



1st Ulaanbaatar International Media Art Festival-UBIMAF

The Arts Council of Mongolia, in conjunction with its sponsors, is proud to announce the opening of the inaugural International Media Arts Festival in Mongolia. Officially partnered by the Goethe-Institut, the Festival is the first of its kind to be held in Mongolia and will run for a month: from June 9th to July 9th, 2016.

The International Media Festival will feature 18 artists from 9 different nations in a celebration of the diversity and innovation integral to media art. The festival consists of nine free events that will all take place at the Fine Arts Zanabazar Museum.

The first is an exhibition titled “Tradition and Modernity” and curated by You Mi, a researcher and member of staff at the Academy of Media Art, Cologne, Germany. This exhibition will run for the duration of the festival and display the works of six Mongolian and international artists and the students of the University of Culture and Arts-School of Radio, Television and Media Arts.

One of the festival’s central aims is to bring international experts to supplement the education of media arts students in Mongolia. We are, therefore, pleased to announce that Christian Faubel of the Academy of Media Arts, Cologne will be holding a series of workshops for the media students at the University of Culture. The workshops will revolve around the concepts of game and play, two human universals that combine narrative, pattern and technology in distinctly social ways. The opening of the festival on June 9th will feature the work produced by these students in the previous day’s workshop, and their training will continue until the 13th of June.

Two dance events by the dancer and choreographer Agnes Dru and her AD Companie will be presented. The first is the “Edge” dance and media arts project premiere on the 9th of June, 8pm. The second is “Balansé”, a dance work on June 11th that explores the concept of being “in-between”. Agnes will also be conducting a two-day dance therapy workshop open to local dancers starting on June 10th.

On June 25th at 7pm, a group of graffiti and urban street artists from Mongolia, Malaysia, Hong Kong and Korea will come together to do a live painting of the traditional Mongolian ox carriage outside the Zanabazar Museum. This performance will mark the opening of the NOMADINK Installation street exhibition to be hosted at the museum until the end of the festival.

Showcasing perhaps the most famous of new media technologies: virtual reality, Lynette Wallworth and Nicole Newman have brought their new film “Collisions” to the festival. The film is the first of its kind to be screened in Mongolia and takes the

viewer on a virtual reality journey to the land of the Martu people in the Western Desert of Australia.

Finally, a series of ArtSee talks have been organised for the 10th, 11th, 16th and 30th of June that will give participants the chance to hear from the artists involved in the festival and learn more about their projects and processes.

This inaugural International Media Festival is truly a ground-breaking event for Mongolia and all are welcome to enjoy the variety of performances, exhibitions and talks. To make the festival accessible to as many people as possible, all events are free.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to thank our official partners Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), Arts Network Asia (ANA) through Creative Encounters, Goethe-Institut Mongolia, Liaison Office, Academy of Media Arts Cologne, AD Compagnie, our official sponsors the U.S Embassy and XacBank, and our kind supporters Zanabazar Fine Arts Museum, 'Tumen Ekh' Traditional Song and Dance Ensemble, University of Culture and Arts-School of Radio, Television and Media Arts, Tavan Bogd Group, official media partner VTV and other media partners and our co-organizer Digital Ink.