



Prince Claus Fund for
Culture and Development



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Press Release

Thirty Plus Renowned International Arts Practitioners & Scholars to Examine Asia's Latest Cultural Development Trends in ARTHUB's 4-Day Bangkok Symposium

For Immediate Release

(Bangkok, 24 July 2009) More than thirty renowned scholars, artists, and practitioners in visual arts, performance, and other cultural fields from around the world will gather in Bangkok to discuss and reflect on the dynamic, ongoing echoes of the ancient trading route Silk Road and its multiple dimensions in a four-day symposium titled "**The Making Of the New Silk Roads**" from Thursday, August 27th through Sunday, August 30th. Hosted and organized by **Arthub**, a Hong Kong based non-profit dedicated to promoting art creation in China and the rest of Asia (www.arthubasia.org), the symposium aims to reassess the complex interconnections within Asia's cultural and artistic spectrum at the beginning of the 21st century.

To take place at the **Bangkok University Gallery (BUG)**, in collaboration with the **Prince Claus Fund, Bangkok University (BUG), National Research Center of the Kingdom of Thailand**, with additional support from **Mondriaan Foundation and ANA (Singapore)**, the summit will feature Arthub's "collaborative intelligence" participants from across Asia including China, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Hong Kong, Singapore, Turkey, Georgia, Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan, and beyond, along with additional participants from the prestigious Prince Claus Fund Network Partnership Program.

This four-day program will not only feature lively discussions of shared experiences among peers, examining the recent rapid developments in Asia, its cast of characters, issues, and mediums, but also provide an exciting forum to reflect on the dynamic, ongoing echoes of the ancient trading route *Silk Road* and its multiple dimensions. Proposing the *Silk Road* as a variable metaphor for instable connections and uncertain achievements and taking it as a departure point for continued reflections on Asia's cultural landscape, Arthub aims at carrying this out by inviting artists, curators, and cultural thinkers from a wide array of viewpoints to go beyond a recitation of ideas or positions, and instead to bring presenters, participants, and audiences together as they explore, challenge, articulate, or nourish the possibilities of *performative* responses to Silk Road's highly constructed symbolisms. Each artist and/or scholar will present a specific artwork/presentation/installation that not only implies a possible

story-telling about a specific condition from his/her respective context in particular (e.g: on issues of cultural circulation, social/political activism, and marketplace), but also that tests the idea of Silk Road's potency for cultural hybridity across Asia in general.

To be presented in the form of a series of newly commissioned works including installations, lecture-performances, TV shows, radio interviews and publications, this collaborative symposium will put a special emphasis on process-oriented, research-, and dialogue-based artistic positions across Asia. Through the means of commissioning new responses, establishing dialogue months prior to the symposium, and enabling an alternative live context for investigation of dynamic cultural issues by its very own very actors, Arthub is committed to inspiring new forms of artistic and aesthetic experiments in China and rest of Asia. Arthub also aims at re-examining the contested idea of cultural encounter with "others," and turning these peer-to-peer encounters into a generator of new impulses for the analysis of complex historical processes within cultural systems in Asia.

The symposium will be video recorded and a film + catalogue will be produced. The outcome will be geared to tour as an exhibition later in 2010. Yet as with the symposium's multiplicity of strategies, the resulting exhibition will be open for constant negotiation and reformulation.

The symposium is organized by Arthub's Davide Quadrio, Defne Ayas and Ark Fongsmut, with coordination support from Monvilai Rojanatanti.

Participants include:

Agung Kurniawan, artist/curator, Indonesia
Alexander Ugay, artist, Kazakhstan
David Cotterrell, artist, UK
Els Silvrants, curator, Theatre in Motion, Belgium/China
Gary Pastrana, artist, Philippines
Ho Tzu Nyen, artist, Singapore
Howard Chan, artist/Curator, Hong Kong
Iani Arahmaiani, artist, Indonesia
Jiang Jun, editor, Urban China, Beijing China
Kyong Park, architect, University of California USA/Korea
Lina Saneh, artist, Lebanon
Mu Qian, ethnomusicologist, China
Nikusha Chkhaidze (Nika), artist, Georgia
Onno Dirker, artist/researcher, The Netherlands
Pratchaya Phinthong, artist, VER Gallery, Thailand
Rahraw Omarzad, curator/artist, Afghanistan
Samah Hijawi, artist, Space Makan, Jordan
Shaarbek Amankul, artist, bArt Center, Kyrgyzstan
Stefan Rusu, artist/curator, Project Manager Center for Contemporary Art, Chisinau ,
Moldavia
Hakan Topal, artist/curator Xurban Collective, Turkey/USA
Zoe Butt, curator, Long March Project, Beijing/South East Asia
Seph Rodney, Ph.D. candidate at the University of London- Birkbeck College, UK
Veronica Sekules, Head of Education at the Sainsbury Centre, UK
Adeline Ooi, curator and arts writer, RogueArt, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Agung Hujatnikajennong, artist, Indonesia

Le Huy Hoang and Nguyen Linh in collaboration with Nguyen Trinh Thi, artists/film maker, Vietnam
Supersudaca, architects/artists collective, South America/The Netherlands
Edwin Zwakman and Liu Gang, artists, the Netherlands/China
Speedism, artist collective, Belgium/Germany
And more

Side events

In addition to the Symposium, Arthub, BUG and NRCT will organize side activities, including nightly video art screening as part of this event. Participants will be encouraged to provide a selection of video work coming from their countries. The video program will be available end of July.

Details about the Symposium and related events are available at www.arthubasia.org. Parties interested in participating in the Symposium may also contact **Ms Monvilai Rojanatanti** at monvilai@yahoo.com.

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About Arthub

Supporting contemporary art creation in China and rest of Asia, Arthub serves as a creative think tank, a collaborative production lab as well as a research platform for new art and ideas, cutting-edge projects and dialogue within the visual arts and new media. Inspired by the opportunities generated by the collective intelligence of the thinkers across media in the region, Arthub is committed to furthering experimentation, knowledge-production and diversity among dedicated artists, art professionals and arts organizations. Arthub's mission is to 1. identify, provide, and enable intellectual, strategic, logistical and financial means for ambitious new artistic projects and by Chinese and Asian contemporary artists; 2. actively facilitate an informal network of contemporary artists, art professionals and writers, both within the region and beyond- starting first with an Asia-wide exchange platform and community, where different ideas and individuals merge, interact and motivate each other, 3. act as a catalyzer of the same people who want to share and initiate ideas for projects including knowledge production, symposia and publications; and 4. continue to develop new and informed audiences through educational initiatives.

Arthub is registered a non-for-profit foundation in Hong Kong, with three directors based across Asia.

Arthub is network partner with the Prince Claus Fund, The Netherlands for the years 2008-2010

For more information about Arthub, please visit: www.arthubasia.org

Address in Bangkok: c/o Ark Fongmut

Bangkok University Gallery, Building 7, 119 Rama 4 Rd., Klong-T0ey, Bangkok Thailand 10110

Tel: + 66 2 350 3626 : Fax: + 66 2 350 3679

About Bangkok University Gallery (BUG)

Bangkok University Gallery (BUG) is a leading non-profit gallery based in the university focusing on contemporary art. It is the most dynamic gallery in Bangkok with almost a hundred of national and international exhibitions since its inauguration. BUG has just celebrated its 10th Anniversary in 2006 and moved to the new building

About NRCT

One of the major functions of the National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT) is to coordinate and promote cooperation with international researchers and research institutes. The promotion of foreign researchers to conduct research in Thailand accordingly has been performing since 1963 under the control of NRCT Regulation of the Permission of Foreign Researchers to Conduct Research in Thailand.

Arthub Contact:

Ms Defne Ayas, Email: defne@arthubasia.org

Mr Davide Quadrio, Email: davide@arthubasia.org