

TheatreWorks
presents

**Flying Circus Project 2007:
TRAVELOGUE**

Conceived and directed by
ONG Keng Sen

“100 perfect hours
in the casual company
of international artists”

Image of Julie Atlas Muz

31 Oct to 4 Nov 2007 in Singapore
5 to 9 Nov 2007 in Ho Chi Minh City

Some thoughts from Hanoi

The Flying Circus Project (FCP) has matured immensely over the last 12 years. It has always been a gathering of artists interested in investigating our processes. In the larger scheme of our individual artistic trajectories, the FCP can be said to be many small processes which happen intimately, quietly and continue to resonate thereafter. Presently as I am here in Hanoi, accompanying Raqs Media Collective on their FCP Residency through Vietnam, I am struck by their words describing their practice. 'Talking and Listening' for instance is something which completely relates to the FCP practice. How little this is valued by artists and by audiences as we become overwhelmed by preconceived contexts and expectations. The beginning platform of the FCP is to provide a broad enough space that all invited artists of multiple disciplines from urban research to burlesque, individual interests, diverse contexts can participate. The actual tasks together are simple, we share a short intense time together, almost mundane. But hopefully, the communications amongst ourselves become more compassionate and sharper. Conversations across boundaries within and without ourselves. Leaving our usual contexts to see again, hear again, experience again, reflect again. Being challenged to leave our artistic contexts to travel, an activity of the everyday, of mere moments!

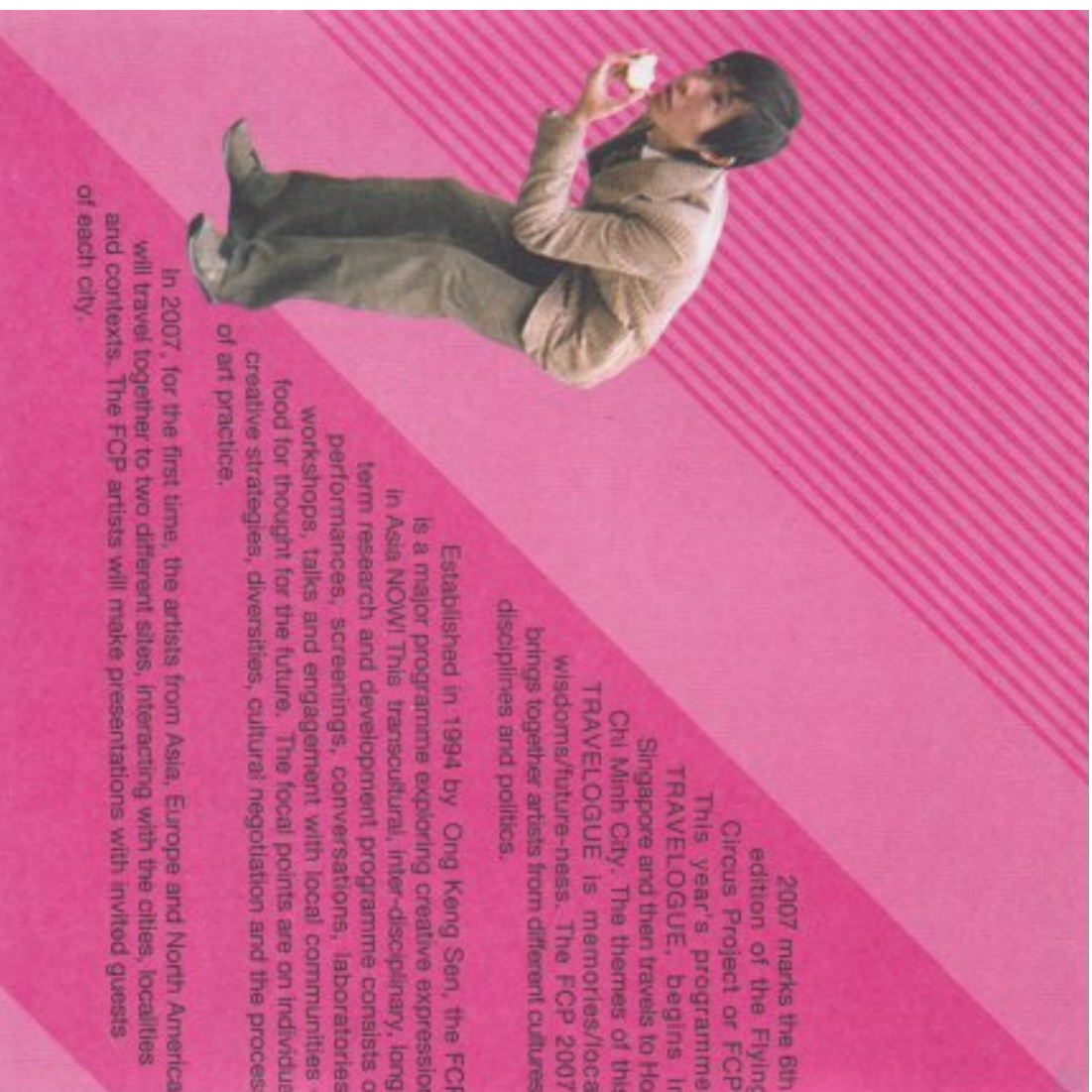


Image from Jun Nguyen-Hatsushiba



Quoting from travel magazines, using taglines like "100 perfect hours" to be in a city; opening up the space to be shared with the audiences who can join us on observerships throughout the time in both cities - "in the casual company of". The travel by the community of artists is also accessible for the audiences to partake. The performance of travel. Open spaces, secret spaces, shared spaces. A shared space of where there is no dumbing down, these are artists working all over the world who have not been seen in Singapore before and whose work I enjoy, appreciate. An occasion like this is also one to ask the question of why we are only seeing Jun Nguyen-Hatsushiba's video, 6 years after it was first premiered in Yokohama? What is the role of the audiences, the independent arts groups to articulate the kind of artistic and social discussion that we would like in our cities? How do we want to inhabit our cities? Conversely is it about making a mark or about leaving traces in the urban noise for those who desire to discover you?

Ong Keng Sen
Artistic Director
Flying Circus Project 2007



2007 marks the 6th edition of the Flying Circus Project or FCP.

This year's programme, TRAVELOGUE, begins in Singapore and then travels to Ho Chi Minh City. The themes of this TRAVELOGUE is memories/local wisdoms/future-ness. The FCP 2007 brings together artists from different cultures, disciplines and politics.

Established in 1994 by Ong Keng Sen, the FCP is a major programme exploring creative expression in Asia NOW! This transcultural, inter-disciplinary, long-term research and development programme consists of performances, screenings, conversations, laboratories, workshops, talks and engagement with local communities – food for thought for the future. The focal points are on individual creative strategies, diversities, cultural negotiation and the process of art practice.

In 2007, for the first time, the artists from Asia, Europe and North America will travel together to two different sites, interacting with the cities, localities and contexts. The FCP artists will make presentations with invited guests of each city.



Images from David Sudek and Michiyasu Maruani

IN SINGAPORE:
We invite audiences to join us for the highlights of the
Flying Circus Project 2007: Travelogue

- 31 Oct 8 pm**
Opening Exhibition of two video installations, *Memorial Project Nha Trang, Vietnam: Towards the Complex - For the Courageous, the Curious, and the Cowards* (2001) and *Ho! Ho! Merry Christmas: Battle of Easel Point - Memorial Project Okinawa* (2003) by Jun Nguyen-Hatsushiba.
Performance by Paul D. Miller aka DJ Spooky
At 72-13*
- 02 Nov 7 pm**
Artist Presentations under the moonlight.
At Pulau Ubin**
- 03 Nov 11am to 04 Nov 1 am**
"Superintense"***
At 72-13*

* All events are by invitation only. Free admission. Donations are required for refreshments. For invitations, enquiries, information, interviews, observerships, please contact TheatreWorks on +65-67377213 or email: tworks@singnet.com.sg

** For events on Pulau Ubin, the public is advised to be at the Pulau Ubin Jetty 30 minutes before the start of the event. Audiences will be ferried to the respective venue on the island.

*** Guests are welcomed to join us anytime during the presentations.



Image from Paul D. Miller aka DJ Spooky by Amber Levine

Superintense is a marathon of personal strategies of creativity in the urban context, in our worlds. From one morning to the next, all the FCP artists will have an hour each to present their work, their practice to themselves and a public audience. A table, a projector, a microphone, an audience; which can all be reconstructed into an open space – the same conditions are given to each artist. They are invited to share their practice with the audience; past work, present work, future work. It can take the form of a talk, a lecture-demonstration, a performance, slides, a video, a DJ session, a workshop, a discussion. Without a break, all the artists relentlessly articulate their practice, communicating an insight to the myriad ways of inhabiting, dissolving, thinking, making, living, destroying, rejuvenating. An actor, an audience, a shared space. Take a cigarette pause on the run.

The Flying Circus Project 2007 invites audiences to visit
Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC)
with us and experience the interactions between
FCP artists and
artists in HCMC over five days.

For the price of an airticket and hotel accommodation*, audiences get to be part of a series of non-public and intimate art events presented by the Flying Circus Project 2007. This is a unique art tour, the first of its kind by independent artists created sensitively for friends of the arts. In between a free-and-easy schedule to enjoy the sights and sounds of HCMC, be privy to the art practice of Vietnam and its contexts.




Image from: Tiffany Chung

The Art Tour in HCMC begins on 5th Nov and ends on the evening of 9th Nov 2007. The highlights that the audience will experience includes :

- 05 Nov** Departure in morning for Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC, Vietnam)
Mapping the Local with Saigon artists - a walk
- 06 Nov** *The Texture of Memory I*, Vietnamese artist-in-focus, Dinh Q Le
Vietnam Now!
- 07 Nov** Visit to Tian Visual Gate with contemporary art curator Nguyen Nhu Huy
Writing In the Vietnamese Context
Artists presentations "Suprintense " at Galere Quyrh
- 08 Nov** 8 + 8: experiments in documenting the vernacular - documentaries made by young film makers and video artists in collaboration with diverse communities. Facilitated by Wu Wen Guang from Beijing.
- 09 Nov** *The Texture of Memory II*, Conversations with War Painters.
A Wonderful Evening at '44' curated by Wonderful District - closing night of club music and sound and video installation by Thierry Bernard.
- 10 Nov** Departure from HCMC

* TheatreWorks will be happy to organise the flight and hotel accommodation based on a return economy flight on Singapore Airlines as well as hotel accommodation at a four-star hotel in HCMC plus admin charges. Limited to 20 places.





Artists for the Flying Circus Project 2007:
Travelogue are as follows

Brian Gothong Tan, Singapore
Caden Manson, New York City
David Subal, Vienna

Francis Ng, Singapore

Julie Atlas Muz, New York City

Jun Nguyen-Hatsushiba, Ho Chi Minh City

Kaffe Matthews, London

Katharina Eismann, Stockholm

Kim Ngoc, Hanoi

Koosil-Ja, New York City

Luigi de Angelis, Favenna, Italy

Meg Stuart, Berlin

Melati Suryodarmo, Gross Gliedingen, Germany

Michikazu Matsune, Vienna

Naeem Mohalemen, Dhaka/NYC

Nibroil - Mikuni Yamahara & Keisuke Takahashi, Tokyo

Ong Keng Sen, Singapore

Paul D. Miller aka DJ Spooky, New York City

Rachid Ouramdane, Paris

Rags Media Collective, New Delhi

Tadasu Takamine, Kyoto

Tiffany Chung, Ho Chi Minh City

Yuen Chee Wai, Singapore

For detailed biographies of the artists, please go to
www.theatreworks.org.sg / www.72-13.com

Image from Tadasu Takamine

Image from
Naseem Mochalekar



Image from Karfe Mathews



Image from Koost-Ja

Image from Paichid Quramdashe

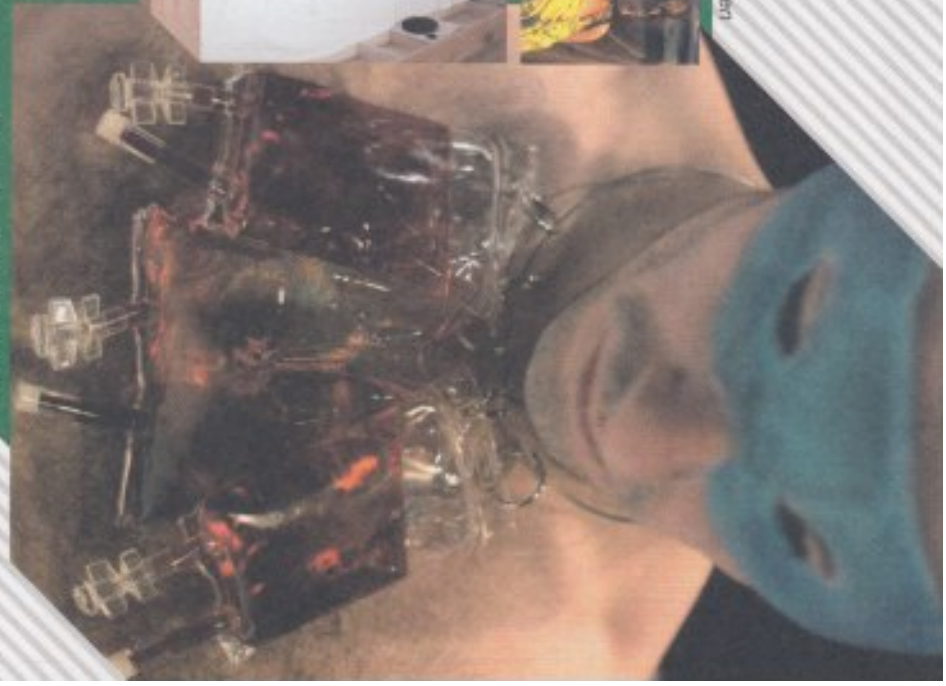


Image from
Carden Manson



Image from Riqqs
Media Collective



Images from Melati Suryodarmo



Image from Meg Stuart

Flying Circus Project Artist-in-Residence Raqqs Media Collective

For the first time, The Flying Circus Project 2007 has invited artists to an extended residency in South East Asia. This is unique as the residency does not take place in Singapore, it involves travelling through Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City and Vietnam. Unlike any residencies, the central spine is the intimate one-to-one conversations with intellectuals and artists covering a wide spectrum of different subjects both in the Indian experience and the Vietnamese experience.

Raqqs Media Collective has been variously described as artists, media practitioners, curators, researchers, editors and catalysts of cultural processes. Their work, which has been exhibited widely in major international spaces and events, locates them squarely along the intersections of contemporary art, historical enquiry, philosophical speculation, research and theory - often taking the form of installations, online and offline media objects, performances and encounters.

Their work engages with urban spaces and global circuits, persistently wielding a sharp, edgily contemporary sense of what it means to lay claim to the world from the streets of Delhi. At the same time, Raqqs articulates an intimately lived relationship with myths and histories of diverse provenances. Raqqs sees its work as opening out a series of investigations with image, sound, software, objects, performance, print, text and lately, curation, that straddle different (and changing) affective and aesthetic registers, expressing an imaginative unpacking of questions of identity and location, a deep ambivalence towards modernity and a quiet but consistent critique of the operations of power and property.

In 2001, Raqqs co-founded Sarai at the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS) in Delhi where they coordinate media productions, pursue and administer independent research and practice projects and also work as members of the editorial collective of the Sarai Reader series. Currently, Raqqs Media Collective is co-curating Manifesta 2008 (Biennial of Contemporary European Art) in the Sud Tyrol-Alto Adige Region of Northern Italy.

www.raqqsmediacollective.net

www.sarai.net

performance zone,
→ → →
ble here

Flying Circus Project Commission
BreathingisFree:12,756.3

Image from Jun Nguyen-Hatsushiba

A running project for global refugee crisis by Jun Nguyen-Hatsushiba.

"It is my reflection and offering to the refugees whose lives are to run or to perish. And this is what I see as the desire of refugees running away from their circumstances: they want to be on the 'other side' instead."

An ongoing project to last approximately 8 years (with the current running pace of the artist), Breathing is Free: 12,756.3 is the most recent episode of the "Memorial Project" series, where Nguyen-Hatsushiba attempts to run the distance of 12,756.3 km (the diameter of the earth), the shortest distance to the other side of the planet. The total distance will accumulate as he runs through cities of various countries.

The project was started in spring 2007 in Geneva where historically many peace talks were held. However there are still overwhelming number of displaced individuals in many places of the world. The crisis seems to continue to escalate. As the project continues, we can expect to see the artist excavating many chapters buried in the histories of places and people.

The Singapore run is funded by TheatreWorks The Flying Circus Project 2007.

www.breathingisfree.net



Acknowledgements

Main Funding from **The Ford Foundation**

Asian Cultural Council
with special funds from
**The Rockefeller
Foundation**

With Support from



NATIONAL ARTS COUNCIL
SINGAPORE

金基氏李
LEE FOUNDATION

THE SAISON FOUNDATION



The Toyota Foundation

With additional support from

o.r.t.s.fund

**BRITISH
COUNCIL**



L'Oréal Paris
REPERE DE FINANCE
ARTISTIQUE DE FRANCE
ASSOCIATION
www.mademoiselle.org



Goethe-Institut
SINGAPORE
Hong Kong Foundation



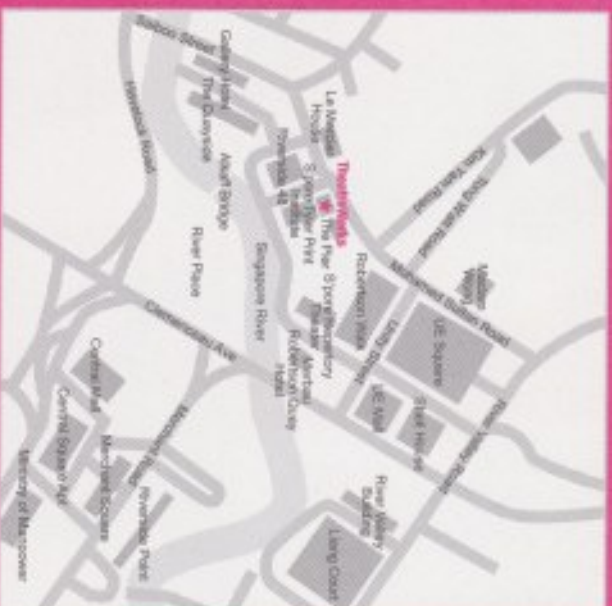
International Artists
Studio Programme
In Sweden



ESP
PROMOTERS

Angels of Flying Circus Project 2007: Travelogue

Mrs Ho Lien Fung
Mrs Chong Yuan Jian
Mr Paul Khoo
Lena and William Lim



For more details, ring 67377213 or email on
tworke@singnet.com.sg
Check out www.theatreworks.org.sg/
www.72-13.com



Images from Tiffany Chung