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 // 72-13.com // TWorksasia.org // T:>Works is supported by the National Arts Council under the Major Company
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MEDIA ALERT

17 September 2024

Artistic
Directors
Academy



Masterclass #3:
**Nature and
Ecologies**
27 September–5 October 2024

by Yasmine
Ostendorf-Rodríguez

Per Form
**CO.THINK
LAB**

5G HOTS' POT

Keynote Lecture

WONG BINGHAO

Wednesday, 9 October 2024, 7:30PM
72-13, Mohamed Sultan Rd

(Left to right): Artistic Directors Academy (ADA) Masterclass #3: Nature and Ecologies with Yasmine Ostendorf-Rodríguez and PerForm CoThink Lab Keynote with Wong Binghao (Bing)

What's Coming Up at T:>Works: Explore Nature & Ecologies with Yasmine Ostendorf-Rodríguez and 5G Hotspot with Wong Binghao!

17 September 2024 — T:>Works presents an exciting lineup of new opportunities for creative exploration and thought-provoking discussions. Focusing on ecological practices, artistic collaborations, and contemporary cultural challenges, these sessions promise to inspire, educate, and provoke new ways of thinking and engaging.

As part of T:>Works' **The Season of Thought Leadership: in the Arts, by the Arts, with the Arts**, launched on 7 March 2024, the **Artistic Directors Academy (ADA)**, led by T:>Works Artistic Director Dr. Ong Keng Sen, is a research platform aimed at developing Artistic Directors through innovative Masterclasses and personalised mentoring from international cultural innovators. The **PerForm Fellowship**, also under the direction of Artistic Director Dr. Ong Keng Sen, runs from 2021 to 2024 and supports transdisciplinary research and knowledge production across arts, science, and community sectors. **PerForm CoThink Lab**, a key component of PerForm, addresses contemporary cultural challenges at the intersection of technology and the arts, fostering new dialogues and creative practices.

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Following successful Masterclasses on Urban (Re)development by architects and urban planner m7red, and Queer Labour by artist-curator Fadescha, ADA continues with **Masterclass #3: Nature and Ecologies**, led by **Masterclass Specialist Yasmine Ostendorf-Rodríguez**, a curator, writer, researcher, and author of *“Let's Become Fungal! Mycelium Teachings and the Arts”*. This module, running from **27 September to 5 October**, is also open for modular participation with SkillsFuture credit eligibility. A separate **Public Lecture, Mycelium Teachings: Cultivating Alliances and Collaborations**, will take place on **Wednesday, 2 October**.

The Masterclass by Yasmine explores how insights from diverse ecosystems, particularly fungi, can inform and transform artistic collaborations and practices. By examining the behaviours of slime moulds, mushrooms, and mycelium, participants will consider concepts like multispecies collaboration, symbiosis, and decentralised methods. Each session is framed around thought-provoking questions, encouraging exploration into decoloniality, non-linearity, biomimicry, and transformation. The twelve teachings will inspire creatives—from artists and educators to policymakers and curators—to adopt more interconnected, “fungal” ways of working and thinking.

The free-with-registration **Public Lecture, Mycelium Teachings: Cultivating Alliances and Collaborations**, will explore the principles of mycelium—the interconnected network of the fungal world—and how this rhizomatic network can inspire new ways of thinking and collaborating. Yasmine will share insights from her experience working on a shiitake farm and how her deep dive into mycology has shaped the development and language of the platforms she has founded and directed, including the Future Materials Bank and the Green Art Lab Alliance.

Following ADA, **PerForm CoThink Lab fellow Wong Binghao (Bing)** will present a keynote lecture **5G Hotspot**, on **Wednesday, 9 October**, sharing composited excerpts from research essays written over the past decade. Bing (they/them) takes an essayistic approach to art, integrating practice, research, and lived experience across various mediums, including publications, digital programs, and performances. Their work delves into transfeminist approaches to gender, new media, and technology, offering a distinctive perspective on contemporary art practices.

Bing’s primary project, **5G Bing**—an Internet grimoire that combines elements of a magazine, mood board, PR campaign, journal, research dossier, and archive—serves as a growing network of collaborations and conversations enabled by digital and curatorial technologies, offering a unique exploration of the curatorial in non-exhibitionary forms and the intersections of technology, art, and cultural criticism. The evolving project accrues from and further annotates seven years of discursive projects by Bing that locate the stakes of the curatorial in non-exhibitionary forms.

The [media kit](#) is available here.

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Artistic Directors Academy (ADA) with Masterclass Specialist Yasmine Ostendorf-Rodríguez

Masterclass: Nature and Ecologies

27 September – 5 October 2024 (10 Sessions)

Register as a modular participant [here](#)

Public Lecture: Mycelium Teachings: Cultivating Alliances and Collaborations

Wednesday, 2 October 2024, 7:30pm

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

Free admission with registration [here](#)

Per^oForm CoThink Lab with Fellow Wong Binghao (Bing)

5G Hotspot

Wednesday, 9 October 2024, 7:30pm – 9:30pm

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

Free admission with registration [here](#)

For media enquiries, interviews and images, please contact:

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Annex A: About Artistic Directors Academy (ADA) and Masterclass #3

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 Kamillah 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.

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Masterclass Specialist

Yasmine Ostendorf-Rodríguez



Photo Courtesy of 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.

Masterclass #3 Nature and Ecologies 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	<i>Public Lecture</i>
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 B: About *Per°Form Fellowship* and Fellow Wong Binghao

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. In particular, *Per°Form* focuses on the arts practitioner as a thought leader engaged in care and repair, actively bridging histories, the precarious present, and world-creating.

T:>Works has named this fellowship platform, *Per°Form CoThink Lab*, which is centred around the idea of leaving nobody and nothing behind. *Per°Form* harnesses the contexts of multiple ‘locals’, honouring a local which is simultaneous and interdependent on other locals, and emphasising that all localities are dependent on each other, even though they may be physically very distant. The Fellow may be based in another localised context; knowledge and research produced there will be digitally shared with publics in Singapore and internationally.

Per°Form fellowship is open to collaborative ventures between artists, scientists, writers, curators, activators, and creative communities, amongst others.

Per°Form CoThink Lab Fellow

Wong Binghao (They/them)



Photo Credit: Reuben Foong

Wong Binghao (Bing) (they/them) approaches art essayistically, as eclectic constellations of practice, research, and lived experience. They apply this modality to create essays and discursive projects including publications, digital, public, research, and educational programs, performance and live events, creative direction, and international exchange and residency programs. They are invested in developing rigorous and original research around contemporary art practices, specifically in relation to transfeminist approaches to gender, sex, love, popular cultures, new media and technology, anthropology, and area studies.

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Annex C: About Dr. Ong Keng Sen and T:>Works

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.
