



Mobility First!

ASEF Cultural Mobility Initiative 2018

Results (3rd cycle)

31 August 2018

Overview

This is the 3rd and final cycle of *Mobility First! – ASEF Cultural Mobility Initiative*, the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)'s travel grant for artists and cultural professionals. Overall, we have received 825 applications for all 3 cycles from 482 individual applications and 343 arts practitioners nominated through 110 organisation applications. In total, we have supported 84 artists and cultural professionals in 2018.

For this final cycle, we have selected 29 artists and cultural professionals, of which 10 are intra-Asia, 10 are Europe-to-Asia, and 9 are Asia-to-Europe mobility routes. The applications in this cycle re-affirm what is an overwhelming reality in an increasingly interconnected world: that several artists and cultural professionals live and work outside the countries of which they are citizens. This points to the urgent need for mobility grants, including *Mobility First!*, to respond to this reality. In promoting Asia-Europe connectivity, therefore, it would be important to factor in those who are residents, often permanent or long-term, of Asian or European countries, although they may not be nationals of the countries in question.

As in previous cycles, the selected arts practitioners will participate a variety of activities including residencies, workshops, research trips, arts festivals, and international exhibitions. In line with *Mobility First!*'s priorities and focus areas, the selected arts practitioners embody innovation in arts and culture, cross sectoral synergies, local development, and the role of art in society and in larger global issues.

The projects are inspiring and foster skills transfer and knowledge exchange, hence, having potential for a huge multiplier effect post-travel. An immediate mobility benefit for a few will open doors for shared benefits for many.

Selected Individuals

Name	Nationality	Activity	Mobility Route
Neeraj Bhasin	India	Beyond Festival	India to Germany
Takeshi Matsumoto	Japan	Contemporary dance workshop and filmmaking with refugee children in Thailand	UK to Thailand
Elisabeth Sri Unggul Ida Mulyani	Belgium	Artistic research and production on exile migration in Indonesia	Belgium to Indonesia
Naomi Ota	Japan	Developing new artistic methodology for a site specific installation and performance	Australia to Republic of Korea
Andreas Ceska	Austria	Art for Change 2018 – New Delhi	Austria to India



Johanna Sims	Sweden	International exhibition: Contamination	Sweden to Republic of Korea
Anna Koshcheeva	Russian Federation	Archival research in Vientiane	Singapore to Lao PDR
Pablo Chavanel	France	Crossing Borders Training Programme	Cambodia to Germany
Sazkia Noor Anggraini	Indonesia	DMZ Korean International Documentary Film Festival	Indonesia to Korea
Lenka Moravkova	Czech Republic	Artists' Residency: House of Natural Fibres	Czech Republic to Indonesia
Edwin Quinsayas	Philippines	Asiatopia International Performance Art Festival 2018	Philippines to Thailand
Luise Rist	Germany	Writers' Residency: Developing Manouche	Germany to India

Remarks from the Selection Committee:

1. Neeraj Bhasin (India)

Mobility route: Asia to Europe

Neeraj is attending the Beyond Festival in Karlsruhe, Germany, which showcases various art formats with a particular focus on new media alongside contemporary art.

Attending the *Beyond Festival* will be highly beneficial for Neeraj, the founder of *Heritage Commons*, because it will enhance *Heritage Commons'* strong engagement of creating technology-based content distribution where art can be accessed by everyone more easily and effectively. The knowledge that Neeraj will gain and the connections he will make will be valuable to his practice.

Further, *Beyond Festival* enables several crossroads of utmost importance: art, science, artificial intelligence, global networks. He is invited by one of the leading players in this field, *Future Design Karlsruhe*. Being a very active developer in his country, Neeraj will surely pass on the benefits of this trip to his community, particularly his investigations on how technology can affect and change everyday life.

2. Takeshi Matsumoto (Japan)

Mobility route: Europe to Asia

A Japanese national living in the UK, Takeshi will travel to Sankha Buri, Thailand to conduct dance workshops with displaced children, which will also be material for a film he is developing.

Takeshi is a dance artist who has shifted from a performance-based practice to working directly with inclusivity and socially engaged activities. He is an experimental dance therapist who dedicates his art to the empowerment of underserved members of the community through



dance. His trip to Sankha Buri will have multiple positive effects on these young beneficiaries in areas including artistic, psychological, sociological, heritage, and cultural diversity. Supporting his mobility will also support long-term effects and sustainability, especially since he has been working this area for several years already.

Additionally, the resultant dance film that will be screened beyond Sankha Buri will shine a spotlight on the plight of minority communities driven out of their homelands.

3. Elisabeth Sri Unggul Ida Mulyani (Belgium)

Mobility route: Europe to Asia

Elisabeth is travelling from Brussels, Belgium to Tangerang, Indonesia to collect narrative and visual materials that will be integral for her exhibition in Dec 2018.

Since 2012, Elisabeth has been developing her art oeuvre with a particular focus on human rights. In 2017, she received a grant from the Belgian government to further her research and this resulted in important exhibitions at Europalia 2017-2018. Now, she is focusing her research on transmigration in Indonesia for an exhibition planned for December 2018. Hence, her mobility to Indonesia at this point is crucial.

This project once again highlights the role art can play in humanitarian issues such as the plight of displaced communities. The more awareness is created, the closer we get to activating action to find solutions by governments, policy makers and understanding in the common man.

4. Naomi Ota (Japan)

Mobility route: Intra-Asia

Naomi is travelling from Australia to the Republic of Korea to develop a new artistic methodology for a site specific installation and performance.

Naomi is proposing a very sophisticated and very unusual on-site study concerning very sensible issues such as cultural diversity preservation and intergenerational relationships. She will continue her collaboration with the Nettle Theatre Company and will attempt various approaches to investigate forms of workshops involving community members in the process of creating site-specific artwork. The project will also examine methods of intertwining interaction with people with a process of collecting regional-specific materials (objects/sound) from the market and the surrounding environment to incorporate into a site-specific artwork.

The process-oriented creative methodology developed through the project will be a new approach to inter-cultural community art reflecting regional cultural influences. The idea has resonance in any country or region where regionality maintains a cultural coherence over the longer-term and have issues of cultural sustainability.



5. **Andreas Ceska (Austria)**

Mobility route: Europe to Asia

Andreas is travelling to India to lead workshops in theatre, mime, circus arts in 3 slum areas in New Delhi under the project Art for Change.

Through this journey, Andreas will be able to sustain and utilise his exceptional training experience to the benefit of hundreds of slum children in New Delhi. *Art for Change* is another excellent platform that enables art's role in society, particularly in the area of performing arts and how it can be an avenue for advocating children's rights, health care, and gender equality.

6. **Johanna Sims (Sweden)**

Mobility route: Europe to Asia

Johanna is travelling to Seoul, Republic of Korea to participate in an international group exhibition titled "Contamination."

Johanna will participate in a group exhibition which explores various perspectives springing from the demilitarised zone (DMZ) in the Korean peninsula. By supporting her mobility to take part in a group exhibition with other international artists, it will enable an artistic investigation on the impact of conflicts on the natural environment.

The role of the artists in conflicts is too often neglected, although they often represent elements of solutions and discourse. With the changing political climate in Asia and Europe, as well as the rest of the world, taking the dialogue through an artistic language, which arguably is a global language, is a good step to take for mutual understanding.

7. **Anna Koshcheeva (Russian Federation)**

Mobility route: Intra-Asia

Anna is travelling from Singapore to Lao PDR to do archival research of images of sculpture, monuments and modern architecture in institutions in Vientiane

Anna is graduate of MA Asian Art Histories from Lasalle College of the Arts with focus on Lao PDR and an aspiring independent researcher on visual arts and culture of Lao PDR. She is initiating fieldwork research to execute the project on national imagining in Lao PDR. The outcome of this project will be presented at the 6th International Conference of Lao PDR Studies at Cornell University in 2019.

Anna's research topic is important because it relates to a country which has very sparse information about art history. It could represent a milestone in this kind of research and help Lao to get a more international consideration.



8. Pablo Chavanel (France)

Mobility route: Asia to Europe

Pablo is travelling from Phnom Penh to Leipzig to participate in Crossing Borders – a training programme for documentary professionals in Europe and Asia looking to access the international documentary market

A French national based living and working in Cambodia, Pablo is trying to develop an independent documentary film there. Supporting his participation at the *Crossing Borders* training programme in Germany supports not only an arts practitioner attending a training and networking opportunity, but also supporting diversity of cultural expressions and freedom of creation.

9. Sazkia Noor Anggraini (Indonesia)

Mobility route: Intra-Asia

Sazkia is going to Korea to attend the DMZ International Documentary Film Festival

As a new artistic director with little experience in film curating and programming, Sazkia will see various films from different aesthetic approaches at the DMZ International Documentary Film Festival 2018. She will experience and observe the screening program selection and learn from program events, including talks, lecture, forums and special screenings.

Sazkia will benefit from being exposed to one of the most important documentary film festivals in Asia. It will capacity build her knowledge and expose her to a whole gamut of documentaries showcased at the Festival. Additionally, in the festival context, she will make contacts and a likelihood to broker ties with like-minded colleagues. Again, there is little support for such a research trip in Indonesia.

10. Lenka Moravkova (Czech Republic)

Mobility route: Europe to Asia

Lenka is travelling to Yogyakarta, Indonesia to participate in an artists' residency at the House of Natural Fibres

The House of Natural Fibres (HONF) in Yogyakarta, Indonesia is a leading institution for new media. Lenka is taking part in a residency there and will collaborate with a local new media artist team for an interactive, immersive light show. During the workshop, she will also deliver a workshop and a lecture.

Supporting the mobility of Lenka promotes gender equality and female empowerment because new media and digital culture is arguably mostly male dominated right now. At the residency, Lenka will gain skills in light design, interactivity between light and sound, and will also get a different perspective on light shows from a different culture. The resultant show will go on tour in 2019 and will promote not only Lenka's practice but the profile of HONF in locations outside Asia. Further, HONF will benefit much from an alternative way of art-making. Additionally,



HONF will have the ecosystem of artists who will appreciate experimentation and alternative approaches.

11. Edwin Quinsayas (Philippines)

Mobility route: Intra-Asia

Edwin is travelling to Bangkok to participate in the Asiatopia International Performance Art Festival 2018

Asiatopia is a very under-resourced initiative and yet has for many years continually been able to organise an annual performance art festival. It is longest running performance art festival in Southeast Asia. It creates an ecosystem of Asian performance art practitioners. Similar festivals for performance art in other Southeast Asian are short-lived and almost non-existent.

Edwin is an individual performer and also a member of a grassroots-based arts group. His practice inherently involves integrating lived experiences, aspirations and advocacies of disadvantaged communities in Philippines urban centres. His attendance at Asiatopia will greatly contribute to expanding his perspectives and enhancing his artistic processes to learn how international artists carry out their practice in a local community setting.

12. Luise Rist (Germany)

Mobility route: Europe to Asia

Luise is travelling to India to take part in a writers' residency in Rajasthan to develop a novel she is currently working on

Luise's project is a beautiful one, dealing with an international issue, which is the Roma situation - Romani people who came to Europe from India over a thousand years ago and are experiencing discrimination. Her journey will be to learn about Roma culture and origins, and through close collaboration with a Roma representative, who inspired her to begin writing her novel, *Manouche*, on the same topic.

Selected Organisations

Event / Organisation	Country where event is held	Artists/Cultural Professionals
Young Cultural Innovators Forum organised by Salzburg Global Seminar	Austria	Arundhati Ghosh (India); Hiroko Kikuchi (Japan); Mihong Kim (Korea); Ho Yiu Luk (China); Julia Nebrija (Philippines)



Asia Pacific Screen Laboratory organised by Griffith Film School	Australia	Teng Mangansakan (Philippines); Nilotpal Majumdar (India); Daniel Rudi Haryanto (Indonesia); Anthony Chen (Singapore); Pavel Jech (Czech Republic)
VIVA EXCON CAPIZ 2018 organised by Green Papaya Art Projects	Philippines	Lizza May David (Germany); Phuong Linh Nguyen (Viet Nam); Lani Maestro (Philippines – based in France); Enzo Camacho (Philippines – based in Germany); Jeebesh Bagchi (Philippines – based in India)
Blind With Camera (Workshop) organised by Beyond Sight Foundation	Greece	Partha Bhowmick (India); Rashmi Bhowmick (India)

Remarks from the Selection Committee:

1. **Young Cultural Innovators Forum organised by Salzburg Global Seminar**
Country: Austria

The Young Cultural Innovators Forum empowers rising talents in the creative sector to drive social, economic and civic change in their communities. Launched in 2014, it is building a global network of 500 competitively-selected changemakers in "YCI hubs" around the globe who design collaborative projects, build capacity, gain mentors, and connect to innovators from other sectors in their cities and countries.

The Salzburg Global Young Cultural Innovators Forum is a good platform to empower young talent in the creative fields to effect change in their respective community. Additionally, the participants are immediately put into a network which they can tap on after the Forum.

The Forum has also proven itself to be effective. It employs a strong inter-generational approach, and is a not-to-miss hub for many young practitioners. Although depending mostly on the generosity of private donors, which may change from year to year, Salzburg Global is doing a remarkable sustainable effort to foster international understanding and friendship (which is its philosophy) through arts and culture. Furthermore, the concerned invited masters are all young women (except for 1) from Asia, which is also matches one of Mobility First's priorities to empower women and achieve gender equality.



2. Asia Pacific Screen Laboratory organised by Griffith Film School

Country: Australia

The Asia Pacific Screen Laboratory (APSL) is a development vehicle designed to help enable film co-production across the 70 countries and areas of the Asia Pacific. It aims to foster and strengthen emerging creative talent, while accelerating the global export of Asia Pacific creative screen content and creative products.

The Asia Pacific Screen Laboratory pairs each chosen filmmaker with an Asia-Pacific Screen Awards (ASPA) Academy member for their year-long mentorship and development program that includes workshops in writing, directing, producing and pitching. Although the chosen emerging filmmakers herald from the Asian region, they will work with mentors and acclaimed professionals from Europe and the rest of the world.

3. VIVA EXCON CAPIZ 2018 organised by Green Papaya Art Projects

Country: Philippines

VIVA EXCON (Visayas Islands Visual Arts Exhibition and Conference) is an artist-run biennale and festival that has for 28 years been a catalyst for cultural engagement and context-sensitive social development in the Visayas region. The collaborative aspect of all phases of the VIVA EXCON CAPIZ 2018 aims to create a nurturing platform where present projects may be realised and future endeavours may be set. Networks and friendships established through the presence of Philippine and international participants, particularly through the discursive mediation of the conference program and participatory intent of the artist projects and exhibitions, allows for the promotion of diversity of ideas and perspectives.

Green Papaya Art Projects does quality work. It is an independent art space that has been under-resourced all these years. This particular project intends to highlight common struggles and strategic solutions in hopes to empower the local community to pursue their endeavours against all odds. This is art with strong social engagement and development. The artists chosen in this application are known to be of high quality. 3 out of the 5 artists are Philippine nationals based in Europe. Supporting their mobility back home for this festival will enable them to do what they do at home, when previously, local platforms that allowed their work did not exist - which is why they ventured abroad.

4. Blind with Camera (Workshop) organised by Beyond Sight Foundation

Country: Greece

Blind with Camera has several activities: 1) Training session for trainers on how to teach photography to the visually impaired; 2) Photography workshops for local visually impaired

members of the society; 3) Workshops for local organisations on making accessible photographs; 4) An exhibition of photographs taken by visually impaired workshop participants curated with local organisations, trainers and volunteers

The project is capability development and a transfer of skills in a very specialised area. It is more valuable because it also has a course to train trainers. There will be a huge multiplier effect for this project. Additionally, it is about creating another satellite of the practice in Athens for the first time.

Mobility First! Selection Committee 2018

Mobility First! Selection Committee 2018



Anupama SEKHAR
(India)
Director, Culture,
Asia-Europe Foundation
(ASEF)



Fatima AVILA
(Philippines)
Project Executive, Culture,
Asia-Europe Foundation
(ASEF)



Ferdinand RICHARD
(France)
President,
Roberto Cimetta Fund
(RCF)



TAY Tong
(Singapore)
Former Director,
Arts Network Asia
(ANA)

Contact:

Fatima AVILA
fatima.avila@asef.org
Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)