NEWSLETTER
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bophana Audiovisual Resource Center

The Bophana Center has started to collect the work of the Cambodian artist You Khin, who died in August 2009. Born in 1947, he studied at the University of Fine Arts in Phnom Penh, before being awarded a scholarship to study architecture in France. Between 1974 and 2009 he never stopped painting, drawing inspiration from masters like Picasso or from the atmosphere of countries where he used to live in: Sudan, Côte d'Ivoire, Qatar… He created more than 200 paintings of outstanding quality, as much in terms of their technique as their inspiration and message. Thanks to Pierrette Van Cleve, an artistic curator, who contacted the Bophana Center to present the value of You Khin's work, and thanks to his family's complete openness to the documentation on this artwork, the Bophana Center is collecting images and information so that the public will soon be able to discover one of the greatest contemporary artists.

WHERE ARE WE?

- The Bophana Center is becoming associated with the training of documentary film directors, at the initiative of the Cambodia Film Commission (CFC). Eight young Cambodians, full of energy and ideas, supervised by Rithy Panh, are starting out in the audiovisual world.

- The shooting of a film about justice targetinga young audience started in March under the tutelage of Roeun Narith, director of the film ***The Two Neighbors***. This time, it is about the story of ***The Hermit Master Who Saved The Tiger***. Once again, the film is played by children. The film is supported by the Embassy of the United States in Cambodia.

- The film ***About My Father***, directed by Guillaume P. Suon, was selected for competition by Famafest, a festival focused on literature and cinema, which took place from March 13–21 in Portugal.

- The Audiovisual Department has just shot the pilot for a series of documentary films initiated by Rithy Panh on the following topic: ***US$ 1: Story of the system's worker bees***.

- From March 4–31 the Bophana Center hosted an exhibition of photographs by Catherine Griss, entitled ***Lost Pacific Villas, from Kam to Kep***. A dive into Cambodia's past.

- The Bophana Center was pleased to welcome Christophe Barreyre, director of the Production and Editing Department at the National Audiovisual Institute (INA), and Serge Viallet, director of the outstanding series ***Archives' Mysteries***, and to support them in their work analyzing archival documents.

- From March 19–26, the team participated in the Science Week organized by the Institute of Technology of Cambodia (ITC) by handling screenings for the event.

- The Bophana Center has broken new records with a significant increase in visitors. Within just two months, the equivalent of the public for the whole year of 2008 has been reached thanks to the success of traveling screenings.

- A Marguerite Duras series was scheduled within the framework of the Festival of Francophonie, from March 15–20. On the agenda: four movie programs, thanks to the generosity of her son Jean Mascolo, and a conference by Marie-Pierre Fernandes, a former collaborator of the author.

- ***The Wanderers***, a film by Christine Bouteiller, premiered on March 23 at the Bophana Center, in the presence of the director. It tells the fate of former Cambodian refugees at the Thai border back to their homeland.

FOCUS

Sound heritage wanted

For a long time the Bophana Center has been moving with a wish to explore the Cambodian sound and music heritage, to safeguard and to display it to the public. Last October, involvement with this was at the heart of our programming. With this in mind, two CDs have been produced, the first on street songs and the second on Cambodian forgotten songs.

This year, the team has decided to make a special effort to complete the ongoing inventory, by searching for sound heritage. All fans, enthusiasts and owners of original music recordings or any other Cambodian sound heritage are invited to entrust them to the Center. A brief loan of course, to allow the Bophana Center to digitize the document, and to restore it, if necessary, in order to achieve high quality recordings. The objective is simple: make this heritage known and accessible to our visitors.

A few collectors have already contacted Gaëtan Crespel, the head of the Archives Department. The Bophana Center deeply thanks them for their trust since they are essential links in the safeguarding chain contributes well as being contributors to public awareness in a decisive way.

Regarding rock'n'roll in the 1960s and 70s, the Bophana Center has met an enlightened man named John Pirozzi, a film director who for six years has been preparing a tribute to the famous Cambodian rock song, "Don't think I have forgotten" (www.cambodianrock.com). The sharing of information has allowed the location of original documents that have survived.

It is essential to state that we are interested in all media: 78, 33 and 45 rpm vinyl records, audio tapes, films, etc. as well as record sleeves and posters…Should we remind you that the Bophana Center is non-profit regarding this matter? The only thing at stake, for us, for Cambodia, is memory.

If you would like to support our efforts, or if you are in possession of or have knowledge of the existence of documents (video, audio, photo) pertaining not only to the political history of Cambodia but also to its culture, environment, daily life, health, sports, or religion, please don't hesitate to contact our team in Phnom Penh or in Paris.

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