

FROM CHOR-TEAN SALA TO GLOBALIZATION

DESIGNING A PERMANENT
DOCUMENTATION CENTER OF CAMBODIA:
THE SLEUK RITH INSTITUTE

EXHIBITION



OPEN TO PUBLIC EVERYDAY
October – December 2011
8 am – 7 pm
66 Sihanouk Blvd, Phnom Penh

Concept: Youk Chhang
Architect: Asasax

Sleuk Rith, dried leaves that Cambodian religious leaders and scholars have used for centuries, represents the beauty of knowledge and the power of human perseverance during periods of harsh rule.

Chor-Tean Sala Clergymen describe Chor-Tean Sala as the holy hall where villagers come to learn and celebrate the traditional ceremonies with the six holiness. The word “Chor” in Khmer means “six”. Thus, “Chor” here represents the six holiness: holy body, holy sound, holy smell, holy taste, holy atmosphere and holy mind.

Youk Chhang (b. 1961)

Chairman of the Sleuk Rith Institute, Director of the Documentation Center of Cambodia (DC-Cam), and a survivor of the Khmer Rouge’s “killing fields.” DC-Cam grew out of Yale University’s Cambodian Genocide Program and became an independent Cambodian NGO in 1997 under Mr. Chhang’s leadership. Mr. Chhang received the Truman-Reagan Freedom Award from the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation in Washington, DC in 2000. He was named one of Time magazine’s “60 Asian heroes” in 2006 and one of the “Time 100” most influential people in the world in 2007 for his stand against impunity in Cambodia and elsewhere.

STATEMENT: The Khmer Rouge killed many artists and intentionally indoctrinated Cambodian culture, arts and way of life. But they failed to eliminate the artistry of the Cambodian people because it is in our blood. We continue to sing today, including songs written by the Khmer Rouge.

Exhibitions & Designs

The Resistance to the Khmer Rouge Genocide: Arms and Emotion and all the publications at DC-Cam.

Asasax (b. 1962)

Graduate of School of Fine Arts, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Painter, Sculptor, Decorator, Architect on commission

STATEMENT: Color comes from light and feelings. People live in a world of natural and man-made colors. All surfaces of color are acts of building up from the world with gestures, sounds, and forms that enter into our feelings and affect us, leaving a historical sediment that remains with us. Angkor Color Reliefs are meant to be windows or openings in the wall which dissolve the confines of the room and open the viewer to distant vistas of the past of Khmer culture. My Angkor Color Reliefs are layered silk which show the many facets of the fabric of Cambodia, producing a sparkling surface of mixed colors which echo and recall the heritage of Angkor. The act of building the wall of a temple is a metaphor for the continuous building of society. The squares of my fabric repeat this process, just as each individual square stands as a single frame within the larger piece. My built color surface is thus based on the foundations of color necessary for human life. Without color, people “die”.

Exhibitions & Commissions

King Norodom Sihanouk, Hotel Sofitel Cambodiana, Grand Hotel, Elephant Bar, Hotel le Royal, Restaurant, Hotel le Royal, Sunway Hotel, Harihara, Kampong Som, HE Ambassador of Malaysia, HE Ambassador of Japan, HE Ambassador of Indonesia, HE Ambassador of Germany, HE Ambassador of Russia

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PRINCIPAL ARCHITECT : ASASAX អ៊ាសាសាក់

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