



Monsoon (dance residency)
Asia-Europe Creative Partnership Initiatives: Performing Arts
18-23 December 2010, Leuven, Belgium

Brief

Monsoon is a transcultural, multidisciplinary meeting platform for Asian and European artists. It aims to examine conventional stereotypes through a collaborative exploration of artistic practices and discussion of participants' diverse cultural and socio-political contexts. *Monsoon* is created by Kobalt Works (Belgium), an artistic company founded by German choreographer Arco Renz. The first edition of *Monsoon* took place in Seoul, Korea (2006) and the second edition in Leuven, Belgium (2007).

This third edition, which takes place at STUK Arts Centre in Leuven (Belgium) from 18 - 23 December 2010, is a combination of blogs, workshops and performances. It brings together eight dancers and choreographers (four Asian and four European) from different dance traditions, a cultural policy advisor and four local 'zap-guests', mostly academics in different disciplines. It also invites the participation of students and academics from the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (Catholic University of Leuven).

Before the start of the residency, the artists will be split up into four Asian-European pairs and will engage in an anonymous dialogue on dance using blogs on ASEF's arts and culture platform culture360.org without revealing any culturally identifying information. They will meet for the first time at the residency where each pair will collaborate on a new work in the fields of contemporary dance, multimedia art and music. The artists will showcase the collaborative effort as a work-in-progress on the last night of their residency. There is a possibility to further develop their work with the support of Kobalt Works and STUK Arts Center.

The Monsoon 2010 programme includes the following public events:

1. Performance of existing work by the Asian artists – Monday, 20 Dec 2010, 8:30pm at STUK Arts Centre
2. Presentation of ASEF's experience in facilitating networking and collaborations between Asia and Europe by Ms Katelijn Verstraete, Assistant Director, Cultural Exchange – 21 December, 7:30 pm, at International University College Leuven
3. Performance of work-in-progress created during the Monsoon 2010 encounters – Thursday, 23 Dec 2010, 8:30pm

Annex 1: Participant list

Artists

Eko Supriyanto

Indonesian choreographer and dancer. Founder of the Solo Dance Studio, has experience with both traditional Javanese court dances and contemporary dance.

Moly ChanVuth

Dancer of the Royal Ballet of Cambodia. is now being trained in contemporary dance at Amrita Arts.

Choy Ka Fai

Singaporean new media artist and contemporary performance artist, co-artistic director of the 'Kill Your Television' collective

Eisa Jocson

Visual artist and professional pole dance instructor from Manila, Philippines. Working on a project which researches the politics of pole dancing in an urban environment.

André Erlen

German, trained as an actor in Dusseldörf, founder of Future 3 theatre, a collective which creates performances in public places. Co-director of the international theatre and dance festival Globalize: Köln. Cultural policy advisor, as the director of a major international dance and theatre festival in Köln

TokTek (Tom Verbruggen)

Dutch DJ, electronica musician and performer, creates audio sets using circuit bending, visual techniques and the live sound of his mother baking a cake.

Sybille Wilson

French/British, trained as a classical violinist, director and assistant director at the opera of Paris Bastille, Lyon, Leipzig and Mainz.

Ugo Dehaes

Belgian dancer and choreographer, artistic director of Kwaad Bloed, a Brussels-based dance company.

ZAP guests

Kevin Talbot

Stock broker at RBC Capital Markets, London. He was originally educated as a visual artist.

Rudi Laermans

Cultural sociologist at the University of Leuven

Ludo Cuyvers

Emeritus professor of economics at the University of Antwerp, chairman of the European Institute for Asian Studies

Karen Phaet

Intercultural psychologist at the University of Leuven.