T:>Works Co. Reg. No. 199001149D T:>Works T:>Works T:>Works T:>Works T:>Works T:>Works 72-13 Mohamed Sultan Road Singapore 239007 // +65 67377213 (T) // +65 67377013 (F) // TWorks@singnet.com.sg // 72-13.com // TWorksasia.org // T:>Works is supported by the National Arts Council under the Major Company Scheme for the period from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2025. // T:>Works is an Institute of Public Character with T:>Works T:>Works T:>Works T:>Works T:>Works T:>Works Charity Status. T:>Works T:>Works

MEDIA ALERT

1 August 2024



Artistic Directors Academy (ADA) Masterclass #2: Queer Labour by Fadescha

9–17 August 2024 (10 sessions) Public Lecture: Wednesday, 14 August 2024, 7.30pm

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

> > Sign up here

T:>Works' Artistic Directors Academy (ADA) strides on with second Masterclass and Public Lecture on Queer Labour by Fadescha.

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. Each 10-session Masterclass, exclusive to open call-selected Fellows and module-based participants, will feature one Public Lecture.

Following the first ADA Masterclass on Urban (Re)development by m7red, the forthcoming *Masterclass #2: Queer Labour by Fadescha* will run from 9 to 17 August. The module is open for paying participation at S\$1,000 and is eligible for SkillsFuture credit.

The Masterclass by Fadescha will focus on crafting a manifesto for empathetic futures, highlighting the voices and lived experiences of the structurally marginalised. Participants will explore Queer Labour and the daily struggles of survival through artworks, texts, and sessions of embodied practice. The Masterclass features Fadescha's 'Qworkaholics Anonymous,' a project that reimagines de-addiction programmes to create a space for marginalised individuals—a type of labour often overlooked by neoliberal systems. By prioritising self and collective care as forms of resistance, participants will engage with 'The Twelve Steps of Qworkaholics Anonymous,' a metaphysical connection.

Additionally, a free public lecture titled **Celebrate**, **Educate**, **Abolish** will be held on **14 August**. In this multimedia presentation, Fadescha explores their transdisciplinary practice grounded in Queer Anarchist politics and the intersectionality of caste-based subjugation — a system of exclusion and untouchability that ranks people at birth into a hierarchy based on alleged purity and pollution. Through curatorial, artistic and theoretical making, Fadescha organises, and proposes rest, parties and social gatherings as sites for resisting the patriarchal, fascist and neo-liberal order. Through their curatorial project Party Office, Fadescha publishes works centering lived experiences of those structurally marginalised, producing counter archives through self-representation. Fadescha hopes we abolish systems of assimilation that act as tools of oppression, not only structurally in society and institutions but also within our colonised minds and homes.

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.

Creatives, visionaries, and thought leaders are invited to join the discourse and enhance skill sets as cultural changemakers, in alignment with ADA's focus on giving perspectives to existing and potential Artistic Directors who wish to facilitate creative platforms, collectives, engagement projects, companies, venues, and festivals.

The third Masterclass will take place from **27 September to 5 October** with Masterclass specialist **Yasmine Ostendorf-Rodríguez**. This session will dive into critical issues surrounding ecology and climate change.

Artistic Directors Academy (ADA) is presented by T:>Works, an independent and international arts company based in Singapore at its space, 72-13.

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For media enquiries, interviews and images, contact: Email: <u>ada@tworksasia.org</u> / Contact Number: +65 6737 7213 / +65 9090 7266

Annex A: About Artistic Directors Academy (ADA)

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.

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.

Elaborates Ong, "The Artistic Director is anyone who is leading a creative platform, or leading a network of discourse. In a way, we're not thinking about it as a job scope. It's more like an imagination of what an Artistic Director can do in transforming their realities."

ADA took off in March with an open call, which concluded on 30 April, yielding a selection of 18 Fellows – all accomplished individuals spanning disciplines of performing arts, ecology, curation, visual arts, creative design, literary arts, architecture, technology, discourse, and community engagement. These individuals will participate in ADA Masterclasses, research, and discussions, culminating in research projects to be showcased in March 2025.

The inaugural ADA Masterclass featured Mauricio Corbalán and Pio Torroja of m7red as they explore urban (re)development during their residency from 28 June to 6 July. The independent research group from Buenos Aires focuses on the interplay between humanity and the environment. The Masterclass examined themes of agency and sociological imagination, and investigated the potential of trans-scalar stories through workshops and site reconnaissance. On July 3, a public lecture provided new insights into the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead urban (re)development, highlighting m7red's investigations and research methodologies, and concluding with a discussion moderated by ADA Fellow and curator/writer Kamiliah Bahdar.

Masterclass modules will be open for paying participation by interested members of discourse, cultural, design, arts, scientific, and adjacent professions / industries. Free public participation through select conversations and public lectures is encouraged.

m7red (Buenos Aires)

Annex B: About Masterclass Specialists

Masterclass Specialist #1



m7red is an independent network of socially engaged architects and spatial planners. They work with citizens, especially under-represented communities, to counteract developments that impact negatively on communal spaces. Rejecting top-down processes of public decision-making, they collaborate with stakeholders, network with relevant experts and create innovative tools that clarify power relations, vested interests and political pressures, thereby empowering people to claim their rights in public space.

Photo credit: m7red

Masterclass Specialist #2



Photo credit: Fadescha

Fadescha (New Delhi/Berlin)

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), Nida Art Colony of Vilnius Academy of Arts (Vilnius / Nida), 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.

Masterclass Specialist #3



Photo Credit: Yasmine Ostendorf-Rodríguez

Yasmine Ostendorf-Rodríguez

Yasmine Ostendorf-Rodríguez is the founder and director of the Green Art Lab Alliance (established in 2012); a network comprising sixty art organisations across Europe, Latin America, the Caribbean and Asia. The mission of the alliance is to foster relationships that contribute to social and environmental justice, akin to the interconnected nature of mycelium.

She founded and directed the Nature Research Department at the Jan van Eyck Academie (Netherlands, 2017), the Van Eyck Food Lab (2018), and the Future Materials Bank (2020); a crowd-sourced database of sustainable materials for artists, designers and architects. She organised countless Reading Groups, Food Art Film Festivals and has been curator-in-residence, as well as writer-in-residence, in many art institutions worldwide. She is a self-proclaimed "mycophile", interested in exploring the application of a mycological lens in defining fair models of collaboration and (self) organisation. Her debut book, "Let's Become Fungal! Mycelium Teachings and the Arts," shares twelve teachings of the world of fungi. It was published by Valiz and is being translated into various languages. It was selected as one of the Best Dutch Book Designs 2023 and nominated for the Best Book Design Globally 2023.

Annex C: Schedule for Module #2 and #3

Masterclass #2: Queer Labour by Fadescha Schedule

Friday, 9 Aug	7.30–10.30pm	1 session
Saturday, 10 Aug	2–10pm	2 sessions
Sunday, 11 Aug	2–10pm	2 sessions
Wednesday, 14 Aug	7.30pm	Public Lecture
Thursday, 15 Aug	7.30–10.30pm	1 session
Friday, 16 Aug	7.30–10.30pm	1 session
Saturday, 17 Aug	2–10pm	2 sessions

Masterclass #3: Ecology and Climate Change by Yasmine Ostendorf-Rodríguez Schedule

Friday, 27 Sep	7.30–10.30pm	1 session
Saturday, 28 Sep	2–10pm	2 sessions
Sunday, 29 Sep	2–10pm	2 sessions
Wednesday, 2 Oct	7.30pm	Public Lecture
Thursday, 3 Oct	7.30–10.30pm	1 session
Friday, 4 Oct	7.30–10.30pm	1 session
Saturday, 5 Oct	2–10pm	2 sessions

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Annex D: About Artistic Directors Academy (ADA) Fellows



Adeeb Fazah

Adeeb Fazah is a theatre director, producer, playwright, and educator based in Singapore. He graduated from Nanyang Technological University with a degree in Communication Studies where he specialised in Public Relations with a minor in Drama and Performance. He is the Artistic Director of The Second Breakfast Company, co-founder of Strike! Festival and co-founder of Impromptu Meetings and In the Round. He currently serves as the elected Treasurer of the Singapore Drama Educators Association.



Akai Chew

With architecture as a stepping off point, Akai Chew works in photography, maps, and installation art. The common threads of urban memories, stratum of histories, and contested geographies connect such diverse projects. He has a background in urban planning, and architecture heritage. He studied architecture at the University of Tasmania, where there is an ever present hidden history of the First Nations, and such an engagement is strong in the curriculum. His practice is engaged in a site specific, observation and research based methodology. By revealing hidden multiplicity of place and the veneer of identity, he nudges us towards unexpected encounters with history.



Brendon Fernandez

Brendon Fernandez is an actor, arts educator, and voiceover artist. His recent theatre credits include Tartuffe, Session Zero, G*d is a Woman, Hotel, The Importance of Being Earnest, MERDEKA / 獨立 / 奇巧巧句前, and Displaced Persons' Welcome Dinner. He also participated in multiple arts festivals including SIFA 2015, OzAsia 2017, Kunsten Festival des Arts in Brussels, and the Singapore Arts Festival 2008. His most recent screen credit was on Season 3 of the webseries People Like Us. An accomplished voiceover artist, he can be heard on numerous commercials, documentary television programs, and audiobooks.



Chen Jiexiao

Currently the director of Miao Dance 淼舞, Chen Jiexiao is primarily concerned with topics related to the human condition, in particular notions of loneliness. He began foundational training with Frontier Danceland's PULSE programme, eventually joining T.H.E 2nd Company. For the past few years, as an Independent Dance Artist he has collaborated with visual artists, presented his own full-length commissioned production and a full-length duet, and teaches workshops internationally. His dance films have been selected for more than 100 film festivals globally.



Photo Credit: Abdul Sami (@iamabdulsami) and Theatresauce (@theatresauce)



Dhinesha Karthigesu

Dhinesha Karthigesu is a multi-disciplinary storyteller, theatre maker and coach. In 2021, his theatre play RAVAYANA beat a thousand other global entries to be selected as part of a play development programme run by the New York theatre collective The Playwrights Realm. Since September 2023, he is the newly appointed Artistic Director and Lead Producer for Theatresauce, a Kuala Lumpur-based theatre company founded in 2017 focused on telling edgy urban Malaysian stories. Under his leadership, the company is now focused on championing (minority) Malaysian stories.

Elizabeth Mak

Elizabeth Mak is an interdisciplinary artist and theatrical designer. As the founder of Rainshadow Studios, a climate arts non-profit in Singapore, she practises non-traditional forms of visual and experiential storytelling to engage audiences on pressing social and climate issues. Her design portfolio spans over 100 productions across the US (Broadway, Off-Broadway, LORT), Europe, and Asia and includes collaborations with companies like The Public Theater, the Kennedy Center, and Third Rail Projects. She holds an MFA from the Yale School of Drama and an AB from Harvard University.



Ethel Pang

Ethel Pang is a community weaver, donning the roles of a writer, researcher, and educational facilitator. Her work stretches across Singapore and the broader Southeast Asia, where she immerses herself in diverse communities and geographies. With her communities, she actively champions issues like environmentalism, women empowerment, education, and migrant worker rights. Her core mission is to create spaces for collective learning and cultivate networks of collaboration for ecological well-being.



Photo Credit: Bokco



He Jin Jang

He Jin Jang is a multicity-based dance artist, born and raised in Seoul, Korea. Recognised as a "daring and candid choreographer" by Dance Magazine MOMM (Korea), she contemplates the body's reaction to the inescapable vulnerability as the dance of nervous systems, that has much to uncover in the frame of Live Arts. Her artistic research includes staging performances, writing, and organising discourses and workshops.

Helios Singh Bajwa

Helios Singh Bajwa practises space- and discourse-making at the intersections of curation, performance, writing, and philosophy. His interests lie broadly in contemporary art vis-a-vis the politics of aesthetics and the history of ideas, with a focus on thinking of, with, and through institutional forms. He is currently a gallery coordinator at UltraSuperNew Gallery and founding co-runner of Opens Para-Academic Forum, an independent, non-profit para-academic forum based in Singapore.



Judee Tan

Best known for her creations lvory Low IQ and Dr Teo Chew Moi for their outrageous humour, Judee Tan more recently conceptualised the beloved duo show Meenah and Cheenah, earning her a Best Actress nomination and acclaim as Singapore's "next comedy queen". Lesser known is her passion and ability as a psychic healer, where she explores areas of mental health, ancestral trauma, collective wounds and the spiritual dimensions of theatre. While her performances pack a punch and strike a chord with audiences, she believes what's important isn't just connecting with others, but with our true selves.



Kamiliah Bahdar

A cultural worker based in Singapore, Kamiliah worked across exhibitions, programmes and projects as curator, organiser, collaborator, researcher and writer. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) from Monash University in 2012. In 2015, she pursued an MA at Nanyang Technological University, writing a thesis on the residency programmes supporting contemporary art practices in Indonesia. She received the inaugural 2017 IMPART Awards in the curator category. She currently curates for the art collection and programmes at SMU Libraries and Singapore Management University, and focuses on the role of art in education, support structures and community building.



Lawrence Ypil

Lawrence Ypil is an award-winning poet and essayist whose work explores the intersection of text and image, and the role of material culture in the construction of cultural identity. In 2020, he was a finalist for the Lambda Literary Awards and on the longlist for The Believer Book Awards for The Experiment of the Tropics, the winner of the inaugural Gaudy Boy Book Prize. He has received MFAs from Washington University in St. Louis and from the Nonfiction Writing Program of the University of Iowa. He teaches creative writing at Yale-NUS College.



Melvin Tan

Melvin Tan is the Creative Director of Currency, a design agency providing value through strategic design. He believes purposeful design can transform projects and businesses. He enjoys helping new businesses enter the market and revitalising existing brands. Co-founder of Hothouse in 2020, the project supports and prototypes local artistic practices, fostering experimentation and production to upend conventions. The collective collaborates with new media artists INTER-MISSION and speculative architecture lab formAxioms, blending expertise in contemporary art, technology, design, and architecture for innovative knowledge building and dissemination.



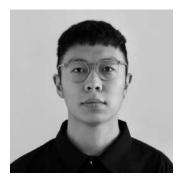
Md Muazzam (Zam)

Zam is an interdisciplinary socially-engaged practitioner working at the intersections of applied theatre, community engagement, drama education, and performance-making for over 14 years. He is an Arts for Good fellow with the Singapore International Foundation. Locally and abroad, he directed, performed, and produced in productions and festivals. He also engages with social service agencies for children and youth, eldercare, and vulnerable communities. His expertise lies in community development, partnerships, project management, and arts engagement for social impact. His multifarious creativity and cultural endeavours are rooted in the pursuit of communicating truths with dignity, discernment, and care through an artistic lens.



Natalia Tan

Natalia Tan is a textile and community artist, curator, educator, co-founder of the Singapore Eco Arts Festival, and pioneering fellow of the Artistic Directors Academy at T:>Works. An active advocate of sustainability and socially-engaged artmaking, she weaves and co-creates with people using salvaged waste materials and found objects. In her art facilitation practice, she guides participants to gather inspiration from their personal histories and desires to tell stories through textile art.



Nicholas Tee

Nicholas Tee is a live artist who collages action, image, sound and material through body-based performance, pain and endurance; their work often politically charged, angry and messy. Nicholas' work has been presented internationally, notably at Haus der Kunst (DE), Manchester Art Gallery (UK), Kettle's Yard (UK), ICA London (UK) and Point Centre for Contemporary Art (CY). Their work was featured in the 2019 British Art Studies journal published by Paul Mellon Centre. Besides their work as an artist, he is also a creative producer and is currently the Head of Artistic Development at Global Cultural Alliance, a non-profit arts organisation.



Shaifulbahri Mohamad

A creative producer, performance-maker and arts educator based in Singapore, Shaifulbahri is the Artistic Director of producing company Bahri & Co, former Joint Artistic Director of Bhumi Collective and founding Artistic Director of Yellow Chair Productions. He is also an Organising Member of Producers SG, a member of Asia Producers Platform (APP) Camp, a lecturer of BA Arts Management at LASALLE College of the Arts and an ISPA Singapore Fellow. He enjoys working with others on collaborative art across mediums to break the borders of art making. He believes in arts education and provides mentoring and development opportunities for emerging arts producers.



Timothy Koh

Timothy Koh is the Associate Director of Pangdemonium Theatre Company since 2022. He is directing work for the company, programming seasons, developing new plays, and directing a free program for teen actors and stage managers. He received training from the New York University Tisch School of the Arts (BFA Theatre), College of Arts and Science (BA English and American Literature). In New York City, he has worked as an Assistant Director at Lincoln Center Theater and Manhattan Theatre Club, held a Fellowship at Playwrights Horizons, and directed thesis plays at NYU's Graduate Department of Dramatic Writing. Other US experience includes work with Scott Rudin Productions, Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, and the Lucille Lortel Awards.

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.