

**AWARE: Archives of Women Artists,
Research and Exhibitions co-organises
the research day « The Flow of History:
Southeast Asian Women Artists
(Yogyakarta) »**

Saturday 16 November 2024, 10am-5pm



UEAREWARAKUL, Nitaya. [Untitled – Preparation (from Set of 2 Photographs)]. 2001. Collection of AAA

**The Flow of History. Southeast Asian Women Artists –
A three-year research program**

“The Flow of History. Southeast Asian Women Artists” is a research program led by AWARE in collaboration with Asia Art Archive, a Hong Kong-based organisation that builds tools and communities to collectively expand knowledge about recent art in Asia through research, residency, and educational programs.

The research program aims to highlight the work of women artists from Southeast Asia with diverse practices and locations, from the 18th century to today. The aim is to cross gender issues with transversal historical questions, and to consider the place of the practices and reflections of women artists in Southeast Asia born between 1700 and 1973, embracing the diversity of the area and its particular national and social dynamics at pivotal moments such as decolonization. A research committee of experts representing the cultural diversity of the region has been created to advise AWARE and Asia Art Archive, in order to publish online biographies and research articles about women artists, to identify archives of these artists, and to organise events that highlight this research.

The title of the project makes reference to Indonesian poet Toeti Heraty’s (1933-2021) 1989 poem, *The Portrait of a Woman* 1938. Proposing a reading of the flows of history against the grain, to echo and deepen the artistic initiatives led by women in the geographical area, makes it possible to affirm the relevance of gender issues in the artistic history of the region, in order to “recover or reclaim lost narratives, and bring new opportunities for dialogue into the present”, as stated by the artists’ group WOMANIFESTO, which has been organising artistic actions since the mid-1990s, particularly in Thailand.

As part of the programme, AWARE and Asia Art Archive (AAA) co-organised the talk *The Flow of History: Southeast Asian Women Artists*, which took place at Asia Art Archive, Hong Kong, on 23 September 2023. In November 2024, AWARE and AAA will hold a research day in collaboration with Indonesian Visual Art Archive (IVAA) in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

The Flow of History: Southeast Asian Women Artists (Yogyakarta)

Sat, 16 November 2024, 10am-5pm
Indonesian Visual Art Archive, Yogyakarta



Artists celebrate the anniversary of Seniwati Gallery, circa 2000. Courtesy of Seniwati Gallery and Mary Northmore. Collection of Indonesian Visual Art Archive

Co-presented by AWARE: Archives of Women Artists, Research, and Exhibitions, Asia Art Archive (Hong Kong) and Indonesian Visual Art Archive (Yogyakarta), this programme brings together a group of leading scholars and curators to highlight recent scholarship on gender diversity in art histories in Southeast Asia.

Hosted at the Indonesian Visual Art Archive, the programme features three panels exploring issues of gender in art history. Inspired by the poem “The Portrait of a Woman 1938” by Indonesian poet Toeti Heraty (1933-2021), the title *The Flow of History* evokes the vital work of memory in archiving precarious histories. The panels raise transversal historical questions about gender in the biographies and practices of women and femme-identified artists in Southeast Asia, while remaining attuned to the region’s diversity and its particular sociopolitical dynamics through pivotal periods such as decolonisation.

The first panel focuses on research, curatorial, and artistic strategies that extend beyond an understanding of gender-centric exhibitions and publications as “recovery projects.” The second panel reflects on ethical and political considerations in the documentation of women and queer artists’ lived experiences, while the third panel investigates how women artists have navigated transcultural exchange and how their methods offer potential for emancipation.

Speakers include members of the advisory committee for “*The Flow of History: Southeast Asian Women Artists*,” a three-year joint research initiative co-presented by AAA and AWARE, and researchers and curators from Indonesia-based initiatives such as Kelas Liarsip and Queer Indonesia Archive.

Free and open to the public.



Mary Northmore and friends outside Seniwati Gallery. Courtesy of Seniwati Gallery and Mary Northmore. Collection of Indonesian Visual Art Archive

Programme

10–10:30am | Welcome and Introductions to Indonesian Visual Art Archive, Asia Art Archive, and AWARE

Speakers: Riksa Afiaty (IVAA), Özge Ersoy (AAA), Karla Segura Pantoja (AWARE), and Nina Volz (AWARE)

10:30am–12nn | Panel | Artists-Organisers: Conditioning Art and its Narratives

This panel explores critiques of gender-focused exhibitions and publications as “recovery projects” driven by compensatory impulses. It examines the role of women artists in shaping art narratives in Southeast Asia, with particular emphasis on the contributions of women artist-organisers in collectives, archives, and knowledge exchange platforms. The discussion underscores the importance of situating the study of individual artworks and artists within broader contexts of gender visibility and representation in art history.

Speakers: Eileen Legaspi-Ramirez (Associate Professor, Department of Art Studies, University of the Philippines Diliman), Yvonne Low (Lecturer, Discipline of Art History and Museum Studies, University of Sydney), and Grace Samboh (Researcher and Curator, Member of Hyphen–)

Moderator: Özge Ersoy (Senior Curator, Asia Art Archive)

1–2:30pm | Panel | Documenting and Archiving Lived Experiences

This panel delves into the conversations and inquiries around the recording of lived experiences, emphasising the importance of accountability and accessibility in archival methods. Key questions include: How do we document embodied experiences? What methods should we use in collecting? Who should be represented, and what content is essential? How do we ensure accountability as archivists? Additionally, how should we share these archives? Drawing on community-based practices and various case studies, this discussion addresses critical questions regarding the ethical and political considerations inherent in the relationship between archives and the lived experiences of women and queer artists and filmmakers.

Speakers: Karina (Program Officer & Community Archivist, Queer Indonesia Archive), Umi Lestari (Writer and Curator, Member of Kelas Liarsip), Julita Pratiwi (Film Researcher and Scholar, Member of Kelas Liarsip), and Wong Binghao (Writer, Editor, and Curator)

Moderator: Putu Sridiniari (Researcher, Indonesian Visual Art Archive)

3–4:30pm | Panel | Transcultural Encounters: Women Artists beyond Borders

This panel explores international and transcultural dimensions in the works and trajectories of Southeast Asian women and non-binary artists, examining diverse perspectives on cultural encounters. Drawing from different periods and sociopolitical contexts, the panel investigates how these artists have navigated between the local and the global to challenge their social roles and overcome gender-specific boundaries. Considering the impact of transcultural interactions on the subject positions of these artists, the panel also examines the potential for emancipation that transnational encounters represent for women artists.

Speakers: Sarena Abdullah (Associate Professor of Art History at the School of Arts, Universiti Sains Malaysia), Pamela Nguyen Corey (Associate Professor of Art History, Faculty of Art & Media Studies, Fulbright University Vietnam), and Alia Swastika (Director, Biennale Jogja Foundation / Curator and Researcher)

Moderators: Nina Volz (Head of International Development, AWARE) and Karla Segura Pantoja (Editorial Coordinator, AWARE)



Seniwati Gallery of Art by Women's former location in Banjar Taman Ubud, Bali. Courtesy of Seniwati Gallery and Mary Northmore. Collection of Indonesian Visual Art Archive

Presentation of AWARE



AWARE team at the Villa Vassilieff, Photo : Marie Docher © AWARE : Archives of Women Artists, Research and Exhibitions

AWARE: Archives of Women Artists, Research & Exhibitions is a non-profit organization, co-founded by art historian Camille Morineau in 2014, which works to make eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth-century women artists visible by producing and posting free, fully bilingual (French/English) content about their work on its website. In 10 years, the AWARE website has become a unique online resource, aimed at professionals in the art world as well as the general public. This resource currently features over 1,200 richly illustrated biographical texts and has over 100,000 visits per month.

AWARE represents a diversity of voices, with texts written by over 500 researchers, curators, feminist art historians, art critics and activists from all over the world. In order to widely disseminate research on women artists, AWARE also organizes symposiums, round tables and seminars in partnership with institutions, universities, museums and other independent structures internationally, and edits its own publications.

AWARE is located in the Villa Vassilieff in the 15th arrondissement of Paris, where the artist Marie Vassilieff had her studio in the 1910s. In this highly symbolic space, reimaged by designer matali crasset, AWARE has set up a research and documentation center entirely dedicated to women artists and feminist art. The association also hosts residencies, events, meetings and workshops for schools.

Since moving to the Villa Vassilieff, AWARE has developed a specific program based on a dual identity: local, by becoming a forum for debate in Paris, and international, through its research programs and a vast network of authors around the world. With this dual identity, a team made up of women, an associative space and a website offering free, high-quality content, AWARE has become a benchmark recognized by professionals and institutions and a place open to everyone that encourages research, exchange, and discussion.



Chemin de Montparnasse, Villa Vassilieff, Photo : Margot Montigny © AWARE : Archives of Women Artists, Research and Exhibitions

AWARE in a few dates

2014

Creation of the AWARE by its co-founders
(for a list of names, see the AWARE website)

2015

Launch of the first version
of the AWARE website

2016

Organization of the first prize dedicated to women artists in France
(then called the Marie Claire prize), which has become
an annual prize given by the association

2017

Launch of the current version of the AWARE website

2019

Publication of the first volume in the collection of interviews
with AWARE prizewinners, dedicated to Nil Yalter

2020

Creation of the international academic network
TEAM: Teaching, E-Learning, Agency, Mentoring

2021

Opening to the 19th century on the website,
thanks to a partnership with the Musée d'Orsay

Inauguration of the new headquarters at the Villa Vassiliev
(research center, association offices)

Janvier 2023

Creation of AWARE-USA

Mars 2023

1,000th entry on the AWARE website and announcement
of three-year financial support from the French Ministry of Culture

A Archives
W A of Women Artists
R Research
E & Exhibitions

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Practical information

Research day « The Flow of History » :
Southeast Asian Women Artists (Yogyakarta) »
Saturday 16 November 2024, 10am-5pm
Indonesian Visual Art Archive, Yogyakarta
Jalan Ireda, Dipowinatan MG I/ 188 A-B, Keparakan,
Mergangsan, Yogyakarta 55152
Free and open to public.

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