

TRANSFORMATION AND IDENTITY – TRAUMA AND RECONCILIATION

HOW DO ARTISTS AND WRITERS RESPOND?

**3 DAY WORK SHOP AND PRESENTATION IN YANGON/MYANMAR
25TH APRIL TO 1ST MAY 2017**

BACKGROUND

Artists, writers, composers and curators will be part of a new exchange programme that negotiates our different approaches to reflect on our "burden of history" through the means of art. How do different countries, whose histories have been marked by huge social upheavals and violence, deal with their pasts? With the resulting trauma and its different perceptions of different generations? In which way is the future informed by the past and how do artists and curators experience the processes of transformation, of shifting identities, of trauma and reconciliation? Will there be common experiences that we all share despite our different cultural codices and historical asynchronicity. What connects us and what does separate us? This project uses the long term experience of the Sylt Foundation.'s intercultural and interdisciplinary work to engage artists and curators in an ongoing dialogue through their work to collect new interinternationally relevant knowledge and open doors for new ideas and new contexts.

The Sylt Foundation is inviting artists from seven countries into this exchange programme to offer the possibility of travel to different places where they will meet international colleagues, learn, compare, exchange and thus reflect the results in their works. This exchange programme is a work in progress over the course of five years and will be supported by publications, public discussions and through the foundation's website. Social media will be part of the conversation. The publication of a book presenting the results of the programme will be an important part of the programme.

All the artists we are working with have dealt with the topics of shifting social parameters and identities and will work together and meet each other several times during the time of this programme. The countries involved are chosen because of their relevant transformations and the quality of the artists involved. This programme will take place in Cambodia, Chile, Cuba, Germany, Haiti, Myanmar and South Africa.

PROJECT 2017

YANGON/MYANMAR , 25TH APRIL TO 1ST MAY, 2017

When political systems and societies change – how does it affect personal lives and psychologies and how do artists and writers respond to its changing expressions and perceptions in a hybrid world
In different workshops during four days our perceptions of change, of our burdens of history will be scrutinized and discussed. How do artists of different societies and cultures deal with change and social upheaval? Are there common denominators and where are points of contacts? And what does it mean for common artistic collaborations. Especially for international and intercultural art projects.
Experiences/ discourses convinced the curators and the participations that language, poetry and literature should be scrutinized interdisciplinary and thus artists from other fields are invited to share their experiences and ideas.

The interdisciplinary approach will be at the core of the entire "Transformation & Identity" project of the Sylt Foundation for the next five years and discourses and work shops among poets, visual artists, dancers, musicians, composers and curators about their ideas and experiences will be an integral part of the experience as well as opportunities to showcase the results in form of book publications and exhibitions.

All the visual artists traveling with will work on local projects that investigate the idea of transformation and change through their specific art form.

A show of previous works of all of the foreign artists will be shown together with artists from Myanmar in an art institution in Yangon during their stay.

The events in Yangon are a collaboration of the Sylt Foundation with the Burmese art Journal "Be Untexted", the German "Literaturfonds" and "Short Story Day Africa".

Curator is Indra Wussow.

International participants of the festival in Yangon:

(The artists and writers from Myanmar will be selected together with our Burmese partners in January.)

Mar Alzamora-Rivera (poet, activist/musician/Panama), Jorge Aceituno (photographer/Chile), Fred Apke (dramatist/theatre director/actor/ Germany-Poland), Beberly Estay (photographer/Chile), Guy Helming (writer/Luxemburg), Michael Maierhof (composer/philosopher/Germany), Afrizal Malna (poet/Indonesia), Tuomo Maninnen (photographer/Finland), Achim Mohné (artist/activist/Germany), Jesus Sepulveda (poet/writer/ Chile-USA) Jaco van Schalkwyk (visual artist/South Africa), Thu Kim Vu (artist/Vietnam), Enrique Winter (poet/Chile), Indra Wussow (curator/writer/Germany), Rachel Zadok (writer/editor/South Africa).

Biographies

Jorge Aceituno (Chile)

En 1982 comienzo a estudiar fotografía en la Escuela "Fotoforum", en 1985 me inicio como fotógrafo de teatro en el teatro "El Trolley" en ese entonces, época de dictadura, uno de los pocos espacios en el que se desarrollaban las expresiones artísticas no oficiales.

Es en 1992 comienzo a trabajar con un grupo de jóvenes con discapacidad mental alumnos de mi hermana, es el inicio de un trabajo personal que puedo desarrollar y profundizar.

Desde siempre la fotografía ha tenido para mí un sentido de provocación y de ruptura. Por eso, tal vez, es que me atrae la fisura del hombre, su espíritu, la vulnerabilidad humana, en definitiva, su belleza. Ese es un espacio que desde la fotografía ofrezco compartir con participantes y espectadores.

Me interesa el quiebre en las formas de mirar y de percibir, mirar lo nuevo en lo viejo, mirar de una forma distinta, cuestionarse las propias formas de ver y los propios límites de la percepción. Por eso mis proyectos los desarrollo usualmente con la participación en una labor de co-autoría, con "discapacitados" psíquicos, ciegos, sordos y cualquiera que deba enfrentarse al mundo de modo diferente al común de las personas. ¿Por qué no los discapacitados psíquicos pueden ser autores? ¿Por qué no los ciegos pueden también hacer fotografía?

Entre mis proyectos, se encuentra el libro "Con agua de cielo: un viaje diferente por la historia de la pintura". Esta última consiste en la puesta en escena de pinturas de la pinacoteca Chilena y universal elegidas y representadas por jóvenes con discapacidad mental.

Este proyecto ha sido clave para la adjudicación de diversos Fondos Concursables nacionales y la beca John Simon Guggenheim Foundation en fotografía del año 2003.

Mar Alzamora-Rivera (Panama)

Mar Alzamora-Rivera (1981) Transdisciplinary artist and cultural manager. Co-founder of the chamber music ensemble *Paisaxe* (soundcloud.com/paisaxe) and member of the post-rock band *Amelia* (soundcloud.com/ameliaiaylalluvia). Her book "The day that had no night" won the 2011 Gustavo Batista Cedeno Poetry Contest Mention of Honor; her body of work has been published in several anthologies and literary magazines in Mexico, Argentina, Costa Rica, Panama, Unites States and Morroco. For a long time, she has been under the spell of the Beat Generation, sound studies and video art. She serves as cultural advisor for the Alliance Française, as cultural coordinator for the U.S. Embassy in Panama City and as part of the organization committee for the Ars Amandi International Poetry Festival (facebook.com/arsamandipana). Currently, she is a Deep Listening certification candidate from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, NY (deeplistening.org).

FRED APKE (Germany/Poland)

writer for the screen and theatre, director and actor born in 1959 in Bad Oeynhausen, Westfalia. He graduated from acting school in Berlin and performed on a number of German stages. From 1987 he worked for Norwegian television as a script writer and actor. He directed for both TV and Norwegian theatres. In 1989, his début play, *Closed due to Illness*, shown in Oslo's Black Box Theatre, brought considerable success. In 1991 he returned to Germany, where he continued acting and directing. The plays he directed - in Kampnagelfabrik Hamburg, Stadttheater Fürth, Stadttheater Herford, Theater am Ufer Berlin, Deutsches Theater Berlin (Baracke)- included works by Shakespeare, Goethe, Nestroy, Molière, Ibsen, Strindberg and, among other contemporary authors, Enquist. In 1987, he received the Nordrhein-Westfalen stipend for his play *Glass Eyes*. "Die Welt" described his tragicomedy entitled *Vinyl* and performed by the Berlin-based group Kerkhoff as the most accurate portrait of the turn of the century generation of German thirtysomethings. The play has been shown Germany round. In 2000 Fred Apke has received an acting award for a contemporary comedy role during the Bavarian Theatre Days.

Since his "Faust" production for the Polish theatre in 2003 he lives and works primarily in Poland, where most of his theatre and radioplays were produced til now.

In 2009 Apke won the first prize of the polish youth theatre association. In 2010 he was a prize winner of the Lodz competition of comedy writers.

Currently, he designed, in collaboration with the Israeli composer Noam Vazana, a version of the golem legend for a Polish musical theater.

Fred Apke lives in Warsaw and Berlin.

Beberly Estay (Chile)

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Guy Helminger

Guy Helminger was born in 1963 in Esch / Alzette (Luxemburg) and studied German Literature and Philosophie in Luxemburg, Heidelberg and Cologne.

Since 1985 he has been living in Cologne und working as a writer.

From June to July 2006 he was writer in residence in Hyderabad (India), February-March 2007 he spent in Teheran (Iran) for the project „westöstlicherdiwan“ and from December 2008 to the end of January 2009 he was author in residence in Saana (Yemen).

2012 poetics lecturship at the University of Duisburg-Essen.

Together with his colleague Navid Kermani Guy Helminger presents since 8 years the „Literary Salon International“ in Cologne. From 2010-2012 he presented a cultural show on Luxemburg TV and for the moment a show called DNA.

His radioplay „5 Sekunden Leben“, was awarded play of the month in March 2001. 2002 he received the Förderpreis für Jugend-Theater des Landes Baden-Württemberg, the same year the Prix Servais for his book „Rost“ and in 2004 the 3sat-Preis. His hometown honored him in 2006 with the Prix du mérite culturel de la ville d'Esch.

Afrizal Malna (Indonesia)

Within the differentiating canon of contemporary Indonesia's literary scene, the writer Afrizal Malna, born 1957 in Jakarta and still residing there, embodies a highly unique voice. His poems – "physical encounters with urban space", as the researcher and translator Andy Fuller, who teaches in Jakarta, describes them – establish a clear contrast not only with the pure intellectualism of, say, a Goenawan Mohamed, but also with the gentle romanticism Sapardi Djoko Damono represents. By comparison, Malna has doubts in language, and he elevates working on and with language to his strongest weapon in order to repeatedly put Indonesia's long journey into modernism, accompanied by social and political rejections, to the test.

"Language is a monster that simultaneously creates and cancels communication", writes Malna, who studied philosophy, demonstrating his puzzling sense of humour in the introduction of his volume of poetry, "Second Hand Language Store A and B" (2012): Why – as expressed here – do people invent language to speak with people? Language is certainly always a problem – and a problem seems to be human speech. For this reason, in all his poems, he reflects, no, explores the complicated relationship between language, bodies, and space. "Complicated" applies since language – which one allegedly owns yet must repeatedly "make" – not least of all determines the poetic self's location in space. Malna's poems were translated into English, Dutch and German. His German translator is Ulrike Draesner. 2014 Malna was guest of the DAAD Artists-in-Berlin-Program. 2015 he represented his country at the Frankfurt Bookfair.

Michael Maierhof (Germany)

German composer based in Hamburg, studied mathematics and music in Kassel and art history and philosophy in Hamburg. He is writing non-pitch organized music since the early nineties. International performances. Working with instruments, objects, preparations, applications, oscillating systems and motors.

He was an invited lecturer at Trinity College in Dublin, at the Stuttgarter Musikhochschule, California Institute of the Arts, Los Angeles, Mozarteum Salzburg and the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing/China, at the Musikhochschule Freiburg/Germany and in 2015 at the University of Cordoba/Argentina. He worked with ensembles and musicians like suono mobile, Champ d'action/Belgien, L'ART POUR L'ART,

ensemble modern, Musikfabrik, Klangforum Wien, ensemble sur plus, Slagwerkgroep Den Haag, Schlagwerk Köln, trigger Hamburg, Michael Moser, Anton Lukoszeviece, Sarah Leonhard, Erik Drescher, ensemble Phorminx, Thürmchen Ensemble, Duo Contur, ensemble ecco Freiburg, ensemble integrales, ensemble noamnesia Chicago, ascolta, Ensemble Mosaik, Trio Nexus, Daniel Gloger, Ensemble Phönix Basel among others.

Since 2004 he is cellist in the improv-trio NORDZUCKER (Hamburg/Berlin) and in the quartet "Stark Bewölkt". Founder of the Association for contemporary Music Hamburg (vamh.de) and co-founder of the stock11 artist network.

Tuomo Manninen (Finland)

Tuomo Manninen, who has made a long career as a photographer has previously investigated the lives of cities such as Helsinki, Kathmandu, Havana and St. Petersburg in his series of group portraits called Me/We. The images of Manninen display the codependency between individuals, but at the same time they move in between the contradictory relationship of documentation and dramatization. The Me/We series has been showcased e.g. at the Venice Biennale and the Arles Photography Festival in France.

Achim Mohné (Germany)

New Media Artist and founder of REMOTEWORDS

Achim Mohné studied photography at the University of Essen as at the Academy for Media Arts in Cologne, Germany where he lives and works since then. Since 1998, he works as a freelancing media artist. He has developed and exhibited a wide ranging body of work and initiated many projects as actions centering on video installation, public intervention, computer-based communication, surveillance technology and sound. He was granted with stipends from amongst others Villa Aurora, Kunststiftung NRW or Center for Land Use Interpretation, Los Angeles.

He held teaching chairs at amongst others the Art Academy in Münster as the Folkwang University in Essen, Germany, or the Indiana University in Bloomington, USA. Since 2013, he teaches photography and new media at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich (ETHZ). (achimmoehne.de)

REMOTEWORDS was founded in 2007 as an interdisciplinary project between art, literature, design, Internet culture and mobile navigation technology by Achim Mohné and Uta Kopp.

Jaco van Schalkwyk (South Africa)

Jaco van Schalkwyk was born in 1981 in Benoni, South Africa. He grew up in the faith home, Jatniël: the headquarters of the Latter Rain Mission International.

It is this background which informs his view of and interpretation of society and the landscape, which is the foundation of his body of work.

He was educated at Brandwag Hoërskool and holds a BA degree in historical studies at UNISA.

His frequent travels abroad take him to some of the world's great art museums and international exhibitions. This has given him a world-view on historical and contemporary art.

In 2008 he attended an artist's residency, hosted by the New York Art Students' League in the USA.

He has also participated in numerous exhibitions both here and abroad and is represented in several collections: The Reserve Bank of South Africa, Barclays bank, RMB, the University of Pretoria, the University of Johannesburg and the Ellerman Collection.

The Barnard Gallery in Cape Town held three successful exhibitions for the artist in recent years; "Just a matter of Time" in 2012, "I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things" in 2013 and "Eden" in 2015. In 2013 he was also awarded the Sylt: Kunst Raum artist residency at the Barclays L'Atelier Competition.

He attended the Sylt Artist Residency in 2014, where he found inspiration for his solo exhibition "Eden"

that was also shown at The ABSA Gallery in June 2015. This exhibition formed part of his Barclays L'Atelier merit award. In September 2015 he was also selected by the University of Johannesburg and sponsored by Zendai, to attend the 6th International Beijing Biennale in China where his work formed part of the South African Group exhibition "20 – Art in the time of Democracy".

Jesús Sepúlveda (Chile)

Jesus is one of the leading Latin American poets emerged in the late 1980's. He is the author of eight collections of poetry and three books of essays, including his green-anarchist manifesto *The Garden of Peculiarities* (Buenos Aires, 2002), translated into four languages and reprinted in the US, Canada, Brazil, Italy, Chile, France, and South Africa, and his book on Latin American poetry *Poets on the Edge* (Florida, 2016). In 2013 his selected poems were collected in *Poemas de un bárbaro* published in Santiago de Chile, and in 2015 his most recent poetry collection *Secoya* was published in New York. Sepúlveda's work has been published in more than fifteen countries and partially translated into seven languages, leading him to participate in many international poetry festivals and perform poetry readings throughout the world. His third poetry collection *Hotel Marconi* was made into a film in his native Chile in 2009. He currently lives in Eugene (USA), where he teaches creative writing in Spanish and poetry at the University of Oregon.

Thu Kim Vu (Vietnam)

Thu graduated her BFA from Hanoi University of Fine Arts, Vietnam and her MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, United States. Focus on line drawing, paper material and using temporary spaces, she had been working on different projects through traveling to create a new experience based on how her line drawing changing the atmosphere of each space. Vu has been participated in a number of residencies worldwide which contribute a great influence in shaping her works into many directions.

In 2008, Vu participated residency Program at Vermont Studio Center and New York Mills Regional cultural center, Minnesota. Her works was expanded to doodle drawing and combined with different paper construction setting dealing with emotional, mental as well as physical aspect of using lines, brushstroke as a method of meditation. In 2009, Vu came to Goyang National Art studio, Korea and discovered a new dimension in her work experimenting with Korean traditional Hanji paper and expanding her brushstroke into an enormous scale larger than herself, creating spontaneous movement. At the same year, she also travelled to Sanskriti Kendra, India under the Unesco Aschbergh Fellowship, where the new colorful energy of the Rangoli inspired her works with papers. After that, Vu was working on a new project "WEBS" developing her residencies at Seven Below art Initiatives and Djerassi in United States. In late 2010, Vu started a new exhibition at Kuenstlerdorf Schoeppingen in Germany, opening new ideas on how she de-forms the construction of spaces. In the year of 2011, Vu participated in three residencies: Mc Coll Center of Visual Art (USA), Rockefeller Bellagio Center (Italy) and Can Serrat International Residency (Spain). From these trips, she developed her new ideas in working with maps drawing on papers.

In the past three years, Vu was interested in Japanese culture and her studies of Washi paper leads her to new experimentation with paper sculpture and lighting based on her current experience in three residencies in Japan: Kamiyama Artists in Residence Program, Mino Paper Art Village and Sapporo Artist in Residence Program.

Recently, Thu has been an artist in residence in Johannesburg, South Africa sponsored and organized by Sylt Foundation. She became interested in the culture of Soweto and community works here.

Vu is based in Hanoi, Vietnam as freelance artist.

Enrique Winter (Chile)

*1982 in Santiago de Chile, Chile . . . is one of the most important young poets in Latin America. Together with Gonzalo Planet, he recorded the album »Agua en polvo«, using the pseudonym »Winter Planet«, for which he was awarded the »Fondo para el Fomento de la Música Nacional« prize. His poetry and video-

graphy encompasses more than 100 publications in six languages. Winter's poetry is concerned with everyday encounters and deliberates cultural codes as well as historical reality as well as the shadows that hang above society. Images of street cafés and cities, bathed in a Latin American summer, unfold in the reader's imagination: bright and lofty images that then are modified to show that they are unable to keep their promise. Readers of Winter's poetry embark on a voyage in a multifaceted and exciting country. His most recent publication is the bilingual edition of selected poems, entitled »Oben das Meer, unter den Himmel« (2016). He is also author of the novel *Las bolsas de basura* and translator of books by Charles Bernstein and Philip Larkin. Winter holds an MFA in Creative Writing at NYU and directs the Creative Writing diploma at PUCV. He used to be an editor and an attorney.

Indra Wussow (Germany/South Africa)

Indra Wussow is a literary scholar born in Herford/Germany.

She studied Comparative Literature and Translation in Erlangen/Germany, Berkeley/USA and Florence/Italy. She is currently living in Johannesburg and is working as a curator, writer, literary translator and freelance journalist.

2002 Indra founded the Sylt Foundation, a cultural foundation which offers residency programmes on the island of Sylt in Germany and in Johannesburg/South Africa.. Indra is the artistic director and curator of the foundation.

Indra Wussow is also the editor of *AfrikaWunderhorn*, a series of African literature, that is published in the small but prestigious German publishing house „Das Wunderhorn“ and runs a series of monthly literary talks on contemporary African writing at the Goethe Institute in Johannesburg called „Literary Crossroads“ As curator Indra is working with various international institutions and focuses on international interdisciplinary projects.

Rachel Zadok (South Africa)

Rachel Zadok was born in Tel Aviv in 1972 and raised in Johannesburg. She has a National Diploma in Fine Arts. In 2001, she escaped a career in advertising to become a writer, which she describes as being a little like running away to join the circus without the safety net.

In 2005, she was a runner-up in the Richard & Judy How to Get Published Competition and her first novel *Gem Squash Tokoloshe* was published later that year. *Gem Squash Tokoloshe* was shortlisted for the Whitbread First Novel Award and the John Llewellyn Rhys Prize, and longlisted for the IMPAC award.

In 2011, she launched Short Story Day Africa, an initiative to highlight African short fiction. Her writing has appeared in the *Observer*, the *Jewish Chronicle*, the *Independent* and *African Violet*, the 2012 Caine Prize Anthology.

Rachel lives in Cape Town with her husband and daughter, and occasionally blogs.