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# ons on Art and Action



SHAHIDUL ALAM  
&  
DONNA MIRANDA

#9  
ART AND ACTION

The 9th session of Asia Art Archive's *Life Lessons* series looks at Art and Action, with photographer Shahidul Alam and choreographer Donna Miranda. The online workshop discussion takes place on 15 November, with free registration open.

This series is part of AAA's ongoing research about the role of academic and alternative pedagogy in the development of modern and contemporary art in Asia and beyond.

Organised as part of AAA's twentieth anniversary, *Life Lessons* is a series that enquires into models for education led by artists. We ask: What was the most influential lesson they learned in school? And how have they, in turn, passed on what they learned about forms of knowledge and care to their students or communities of learners?

Launched in spring 2020, *Life Lessons* presents online and offline conversations and workshops with artists and art collectives who teach at universities, build educational programmes at arts organisations, and run their own schools. Each session addresses their unique teaching methods.

The ninth session invites Shahidul Alam and Donna Miranda to discuss the relationship between art and action. They will reflect on the significance of photography, choreography, and education in their endeavours to envision systemic change, build institutions, and fight for social and economic equality.

Named a *Time* Person of the Year in 2018, Shahidul Alam will discuss Drik Picture Library, which he co-founded in Dhaka, Bangladesh, in 1989. Referring to the Sanskrit word for "vision" Drik was built on Alam's understanding of the power of photography to share

vision, Drik was built on Alan's understanding of the power of photography to shape perception and reality, and for people in what he calls the "Majority World" to reimagine and advocate for equitable positions. He will speak about the educational impact of Drik with regards to social issues and human rights, as well as two other organisations that he founded: the photography academy Pathshala South Asian Media Institute in 1998, and Chobi Mela, the first international photography festival in Asia, in 2000.


Choreographer and activist Donna Miranda will discuss her 2019 project *Scores for National Democracy*, presented at Maxim Gorki Theater's 4th Berliner Herbstsalon. The project is an archive of resources she has been exposed to as an activist of the legal mass movement for national democracy in the Philippines. The project highlights educational documents and visual material from the legal mass movement and the revolutionary underground over the last five decades, as well as Miranda's mapping of extrajudicial killings of peasants under the current Duterte regime. She will discuss how the documents can serve as choreography scores that can reorganise and redistribute movement for democratic revolution.

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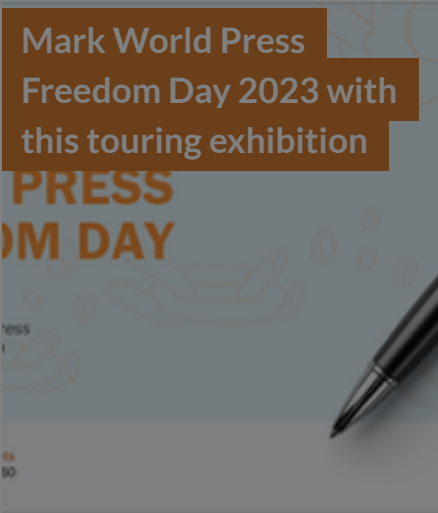
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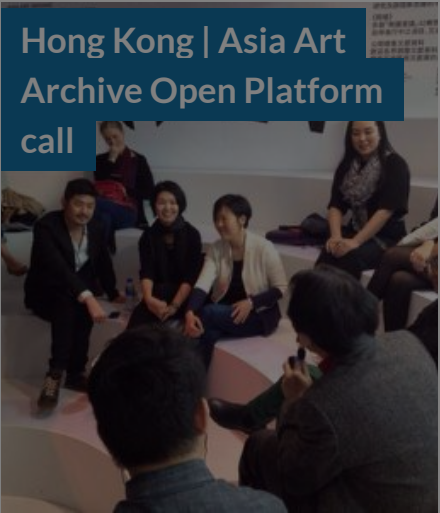
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