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## **Angkor Photo Festival & Workshops announces Asian-majority organising committee and new leadership**

***A vibrant space for the growth and expansion of Asian photography***

21 MARCH 2018 – As it enters its 14th year, the longest-running international photography event in Southeast Asia is taking big steps into the future with the announcement of new leadership and a renewed focus on its core mission of nurturing Asia's photographic community.

Created in 2005 by a group of photography professionals who worked extensively in the region, the Angkor Photo Festival & Workshops has evolved to become Southeast Asia's key gathering hub and educational platform for the region's photography professionals and students.

Over 330 students from 25 Asian countries have participated in 13 editions of the annual Angkor Photo Workshops, a tuition-free professional workshop for emerging Asian talents. The close-knit community of tutors and alumni which has emerged over the years now plays a leading role in the development of photographic practices in Asia, with many regarding Angkor as their annual meeting space for professional sharing and exchanges. Driving force of the festival, they are involved in a variety of capacities — as tutors, volunteers, curators, and participating photographers in the event's programme of exhibitions and projections.

For the first time, key members from this community of workshop tutors and alumni have come together to form a new organising committee to lead the annual event, starting in 2018 which will be held in December:

Members: Kim Hak, Sophal Neak, Roun Ry, Sayon Soun, Sohrab Hura, Sim Chi Yin, Kosuke Okahara, Ian Teh, Andrea Fernandes, Dennese Victoria, Françoise Callier and Jean-Yves Navel.

Non-voting Member: Antoine D'Agata

The 13-member group, half of which comprises of workshop alumni, reflects the natural development that has taken place over the past decade as the organisation works towards becoming a self-sustainable model which is led by members of the Asian photographic community.

As part of its first move, the committee has appointed a new director, Jessica Lim, to lead the event after Jean-Yves Navel, a co-founder of the festival and its director since 2007, stepped down in 2017 while remaining involved as a member of the committee. Jessica Lim began as a volunteer in 2010 and continued working for the festival for seven editions as its coordinator.

*“We are immensely grateful to those who gave their time, energy and dedication to create and launch this initiative back in 2005. They had a vision of an empowered community of professionals in Asia, and believed in the necessity of a platform that could bring together aspiring photographers from across the region so as to nurture Asia’s photographic community,”* said Lim.

Maintaining its core values of being non-commercial, affordable and accessible, the 14th Edition of the event will see a renewed commitment towards building a vibrant Asian photographic community through its focus on professional development, education, and providing a space for fostering collaboration and solidarity.

*“One of our long-term aims is help encourage the development of uniquely Asian approaches and perspectives to photography,”* said Lim. *“We want the conversation to be happening here, being led by people from where we are from. There is certainly more than enough talent in Asia for this to happen. Think of it as a post-colonial response that is very long overdue.”*

It will once again organise the Angkor Photo Workshops for 30 emerging photographers, with applications opening in April 2018. Following its scaled-down event in 2017, the team also intends to re-introduce its programming of public exhibitions and projection showcases by guest curators, as well as to relaunch its professional activities for visiting photographers such as portfolio reviews, artist talks, and professional exchanges. As always, all events will be free and open to all.

#### **14th Edition: Key Dates**

- Professional Workshops: December 8<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup>
- Festival (Public Events): December 14<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup>

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## **DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY**

**Jessica Lim**  
Singapore

Jessica Lim is the newly-appointed director of the annual Angkor Photo Festival & Workshops, which she first joined in 2010. Prior to this, she started as a print journalist in Singapore before transitioning to serving as a photo and news editor for Drik Picture Library (Dhaka, Bangladesh), and remains a staunch advocate for photographers in the majority world. She currently is also a managing partner of One Eleven Gallery in Siem Reap, Cambodia, a gallery showcasing contemporary visual art from around the world.

## **ORGANISING COMMITTEE MEMBERS: NON-EXHAUSTIVE BIOGRAPHIES**

**Sophal Neak**  
*Photographer – Cambodia*

Neak Sophal is a conceptual photographer and considered as one of the emerging talents of the Cambodian art scene. Her works highlight social issues and specificities of the Cambodian culture, with a strong focus on the stories and memories of her models. Trained as a graphic designer at the Phnom Penh Royal University for the Arts, she always prepares the composition of her photographs by asking the model to pose, sometimes with specific objects.

**Kim Hak**  
*Photographer - Cambodia*

Kim Hak's work brings together storytelling and artistic aesthetic. Hak has focused on several themes including survivor stories, the funeral of King Sihanouk, architectural documentations and also the changing landscape of his homeland. His work has been featured at many art and photography festivals and exhibited in Europe and all across Asia. In 2011, he won prize "Residency Program" of Musée du Quai Branly, Paris and second prize of Stream Photo Asia in Bangkok.

**Roun Ry**  
*Photographer – Cambodia*

Roun Ry's photography interest began when he first participated in the annual Anjali Photo Workshops in 2010. Ry has built a photographic identity through familiar themes, documenting, mainly in B&W, the daily life of poor families, living in slums in the outskirts of towns or in rural areas of Cambodia. His works has been shown in selected festivals such as Tbilisi Photo Festival and Indian Photography Festival.

**Sayon Soun**  
*Photographer – Cambodia*

Training at Institut Francais du Cambodge, Angkor Photo Festival & Workshops and other workshops, Sayon Soun discovered a deep interest for photography in 2008. Soun is now a professional photographer passionate about storytelling through documentary, conceptual and artistic work.

**Sim Chi Yin**

*Photographer – Singapore*

Sim Chi Yin focuses on history, memory and migration through the mediums of photography and new media. The Nobel Peace Prize photographer for 2017, her photo and video work has been exhibited in museums, galleries, and photo and film festivals in Asia, the United States and Europe. She does commissioned work for global publications, such as *The New York Times Magazine*, *Time*, *National Geographic*, *The New Yorker* and *Harpers*. Chi Yin was, among others, the inaugural Magnum Foundation Human Rights and Photography fellow at New York University in 2010, and a finalist for the W. Eugene Smith Grant in Humanistic Photography in 2013.

**Sohrab Hura / Magnum Photos**

*Photographer – India*

Sohrab Hura started with dreams of growing up and becoming a dog, which later turned to becoming a superhero and then to a veterinarian to a herpetologist to becoming a wildlife filmmaker. Today he is a photographer, after having completed his master's in economics. In 2014, he was named a nominee of Magnum Photos.

**Ian Teh / Panos Pictures**

*Photographer - Malaysia/UK*

Mainly focused on environmental, social and political issues, Ian Teh explores society's history and transformation through human action and impact. He has published three monographs, *Undercurrents* (2008), *Traces* (2011) and *Confluence* (2014). His work has been published internationally in distinguished magazines such as *Time*, *The New Yorker*, *GEO* and *Granta*. Since 2013, he has exhibited as well as conducted masterclasses at Obscura Festival of Photography. Teh is a member of Panos Pictures agency.

**Kosuke Okahara**

*Photographer – Japan*

Alternating between news reporting and long-term personal projects, Kosuke Okahara initial forays led him to Sudan, Burma, China, as well as Colombia, a project which he is only now at the point of completion. He also works in his native country. In 2004, he began *'Ibasyo'*, a long-term photographic essay on adolescent self-mutilation in Japan which received the W. Eugene Smith Fellowship, among others several awards and grants all along his career.

**Andrea Fernandes**

*Photographer – India*

Andrea Fernandes is a photographic artist. Her practice is rooted in exploring the construction and representation of sexuality and gender. In 2010, she completed her Master's Degree in Photographic Studies at University of Westminster, London, and currently teaches Critical Thinking in Photography at École intuit.lab, Mumbai. In 2015, Fernandes, co-founded BIND, an experimental photography oriented Collective, and has been Fernandes has been commissioned for artistic projects by several institutions.

**Dennese Victoria**

*Photographer – Philippines*

Dennese Victoria (1991) is a visual artist based in the Philippines. Working across photography, moving image and installation, her work touches on truth, memory and personal history.

**Jean-Yves Navel**

*Co-founding Member – France, Cambodia*

Co-founder of the festival, Jean-Yves Navel is a graduate of Fine Arts in Lyon, France. After many years spent in Africa, Argentina and the Caribbean, he moved to Cambodia, where he has lived since 1998. In Cambodia Navel has founded several cultural events, such as the Angkor Photo Festival & Workshops; director and scenographer of this event for 10 years.

**Françoise Callier**

*Anjali Photo Workshop coordinator – Belgium*

Françoise Callier has made it her life mission to promote and highlight photographic talent, she is now curator for many photography festivals around the world. Previously, she worked for 15 years at 2e Bureau as a photographers' agent, working alongside Helmut Newton, Jean-Paul Goude, Max Vadukul and many others. Together with Sylvie Grumbach, she handled the press promotions of Visa pour l'image in Perpignan, France, and was also the French correspondent for Corbis from 1995 to 1998. Since 2007, Françoise Callier works as program coordinator for the Angkor Photo Festival & Workshops.

**Non-voting Committee Member:**

**[Antoine D'Agata](#) / Magnum Photos**

*Photographer – France*

Finding himself in New York in 1990, Antoine D'Agata pursued an interest in photography by taking courses at the International Center of Photography, where his teachers included Larry Clark and Nan Goldin. His first books of photographs, *De Mala Muerte* and *Mala Noche*, were published in 1998, and the following year Galerie VU' began distributing his work. In 2001 he published *Hometown*, and won the Niépce Prize for young photographers. Since then, he continued to publish books regularly. In 2004, D'Agata joined Magnum Photos.