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## 16<sup>th</sup> ANGKOR PHOTO FESTIVAL & WORKSHOPS CONTINUES IN SIEM REAP



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In the midst of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the Angkor Photo Festival & Workshops (APFW) will hold its 16th Edition in Siem Reap with a renewed focus on local talent and a continued commitment to Asian curatorial voices.

The longest running international photography event in Southeast Asia will stage an adapted programme in Siem Reap, refocusing its educational emphasis by launching a new initiative to engage and collaborate with local photographic communities and audiences.

*"Like so many other arts and cultural events around the world, we've had to adapt to travel restrictions and the need to prioritise the health and safety of our attendees and the community that we live in. It has been challenging but it has also given us new vigour and the opportunity to launch new initiatives, which we hope will become part of our regular programme for years to come,"* said festival director, Jessica Lim.

The inaugural new Visual Storytelling Workshops (VSW) will take place from 21 - 27 November 2020, involving 15 Cambodian participants and 6 Cambodian tutors. The workshop shares the same objectives as the Angkor Photo Workshops, which previously involved participants and tutors from around Asia, and is aimed at developing visual storytelling skills, a deeper understanding of visual language, and each participant's unique artistic vision.

The VSW is unique for being the first fully-Cambodian educational initiative staged by the organisation, and also for its inclusion of the filmmaking as part of the workshop. The work of all participants will be shown to the public on the Closing Night of the festival (Nov 30).

The festival's beloved projection evenings will also continue, featuring the work of 65 visual artists from around the world to be shown over three evenings both online and on-site in Siem Reap. The projection programme continues our commitment to being a space for the promotion of Asian and Majority World curatorial visions and voices, and we are proud to share the selections by Dennese Victoria (Philippines), Swastik Pal (India), Sadia Marium (Bangladesh), Tania Bohóquez (Mexico) and Musuk Nolte (Peru).

There is no set theme, and each of the guest curators has used this opportunity to find works, from the personal, social and political spheres, which respond and reflect on their interpretation of the current global situation. The collective focus of all three showcases gives space to a deeper exploration of the photographic

language, and the curators' selections show an emphasis on creating conversations, deepening mutual understanding, and the promotion of sincere, original artistic voices.

There will also be other activities available both on-site and online, including a showcase of the 50 shortlisted books from this year's Kassel Photobook Dummy Awards, which awards the best unpublished photobook mock-up of the year and is selected from hundreds of entries around the world, as well as artist talks in conjunction with Offset Projects, an initiative by alumni Anshika Varma in New Delhi which creates channels of engagement with photography and book-making.

All events during the public festival are free and open to the public, who will be required to follow strictly the COVID-19 health and safety protocols recommended by Siem Reap's Provincial Department of Health.

An encore telecast of the projections will also be shown in Phnom Penh at a later date, with further details to be announced.

The full programme for the festival will be announced at [angkor-photo.com](http://angkor-photo.com)

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## KEY 2020 PROGRAMME

### ◆ **VISUAL STORYTELLING WORKSHOPS** (21 - 27 November 2020)

We are pleased to launch a new series of Visual Workshops for Cambodians. The workshop is specifically aimed at guiding participants to develop their visual storytelling skills through the mediums of photography and video. 15 participants were selected to join our free workshop, which will be conducted in both Khmer and English.

The tutors include **Kim Sophea**, one of the nation's budding filmmakers and a founding members of the Cambodian International Film Festival, who will be partnering with **Narin Saoborin**, a Sundance Institute Fellow with over a decade's experience in the film industry. **Neak Sophal**, a well-known figure in Cambodia's contemporary photographic scene who has exhibited internationally will be pairing up with **Chan Vitharin**, a professor of the arts at the Royal University of Phnom Penh and one of the founders of Cambodia's first printmaking studio. Rounding up the tutor panel is **Roun Ry**, recently awarded the prestigious Creative Generation Award 2020 and up-and-coming photographer **Lux Mean**, who came onto the scene after attending the 2018 Angkor Photo Workshops as one of the country's emerging photographic talents.

[> Tutors & Participants](#)

### ◆ **PROJECTION SHOWCASE EVENINGS** (26 - 29 November 2020)

Showcase:

***Even though the world is burning***

Invited Guest Curators: **Dennese Victoria** (Philippines) & **Swastik Pal** (India)

[24 photographers, 14 countries]

Silence threads together this meeting of works—not due to a lack of voice, but rather, a need to listen, to be present, and to deepen their understanding of themselves and the world around them. The diverse collection is characterised by an open-ended approach to the work, in which the photographer is more interested in sharing rather than telling.

Showcase:

[Words: shouted, blabbered, shattered in between the walls](#)

Invited Guest Curator: **Sadia Marium (Bangladesh)**

[19 artists, 10 countries]

Photographer, curator and lecturer Sadia Marium presents a collection of work by artists who inquire about the time and space in which we orientate ourselves, and our ways of claiming shares in virtual spaces. The works draw on personal experiences of past, present and imaginary futures.

Showcase:

[Symptom \(Latin America Contemporary Photography\)](#)

Invited Guest Curators: **Tania Bohórquez Salinas (Mexico) & Musuk Nolte (Peru)**

[12 photographers, 7 countries]

Bringing us a perspective from within, the showcase by co-curators and artists Tania Bohorquez and Musuk Nolte is a portrayal of work by contemporary Latin American photographers who are questioning history, reformulating their own identity by finding a visual language in dialogue at the intersection of the urgent conditions of the region's situation.

Showcase:

[Results of 2020 Visual Storytelling Workshops](#)

[15 Cambodian participants]

Showcasing the results of the inaugural workshops on the Closing Night of the festival.

◆ **WORKSHOP & FESTIVAL CENTER:** [Baby Elephant Boutique Hotel](#)



Baby Elephant is a long-term supporter of the Angkor Photo Festival & Workshops and the arts scene of Siem Reap. It is a social venture which aims to be the leading independent Siem Reap boutique hotel, creating rewarding and memorable cultural experiences for our guests while providing life-changing opportunities for its Cambodian staff.

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## **ABOUT THE ANGKOR PHOTO FESTIVAL & WORKSHOPS**

Since it first began in 2005, the annual Angkor Photo Festival & Workshops has nurtured Asia's photographic community by providing an affordable and accessible platform for professional development and exchange. The longest-running international photography event in Southeast Asia, the festival aims to create a space for interaction, exchange and dialogue with a focus on Asia.

Since 2018, Angkor Photo Festival has had a change in its leadership and direction. The festival is now led by a 13-member committee of photographers from Cambodia and around Asia, helmed by the director of the festival, Jessica Lim. .

### **Note to editors:**

Press images for all featured photographers are available for publication. Interviews with individual photographers and curators can also be arranged on request.

[> Download Press Images & Materials](#)

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