fadescha

