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www.teh.net
Creative Encounters focuses on partners and participants from 51 member countries of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM): Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, the Lao PDR, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mongolia, Myanmar, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, the Russian Federation, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the United Kingdom, Viet Nam.

Creative Encounters: Cultural Partnerships between Asia and Europe is an initiative of the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) and Arts Network Asia (ANA) implemented in partnership with Trans Europe Halles (TEH).

Creative Encounters promotes innovative collaborations between artists and cultural professionals from Asia and Europe. Selection is through an annual open call, which encourages the submissions of proposals jointly conceived by cultural organisations from both regions.

Through this initiative, ASEF, ANA and TEH promote greater mobility of artists between Asia and Europe and support more opportunities for face-to-face dialogue, exchange and co-creation.

Supported projects have covered all disciplines of the contemporary arts (including film, literature, new media, performing and visual arts) and embraced diverse formats (including artist residencies, capacity-building workshops and festivals).

Some projects have also facilitated dialogue and exchange on pressing contemporary issues for the arts sector (such as funding models and cultural mobility) and beyond (such as migration and environmental sustainability).

All projects include presentations to public audiences, in the form of performances, exhibitions or panel discussions.

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“ASEF promotes a large variety of cultural exchanges between Asians and Europeans. Since 2010, Creative Encounters specifically supports dialogue and collaborations among artists and cultural practitioners.”

“Creative Encounters is an initiative developed jointly by Arts Network Asia (ANA) and ASEF in 2010 that exemplifies ANA’s role of being an enabler for people-to-people exchange and a seeder for ground-up initiatives since its inception in 1999.”

“This collaboration with ASEF and ANA is a unique opportunity for us to connect artists and cultural operators across Europe and offer a place where they can share ideas and start projects together.”
Asiatopia 2016
Thailand

Performing arts festival with a focus on documenting oral histories in relation to the contribution of artists and creativity to the social fabric of their respective communities.

Initiated by Concrete House (Thailand), Bangkok Art and Culture Centre (Thailand) and University of the Arts Helsinki (Finland)

Lila: Samdani Seminars 2016, Pawel Althamer and the Neighbours
Bangladesh

Creative workshops with patients, artists and students in Sylhet and Dhaka to collectively create works of art.

Initiated by Samdani Art Foundation (Bangladesh), Polish Institute, New Delhi (India), Museum of Modern Art, Warsaw (Poland), Brodno Sculpture Park, Poland, Foksal Gallery Foundation, Warsaw (Poland), Protisruti, The Promise, Institute of Drug Rehabilitation (Bangladesh)
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Pawel Althamer, Draftwomen’s Congress, Sylhet 2015
Courtesy of Samdani Art Foundation

Ulaanbaatar Media Art Festival
Mongolia

An arts festival with focus on film, new media, photography, sound and fashion in Mongolia. Participating artists from Asia and Europe will explore urban versus nomadic civilisation, tradition versus modernity and gender inequality.
Initiated by Arts Council of Mongolia (Mongolia), Academy of Media Arts Cologne (Germany) and Ministry of Culture and Communication, France.

Odgerel ODONCHIMED
Executive Director
Arts Council of Mongolia

“The Ulaanbaatar Media Arts Festival promotes diverse methods of cultural expression and focuses on achievements and challenges with global perspectives of emerging social, political and economic changes and cultural paradigms we are facing. The Creative Encounters programme enabled the Arts Council of Mongolia to expand our network in the regions of Asia and Europe to further enhance our international exchange and mutual understanding. With the support of Creative Encounters, we introduce the latest technical advancement in the arts.”
Circus On The Edge
Thailand

Training and exchange in circus arts to empower local communities in northern Thailand and strengthen social circus links between Asia and Europe.

Initiated by Makhampom Foundation (Thailand) and Circusschule Die Rotznasen e. V. (Germany)

Curating–In–Depth
Croatia, Philippines, Slovenia

Curatorial education for young curators from Asia and Europe through collaborative production of knowledge (including exchange of lectures, workshops and mobilities).

Initiated by SCCA – Center for Contemporary Arts, Ljubljana (Slovenia), Planting Rice (Philippines) and supported by Kurziv (Croatia)

2015
Dance Connect 2015
India, Portugal, Spain

Artist residencies for emerging contemporary dance choreographers encouraging multi-disciplinary collaborations with dramaturgs, light designers and sound artists.

Initiated by Attakkalari Centre for Movement Arts (India), O Espaço Do Tempo (Portugal), Mercat De Les Flors (Spain) and European Dancehouse Network (Spain)

Dušan DOVČ
Production Manager
SCCA – Center for Contemporary Arts, Ljubljana

“Curating-In-Depth enabled us to compare ways of operating in cultural milieus that are rarely compared: Slovenia and the Philippines. Both partners, SCCA, Ljubljana and Planting Rice, share the opinion that the contemporary visual arts, curatorial and critical practices should deeply engage with contexts. With the support of the Creative Encounters programme, we managed to increase knowledge on our cultural scenes and to tailor the framework for new collaborations amongst artists and curators.”
Ties That Bind:  
Asia-Europe Producers Workshop  
Alongside the 16th Far East Film Festival Italy

This workshop offered insights into audio-visual markets in Asia and Europe as well as opportunities for networking with festivals. It was particularly targeted at producers with feature films in development.

Initiated by Fondo Audiovisivo Del Friuli Venezia Giulia (Italy), Busan International Film Festival (Korea), European Audiovisual Entrepreneurs - EAVE (Luxembourg) & Far East Film Festival (Italy)

FOCUS + Indonesia  
Germany, Indonesia, Poland

A series of mobile artist residencies across Indonesia responded to local community needs. Participating artists exhibited their work in Szczecin and made presentations in Berlin and Warsaw.

Initiated by Fundacja Upside Art (Poland), Jatiwangi Art Factory (Indonesia) & National Museum in Szczecin (Poland)

2014
**Equilibrium**  
**India**

10 artists-in-residence in rural Rajasthan connecting with local communities via women’s self-help groups to explore the connectedness of art practice to everyday life.

Initiated by Sandarbh (India), Mainzer Kunstverein alpodenstrat 21 e.V. (Germany) & Beneshawar Lok Vikas Sansthan (India)

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**EARS on Helsinki**  
**Alongside the Helsinki Design Week**  
**Finland**

The Europe-Asia Roundtable Sessions (EARS) is a recurring platform for creative industries professionals to meet and exchange ideas. In the 2014 edition, designers and musicians gathered for 4 days of panel discussions, showcases and performances.

Initiated by Europe-Asia Roundtable Sessions - EARS (Finland) & Modern Sky Entertainment (China)

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**Ossi LUOTO**  
**Executive Producer**  
**Europe-Asia Roundtable Sessions (EARS)**

“*The Creative Encounters programme has already introduced us to new partners and possibilities for further international co-operation. This initiative enables us to reach new audiences and build a more established international identity.*

*It has served as a very practical way to build deeper partnerships between the involved parties from both continents. Creative Encounters enables us to invite talented artists and producers to Helsinki and helps facilitate new cultural partnerships between Europe and Asia.*”
A series of translation workshops were organised in Jakarta for 40 emerging authors and professional translators working on Asian and European literatures.

Initiated by Inisiatif: Pusat Penerjemahan Sastra (Indonesia), British Centre for Literary Translation (United Kingdom) & Paper Republic (China)

The 3-day workshop and seminar for architecture students raised awareness on the management of sustainable urban landscapes and encouraged ethical architectural design practices. Participants collaborated on a design proposal for the waterfront of Kaunas, Lithuania’s second largest city, and presented the design outcome at the Kaunas Architecture Festival.

Initiated by the Architects Association of Lithuania & the Japan Institute of Architects

12 emerging filmmakers participated in a 9-month advanced training programme, which combined lectures, screenings and hands-on exercises and resulted in the production of documentary films.

Initiated by the Embassy of France to the Philippines, Goethe-Institut Philippinen, Les Ateliers Varan (France), Film Development Council of the Philippines, De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde (Philippines), University Philippines Film Institute & In-Docs (Indonesia)
This 10-day masterclass residency in Lecce addressed the uncertain future of cultural regeneration projects in the current economic climate. 18 visual artists participated in workshops and seminars under the guidance of a curator with the aim of building new networks for alternative cultural production.

Initiated by Ramdom Association (Italy) & Art Hub Asia (China)

Occupy the Museum
At the ImpulsTanz Vienna International Dance Festival
Austria

This choreographic project involved 16 artists in a performance dialogue with ethnological objects at the newly-conceived Weltmuseum Wien. The exhibition, Dance Creation - Asia’s Mythical Past and Living Present, served as the background for this special guest performance that undid the ethnographic and took spectators into the usually-closed rooms of the Hofburg.

Initiated by Weltmuseum Wien (Austria), Faculty of Performing Arts, Jakarta Institute of the Arts (Indonesia) & ImpulsTanz (Austria)

“With the support of the Creative Encounters programme, the project Occupy the Museum presented cross-cultural perspectives through performances and installations, enabling an exchange with a Western public. In giving contemporary European choreographers an opportunity to develop new performances using historical dance artefacts from Asia, a tradition of exchange between the West and the East is continued.”
Asia-Europe Curatorial Knowledge Workshop, Pakistan

The 4-week workshop in Karachi for curators, arts organisers and critics involved studio visits, seminars and a public event to discuss international curatorial trends.

Initiated by Vasl Artists Association (Pakistan), Gasworks (United Kingdom) & the Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture (Pakistan)

Ripple Effect
France, India, Indonesia, UK

This community-oriented initiative harnessed the power of art for non-formal education and social change by organising workshops and art events for local people in Ambon, Aubervilliers, Chennai and Stoke-on-Trent.

Initiated by Association Frères Poussière (France), the Aseema Trust (India) & B Arts (United Kingdom)

Work It!
A Think-Tank on Women and Performing Arts
Malaysia

Over a 10-day artist residency near Kuala Lumpur, 12 performing artists explored the depiction of the female body on stage and the notion of feminism in different cultural contexts.

Initiated by Rimbun Dahan (Malaysia) & NPO Dance Box (Japan)

Wasteland Twinning
Germany, Indonesia, The Netherlands, UK

This trans-disciplinary project applied the City Twinning concept to urban wastelands in order to generate a network for parallel research and action. The Wasteland Twinning Network Forum in Berlin featured presentations, critical debates, Twinning Ceremonies and workshops.

Initiated by Wasteland Twinning (Germany), Rumah Air Panas Arts Society RAP (Malaysia), Ferdiansyah Thajib (Indonesia), W139 (The Netherlands), Desire Machine Collective (India) & Rebecca Beinart (United Kingdom)
This new global platform gathered organisers, curators, and their collaborators in Gwangju to promote public awareness of contemporary art biennials. It focused on their shared objectives and common practices, while acknowledging and celebrating their diversity.

Initiated by the Biennial Foundation (Greece) & the Gwangju Biennale Foundation (Korea)

Ute Meta BAUER & Hou HANRU
Co-Directors, World Biennial Forum No.1

“Creative Encounters provided the opportunity to welcome curators from all over Asia and Europe to meet with colleagues and have a lively exchange of ideas during the World Biennial Forum No.1, which took place in Gwangju, South Korea. Supporting such personal encounters is essential to establish new contacts, to foster existing networks and deepen the understanding of the complex processes of cultural exchange.”
East Meets West
Film Forum and Festival
Mongolia

The 1st film festival and public forum of this kind in Ulaanbaatar was attended by over 250 film industry professionals from the 2 regions.

Initiated by Arts Council Mongolia

Monsoon Dance Exchange
Belgium

The 3rd edition of this research and performance platform promoted exchanges between Asian and European artists through workshops. It culminated in a public performance attended by over 200 people in Brussels.

Initiated by Kobalt Works asbl (Belgium)

Expert Meeting on New Media, Civil Society and Environmental Sustainability
Alongside the Nu-Substance Festival of Open Culture, Technology and Urban Ecology
Indonesia

The meeting addressed common issues surrounding art and environmental sustainability as well as the empowerment of civil society in the field of new media. The 5-day gathering in Bandung included open discussions, site visits and public presentations.

Initiated by Common Room Foundation (Indonesia) & RIXC (Latvia)

Media Workers Research Platform
Alongside Expo 2010 Shanghai: Better City, Better Life
China

20 new media practitioners, artists and civil society organisers researched the transformations taking place in web-based industries in Asia and Europe, and examined labour flows within the urban context. The platform looked at the role of creativity, invention and knowledge production in the new economic order.

Initiated by Academy of Fine Arts Saar (Germany) & University of Nottingham in Ningbo (UK, China)

These projects were organised in the framework of the Asia-Europe Cultural Partnership Initiatives (AECPI)
Human Frames
Experimental Film Series & Discussion Forum: Trends in Experimental Cinema
At the 1st Experimental Film Forum
Singapore

A series of 10 films examining the human condition were produced and screened at the Film Forum. The present state of experimental cinema and its future direction were debated at the discussion forum.

Initiated by Lowave (France) & the Substation (Singapore)

Creative Producers Initiative Network
At the 10th Indonesian Dance Dance Festival
Indonesia

16 producers gathered to discuss issues and challenges in contemporary performing arts with the aim of creating an alliance toward ‘creative producing’ for independent dance and theatre professionals.

Initiated by Indonesian Dance Festival & International Network of Contemporary Performing Arts - IETM (Belgium)

Ignite!
Festival of Contemporary Dance
India

Over 40 dancers, choreographers and producers from Asia and Europe attended the inaugural 4-day festival in New Delhi. Combined with the performances were masterclasses, film screenings, exhibitions and intensive workshops.

Initiated by Gati Dance Forum (India) & Goethe Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan (Germany/India)

Research Project: Raiding the Archives
At the 6th Bangkok Experimental Film Festival
Thailand

A team of archivists and curators reworked historical footage from select audio-visual archives in Asia and Europe to create a series of programmes that captured history at the margins.

Initiated by Project 304 (Thailand) & University of Westminster (UK)

M.A.P: Mobile Artistic Platform
India

A month-long mobile artist residency in south India that involved 14 emerging artists and explored sustainable tourism and notions of hospitality.

Initiated by Protospace (India) & NewYorkRioTokyo e.V. (Germany)
Partner Organisations

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