

**A**rtistic  
**D**irectors  
**A**cademy

**T:>Works**

Public Lecture

# **Mycelium Teachings: Cultivating Alliances and Collaborations**

by ***Yasmine Ostendorf-Rodríguez***

**2 October 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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Currently, the ADA programme is featuring its third module, Nature and Ecologies by Yasmine Ostendorf-Rodríguez.

# Masterclass #3 Schedule

## 27 September

*1 session* **Friday, 27 September**  
7.30–10.30pm

*2 sessions* **Saturday, 28 September**  
2–10pm

*2 sessions* **Sunday, 29 September**  
2–10pm

*Public lecture* **Wednesday, 2 October**  
7.30pm

*1 session* **Thursday, 3 October**  
7.30–10.30pm

*1 session* **Friday, 4 October**  
7.30–10.30pm

*2 sessions* **Saturday, 5 October**  
2–10pm

## 5 October

## About Masterclass #3 Nature and Ecologies

This module on 'Nature and Ecologies' looks at what we learn from different eco-systems when developing our collaborations and artistic practices. Zoom in on the teachings from the world of fungi; how can slimemolds, mushrooms and mycelium inspire us to consider for instance multispecies collaboration, symbiosis, alliances, non-monetary resource exchange, decentralization, bottom-up methods and mutual dependency?

Every session is phrased as a question. They do not lead to answers, but to twelve teachings addressing decoloniality, non-linearity, toxicity, activism, invisible entanglements, biomimicry and processes of transformation and death. Simultaneously we venture deeper into the world of fungi. The teachings from the fungus may inspire artists, collectives, organizations, educators, policy-makers, designers, curators and other creatives to become more fungal in their ways of working and being.



# Mycelium Teachings: Cultivating Alliances and Collaborations

There is a growing interest in fungi and mycelium as a material, the ever-branching connecting threads of the fungal world. The entanglements and how this rhizomatic network functions is not just a fascinating ecological system and material, but carries a profound usefulness as a metaphor for our potential new systems, ways of thinking and behaviours.



Photos Courtesy of Yasmine Ostendorf-Rodríguez

For this lecture, our ADA Module #3: Nature and Ecologies masterclass specialist Yasmine Ostendorf-Rodríguez, author of the book 'Let's Become Fungal! Mycelium Teachings and the Arts', will share what she has learned from working on a shiitake farm and how her deep dive into the world of mycology has influenced the workings and language of the various exchange platforms that she has founded and directed, including the Future Materials Bank and the Green Art Lab Alliance.

A Q&A session will follow.

## Yasmine Ostendorf-Rodríguez

Yasmine is a writer, curator, researcher on art and ecology. She is the founder and director of the Green Art Lab Alliance (established in 2012); a network comprising sixty art organizations 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) organization. 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.



# Credits

## Artistic Directors Academy

Founding Director	Ong Keng Sen
Producer	Jennifer Teo
Masterclass Coordinator	Mel Peh
Technical Coordinator	Ian Tan
Masterclass Documenter	Nor Lastrina Binte Hamid

## T:>Works

Artistic Director	Ong Keng Sen
Executive Director	Traslin Ong
Digital and Outreach	Jeffrey Kang
Grants and Development	Shania Yusof
Communication and Engagement	Eryka Rashid
Projects, Operations, and Facilities	Mel Peh
Administrator	Ong Soo Mei
Intern	Jean Ho

## 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.

## Media Contact:

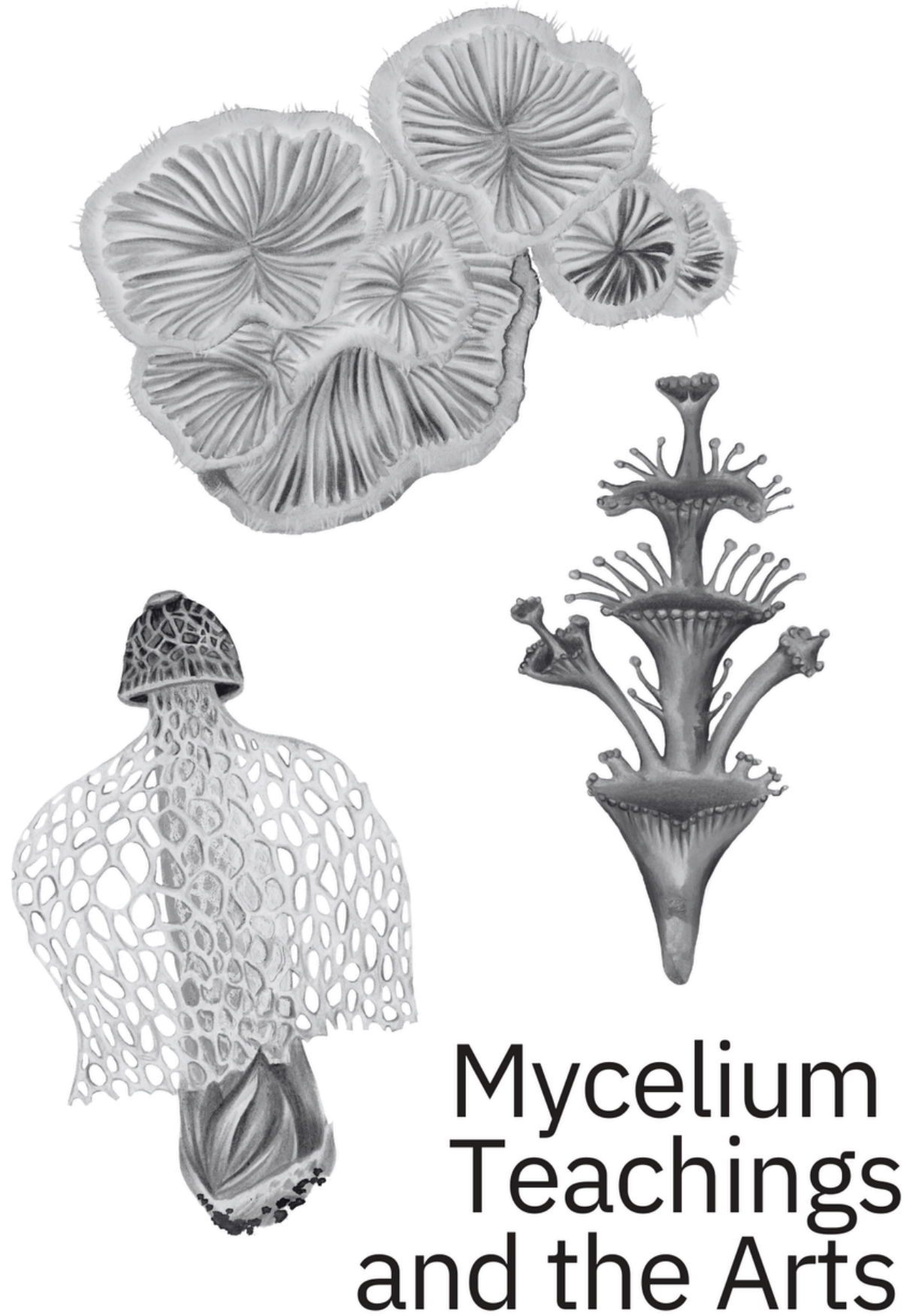
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Artistic Directors Academy (ADA) is funded in part by the Cultural Matching Fund.



Yasmine Ostendorf-Rodríguez

# LET'S BECOME FUNGAL!



## Mycelium Teachings and the Arts

Based on Conversations with Indigenous Wisdom Keepers, Artists, Curators, Feminists, and Mycologists

VALIZ, AMSTERDAM

TEACHING ONE How to Become Fungal? TEACHING TWO How to Review Our Collective Memory? TEACHING THREE How to Organize like a Mycelium? TEACHING FOUR How to Re-think Decay and Decomposition? TEACHING FIVE How to Understand the Closeness of Toxicity? TEACHING SIX How Can Our Imagination Shape New Worlds? TEACHING SEVEN How to Escape Categorization? TEACHING EIGHT What Are Fungi Teaching Us About Multispecies Models of Collaboration? TEACHING NINE How to Move through Different Notions of Time? TEACHING TEN How to Deal with Insecurity? TEACHING ELEVEN How Can Language Help Guide Us into the Fungal Paradigm?

PerForm  
**CO.THINK LAB**

T>WORKS

Keynote Lecture

5G  
HOTSPOT

with WONG BINGHAO

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



Free with Registration!



