

FESTIVAL ACCÈS ASIE
Discussion with the artists of
the exhibitions *Checkpoints*
and *The State of Origin : REEL*
& *IMAGINED*

Sunday May 17, 2015
2:00-4:00 PM

Maison de la culture Côte-des-
Neiges / Gallery 1 & 2
5290, ch. de la Côte-des-Neiges

Côte-des-Neiges metro station

Free entry



Photo: Hua Jin, *Mirage*, C-print, 150 x 120 pouces, 2014



20th edition of Festival Accès Asie
May 1st to 24th, 2015
www.accesasie.com

Montreal, March 1st, 2015 - **On Sunday, May 17th, 2015**, Festival Accès Asie, **in collaboration with the maison de la culture Côte-des-Neiges**, invites the public to **meet and discuss with the artists and curators of the exhibitions “Checkpoints” and “The State of Origin: REEL & IMAGINED”**. Occupying two galleries on two floors, the exhibitions feature eight contemporary visual and performance artists originating from China, Sri Lanka, Syria, Taiwan, Germany, India and Iran.

In the first gallery, the two-person exhibition, “Checkpoints”, brings together a selection of new photography, video, and installation works by Montreal-based artists Hua Jin (b. China) and Pavitra Wickramasinghe (b. Sri Lanka). Curated by Kakim Goh, the show explores the theme of “checkpoint” here defined as a “place along a road, or border, where travelers are stopped for inspection before being allowed to continue.”

In the second gallery, “The State of Origin: REEL & IMAGINED” is an international group exhibition by the Canadian-based artist collective THE DIGITAL SILK ROUTE (www.thedigitalsilkroute.com) presenting video, installation and photography works by Khadija Baker (Syria/Canada), Ting-Teng Cheng (Taiwan/UK), Verena Kyselka (Germany), Bindu Mehra (India/Canada), Veer Munshi (India) and Raha Rastifard (Iran/Sweden). Curated by Kakim Goh and Bindu Mehra, the show explores the transformational impact of migration, movement and globalization on individuals and societies through art.

Both exhibitions run from May 9 to June 14, 2015



© Kiran Ambwani

Kakim Goh - Curator (*Checkpoints* and *The State of Origin : REEL & IMAGINED*)

Born in Singapore and living in Montreal, Kakim Goh (www.kakimgoh.com) is the Curator of the Visual Arts Program and Vice-President of the Board of Directors at Festival Accès Asie. He holds a BFA in Painting and Drawing from Concordia University. As a visual artist who creates interdisciplinary painting, performance and video installations, Kakim has been exhibiting in Mexico and Quebec since 1993, most notably at MAI, the OBORO New Media Laboratory and la Maison de la Culture du Plateau-Mont-Royal.



© Bindu Mehra

Bindu Mehra - Curator and artist (*The State of Origin : REEL & IMAGINED*)

Video and installation artist Bindu Mehra's work diversifies into drawing, painting, sculpture, video and installation that often combines evocative sound tracks and found footage. Born in India and living in Canada, Bindu earned her MFA from Virginia Commonwealth University (USA) and MS University, Baroda (India). She has exhibited internationally at the Scope Art Fair New York (USA), Alwan for the Arts New York (USA), Blackburn Museum (UK), Chiang Mai Museum (Thailand) and the Devi Art Foundation (India).



© Hua Jin

Hua Jin - Artist (*Checkpoints*)

Born in China and living in Montreal, Hua Jin (www.phoebejin.com) is a photography, installation and video artist whose works are consistent with the use of landscape imagery and the color of black and white to represent different subjects in relation to Oriental philosophies. Having received a BFA from Emily Carr (ECUAD), Hua is currently completing an MFA in Studio Arts (at Concordia University). Hua has exhibited in Canada, USA, China, and the Netherlands. Her works are included in the public collection of Museum of Contemporary Art in Shanghai.



© Elisabeth Belliveau

Pavitra Wickramasinghe - Artist (*Checkpoints*)

Born in Sri Lanka and living in Montreal, Pavitra Wickramasinghe (www.pavitraw.com) is a multidisciplinary artist whose work explores new ways of conceptualizing the moving image and conventions of seeing. A graduate of Concordia University and the Alberta College of Art and Design, she is the recipient of the UNESCO-Aschberg Bursaries for Artists and The Claudine and Stephen Bronfman Fellowship in Contemporary Art. Her work has been exhibited in Canada, France, South Korea, Finland, Germany, Spain and Denmark.



© Khadija Baker



© Ting-Ting Cheng



© Verena Kyselka



© Veer Munshi



© Raha Rastifard

Khadija Baker - Artist (*The State of Origin : REEL & IMAGINED*)

Born in Syria and living in Montreal, Khadija Baker (www.khadijabaker.com) is a multidisciplinary artist who creates installations that combine video, textile and sound. Her work explores social and political themes related to persecution, displacement and memory. She holds an MFA from the University of Damascus (Syria) as well as a BFA and MFA from Concordia University. Khadija's work has been exhibited in Montreal, Toronto, New York, London, Berlin, Marseille, New Delhi, Beirut, Damascus and the 2012 Sydney Biennale.

Ting-Ting Cheng - Artist (*The State of Origin : REEL & IMAGINED*)

Born in Taiwan and living in London, Ting-Ting Cheng (www.chengtingting.com) is a photography, video and sound installation artist. She is interested in the fluctuant identities and the sensitive relationship between foreignness and locality, examining reactions to different cultures. Cheng graduated from MA Photographic Studies at University of Westminster, London. Her works have been exhibited internationally at the Taipei Fine Art Museum, Addaya Art Centre (Mallorca), London Art Fair, Foto Madrid, Tokyo Frontline, ISE Cultural Foundation (New York).

Verena Kyselka - Artist (*The State of Origin : REEL & IMAGINED*)

Born in Erfurt and living in Berlin, Verena Kyselka (www.verena-kyselka.de) is a visual, video and installation artist who has developed her work in the underground scene of East Germany in the late 80s. With the female artist group Exterra XX, she founded the Kunsthaus Erfurt in 1990 where she curated and worked on intercultural projects that were developed during intercultural exchanges in Eastern Europe, Taiwan, Bangladesh, India and Australia.

Veer Munshi - Artist (*The State of Origin : REEL & IMAGINED*)

Born in Kashmir and living in India, Veer Munshi is a video, painting, photography and installation artist that has acquired his BA from Kashmir University and BFA from M.S.U Baroda. He has held solo shows in India, Scotland, Australia and Geneva. He has participated in over 20 group-shows abroad and in India including the 11th Asian Art Biennale in Dhaka, Bangladesh. He is the recipient of the Junior Fellowship from the Government of India and the Research Grant Fellowship from Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi.

Raha Rastifard - Artist (*The State of Origin : REEL & IMAGINED*)

Born in Iran and living in Stockholm, Raha Rastifard (www.raharastifard.com) proposes an autobiographical work ranges from photography to video and to installation. In her highly lyrical art, she creates digital pictures full of (trans) cultural, poetic and historical art references. Raha holds a Masters degree from the Freie University Berlin. A founder of the artists' group Artists without Borders in Iran, Raha has exhibited her work internationally in Tehran, Berlin, Bonn, London, New York City, Tokyo, New Delhi, Kabul, Stockholm, Mexico City and Shanghai.