

PUBLIC SPEAKER SERIES

“Turbulent Modern History on Stage and in Song”

By Toni Shapiro-Phim

November 10, 2016, 5pm

Location: SRI CONTEMPORARY ARTS GALLERY

Building H, National Institute of Education

Instruction language: English

The Documentation Center of Cambodia’s Contemporary Arts Gallery is pleased to announce the fifteenth event in its speaker series, **“Turbulent Modern History on Stage and in Song,”** by Toni Shapiro-Phim. Students as well as the general public are welcome to attend this event.

Over the course of nearly forty years, Cambodia’s performing artists have created a number of songs, dances and dramas lamenting the suffering of individuals and communities during the Khmer Rouge era, and the societal ills and crises of leadership that followed that period of revolution and genocide. Yet, for all the brilliance evinced by dancers, actors and singers in Cambodia in grappling with the experience of terror and loss and its legacies, some foreign scholars and theater professionals have claimed that such storytelling has required outside intervention. This presentation will shine a light on what is, indeed, a decades-old phenomenon of artistic imagination related to Democratic Kampuchea, initiated and sustained by Cambodians themselves. Situating select works in their political and socio-cultural contexts in Cambodia over the years, it will examine how some contemporary pieces are exploring alternative visions for Cambodia’s future while reflecting on the legacy of the years of Khmer Rouge rule. Phnom Penh-based artists will be present to share their own stories.

Toni Shapiro-Phim received a PhD in cultural anthropology from Cornell University. She’s held teaching and research appointments at the University of California-Berkeley, Yale University and Bryn Mawr College. Her research and publications focus on dance, music, migration, war and social justice in Cambodia and elsewhere. She is currently Director of Programs at the Philadelphia Folklore Project, a non-profit arts and social justice organization in the United States.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

MEMORY & JUSTICE

“...a society cannot know itself if it does not have an accurate memory of its own history.”

Men Pechet, Curator

SRI CONTEMPORARY ARTS GALLERY

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