

# For Immediate Release: Asia Forum Fall Gathering 2021



3 November 2021 | 12 NOON GMT | 7PM SGT

Asia Forum is pleased to invite you to an exciting digital gathering on **3 November 2021, 12 Noon GMT**. Following the last Spring event, this fall the Asian Forum welcomes artists and curators from Asia and its diaspora to respond to pressing contemporary events.

With a focus on the mainstream adoption of digital currency and the surge of non-fungible token assets, amidst ongoing climate change urgencies, this gathering seeks to bridge global concerns of exchange and flow across questions of value, social relations and ecological anxieties.

Please join artists **Irwan Ahmett and Tita Salina, Ho Rui An**, and **Lawrence Lek** in exploring diverse notions of 'liquidity' via their presentations, followed by moderated conversations with the curatorial council members, **Annie Jael Kwan, Hammad Nasar, John Tain**, and **Ming Tiampo**, and the public.

The **Asia Forum for the Contemporary Art of Global Asias** is a new itinerant platform envisioned for discourse surrounding experimental art practices and research that produce hopeful new worlds beyond the North Atlantic. The Asia Forum in 2021/22 is proudly presented by the Bagri Foundation as digital gatherings this spring and fall, and an inaugural, in person, one-day programme at the historic **Fondazione Querini Stampalia in Venice, on 23 April 2022**.

The still-unfolding events of the past year have resulted in a fundamental reconfiguring of timelines and work practices. These changes provide an opportunity to imagine with artists, curators, researchers, and activists, new contemporary practices and engage a public eager for discourse on urgent issues of climate, democracy, anti-racism, and creative agency for addressing global anxieties through the lens and engine of 'Asia/s'.

The presence of the Asia Forum in Venice in 2022 will instigate exploration of themes in relation to the national pavilions and collateral events presenting the arts of Asia/s. It will provide the public with richer and deeper engagement with and understanding of the art of Asian artists represented in the Biennale, as well as the discursive conditions of its production.

Through its peripatetic digital and live manifestations, live streamed via **ArtReview** in 2021 and 2022, the Asia Forum aims at nurturing a community among diverse artists, curators, thinkers, producers and audiences interested and invested in the arts of global Asias.

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Annie Jael Kwan  
Asia Forum

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Alessandra Cianetti  
Bagri Foundation

Conceived by Annie Jael Kwan, the Asia Forum works with a council of international curators and researchers, Hammad Nasar, John Tain, and Ming Tiampo, in a sustained dialogue with contributors to navigate the key themes that have arisen in relation to contemporary artistic practices of Global Asias. Co-presented in partnership with the Bagri Foundation. Media Partner: ArtReview.

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## QUOTES

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“With keen global socio-political divides over the technological developments that create divergent flows and exchanges in finance, rising heat and water levels due to climate change, discussions around capital and value remain critical. Asia Forum is proud to engage with these outstanding artists whose research and practices refocus Asias at the forefront of these debates.”

**Annie Jael Kwan, Council Member, Asia Forum**

“We at the Bagri Foundation are excited for the Asia Forum’s second digital gathering. In preparation to be together and in person next year in Venice, this Autumn the Asia Forum is gifting us with a digital point of collective reflection on urgent matters for both our society and contemporary art practices.”

**Alessandra Cianetti, Project Manager, Bagri Foundation**

“At a time of apparent polarity the Asia Forum presents a vital discussion platform through which to challenge received wisdom, shift ideas that seem fixed and deploy discourses that exploit the multiplicity and fluidity inherent in ideas of ‘Asia(s)’ in order to address the interlinked economic, social and ecological concerns of our time.”

**Mark Rappolt, Editor-in-Chief, ArtReview and ArtReview Asia**

## CONTACTS

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**Book a place on the Fall Gathering 2021 visit** [Eventbrite](#)

**[Download the images and the Press Pack here.](#)**

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## NOTES TO EDITORS

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**[Ho Rui An](#)** is an artist and writer working in the intersections of contemporary art, cinema, performance and theory. Working primarily across the mediums of lecture, essay and film, he probes into the ways by which images are produced, circulate and disappear within contexts of globalism and governance. He has presented projects at the Bangkok Art Biennale (2020), Asian Art Biennial (2019), Gwangju Biennale (2018), Jakarta Biennale (2017), Sharjah Biennial (2017), Kochi-Muziris Biennale (2014), Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin, Kunsthalle Wien, Musée du quai Branly – Jacques Chirac, Paris, NTU Centre for Contemporary Art Singapore and Para Site, Hong Kong. In 2019, he was awarded the International Film Critics’ (FIPRESCI) Prize at the International Short Film Festival Oberhausen, Germany. In 2018, he was a fellow of the DAAD Berliner Künstlerprogramm.

**[Irwan Ahmett and Tita Salina](#)** are self-taught artist duo based in Jakarta. Their initial work is to place the imagination through performative intervention in the midst of chaotic public space of megapolitan Jakarta, which faces the dilemma of uncontrolled urbanization and pollution. The development of networks in art and activist circles has encouraged their artistic practice to progress toward the more profound and deeper circumstances. They are currently working on a long-term project related to geopolitical turmoil in the Ring of Fire – Pacific Rim, the most prone region to natural disasters as well as traumatic

consequences which is caused by the persistent ideological violence. They see their high mobility as the main vehicle to participate in residency programs, research, field study and exhibitions especially in specific areas, which are paradoxical such as some heavenly yet deadly beautiful places on earth. Irwan and Tita wanted to find answers about planetary anxieties in regard to human existence by means of evolutionary perspective and to produce knowledge through arts related to injustice, humanity and ecology.

**[Lawrence Lek](#)** is a London-based artist, filmmaker, and musician. Drawing from a background in architecture and electronic music, he creates fictional versions of real places, reimagined after alternative geopolitical movements and future technological conflicts. His characters are caught between human and machine worlds: digital nomads, AI satellites, and online superstars, all searching for autonomy under alien conditions of existence. Recent projects include the video essay *Sinofuturism (1839-2046 AD)* (2016), the AI-coming-of-age story *Geomancer* (2017), the open-world game *2065* (2018), and *Nøtel*, an ongoing audio-visual collaboration with Kode9 (2016-). His feature film *AIDOL* (2019) was presented at International Film Festival Rotterdam and transmediale 2020 and at the British Art Show 9 (2021). Lek composes soundtracks and conducts live audio-visual performances, often incorporating playthroughs of his virtual worlds. Soundtrack releases include *Temple OST (The Vinyl Factory)* and *AIDOL OST (Hyperdub)*. His work has been exhibited widely and he is represented by Sadie Coles HQ.

**[Annie Jael Kwan](#)** is an independent curator and researcher whose exhibition-making, programming, publication and teaching practice is located at the intersection of contemporary art, art history and cultural activism, with interest in archives, histories, feminist, queer and alternative knowledges, collective practices, and solidarity. She is a co-founder of Asia-Art-Activism (AAA), a research network that has presented an active public programme of presentations, talks, workshops, mini-residences and festivals that challenge and complicate notions of 'Asia'. She currently teaches Critical Studies at Central St Martins, University of the Arts, London, and co-teaches Writing and Curating at KASK, School of Art, in Gent, Belgium.

**[Hammad Nasar](#)** is a London-based curator, researcher and strategic advisor. He is presently Senior Research Fellow at the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art, where he co-leads the 'London, Asia' project; Principal Research Fellow at the University of the Arts London, Decolonising Arts Institute; and co-curator of British Art Show 9 (2021-22). He was the inaugural Executive Director of the Stuart Hall Foundation, London (2018-19); Head of Research & Programmes at Asia Art Archive, Hong Kong (2012-16); and, co-founded (with Anita Dawood) the pioneering hybrid arts organisation, Green Cardamom, London (2004-12).

**[John Tain](#)** is Head of Research at Asia Art Archive, where he leads a team based in Hong Kong, New Delhi, and Shanghai. He has organized several exhibitions, among them Yasuhiro Ishimoto: *Someday*, Chicago (2018), "Out of Turn" at the Serendipity Arts Festival in Goa (2018) and "Women Make Art History" and "The Body Collective" during Art Basel Hong Kong (2018, 2019), and most recently, *Crafting Communities* (2020), which looks at the confluence of feminism, crafts, and social practice in the biennial series of *Womanifesto* events organized in Thailand from 1997 to 2008. In 2019-20, he co-convened *MAHASSA (Modern Art Histories in and across Africa, and South and Southeast Asia, 2019-2020)*, a collaboration with the Dhaka Art Summit and the Institute for Comparative Modernities at Cornell University.

**[Ming Tiampo](#)** is Professor of Art History, and co-director of the Centre for Transnational Cultural Analysis at Carleton University. She is interested in transcultural models and histories that provide new structures for understanding and reconfiguring the global. She has published on Japanese modernism, global modernisms, and diaspora. Tiampo is an associate member at *ici Berlin*, a member of the Hyundai Tate Research Centre: Transnational Advisory Board, a fellow at the Paul Mellon Centre for British Art on the London, Asia project, a founding member of *TrACE*, the Transnational and Transcultural Arts and Culture Exchange network, and co-lead on its *Worlding Public Cultures* project.

**[The Bagri Foundation](#)** is a UK registered charity, inspired by creative, unique and unexpected ideas that weave the traditional and the contemporary of Asian culture. The Foundation is driven by curiosity, a desire to learn and supports myriad of exciting artistic programmes that challenge, engage and inspire. Through a diverse programme of film, visual arts, music, dance, literature, courses and lectures, Bagri Foundation gives artists and experts from across Asia, or those inspired by the continent, wider visibility on the global stage.

The Asia Forum 2021/22 is presented by



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