

pARTage INTERNATIONAL ARTISTS WORKSHOP IN MAURITIUS

5th -20th April 2019

“CONFLICT ZONE”

INTRODUCTION

pARTage is a registered, non-profit artists` led organization based in Mauritius.

It aims at promoting innovation and experimentation in arts among established and emerging artists in Mauritius and around the world.

This event is organized every two years where it enables artists to increase their confidence, bringing them together in workshops, conferences and other arts program.

This year the organizer has invited artists to reflect, on the topic of conflict, violence and war, source of so much pain and despair in many parts of our planet. Artists were encouraged to explore all the different connotations of conflict, their source and their consequences. And also creatively translate their ideas, concepts and emotions into art that would speak to people and inspire love, dialogue, mutual understanding and peaceful resolution of conflicts, be it personal or collective.

International artists from the USA, UK, South Africa, the Netherlands,Pakistan,India,Zambia, Madagascar,Estonia,Japan,Namibia, Australia and Seychelles worked alongside the Mauritian artists. They were encouraged to work solo or in groups.

The Seychelles delegation were represented by artists Mr Steve Marie, Mr Robert Alexis, Mr Danny Sopha and staff from the National Arts Council of Seychelles Mrs Denise Victor, Director Arts Development and Ms Juliette Micock, Senior Liaison and Communication Officer.

From the 5th to 20th April 2019, all participants had the opportunity to work and research alongside other artists working in different media. Such an environment has proven extremely inspirational, encouraging exchange of ideas between practitioners.

ACTIVITIES

Upon arriving in Mauritius, The NAC representatives met with Mr Krishna Luchoomun and all participants at the artist resident in Flic en Flac to discuss on their projects and the weekly program.

PRESENTATION BY THE SEYCHELLES TEAM

As per customary, each participated countries were given a specific day to organize a cultural soiree and present their profile based on their experience, their work and their achievements.

The Seychelles delegation presented the above on Sunday 14th April 2019.



VISIT OF WORK VENUE

Mrs Victor and Miss Micoock also visited the Flic en Flac outdoor Centre, the designated venue where all participants were working on their installations

The Seychelles artists were working as a team, focusing in creating an installation that really reflect their aspiration and expressing the theme perceive in the Seychelles context.

Through their vision they created a hands made with woods. Their ideas were based on how human being uses their hands to create conflicts.

They further explained the above, by providing the following examples;

Fighting; Fighting is one of the strategies that people use to address conflicts. A conflict is a condition in a relationship in which one or both parties don't like the way the other is being. In the end it is the hands that are being used to persuade this action.

The brain verses the hands; Conflict wreaks havoc on our *brains*, but the facts remain that it is our hands that are used to propagate conflict. Mr Sopha quote” *That for example politicians can debate on decision making in the country, nevertheless it is the hands that are being used to write and bring to a close the final decisions made*”.

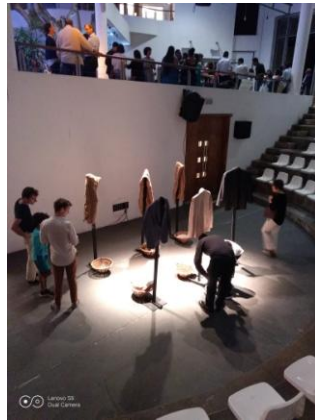


ARTS EXHIBITION

The Arts Exhibition was the product of the two weeks workshop done at the Institute Francais de Maurice in Rosehill.

The exhibition was officially opened by the French Ambassador in Mauritius. Invitees were visual artists, friends of the arts and students.





ARTS CONFERENCE

The Arts Conference was held at the Hilton Mauritius Resort and Spa. The audience comprised of students from the school of Fine Arts in Mauritius, lecturers of the arts school, established artists, press and the PArtage participants.

The Conference was presided by the following presenters;

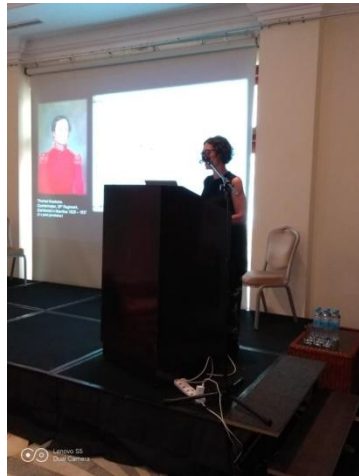
Dr Sue Kneebone from Australia ‘Ocean apart; Conflict and reconciliation at the outpost empire’

Ocean apart; Conflict and reconciliation at Outpost Empire examine conflict of colonial past. She explained that her family was migrated to Mauritius and how she did some research and visiting their grave yard.

Dr Vandika Ladkoo from Mauritius “A canvas tinged in conflicts”.

Dr Vandika argued on how the Chagosien were forced to leave their island which was later used as a US military base. Some people were sent to Mauritius, United Kingdom and the Seychelles. All their artifacts and belonging were destroyed and left on the Island when they were forced to leave. Chagosien working in the UK have low payed jobs and are being treated as refugees. She mentioned that artists have been echoing the voice of the Chagosien through different medium and activities but their voice is still unheard and

NAC intervention was to inform the audience of a typical example of how Arts can express the suffering of people in conflict. The example highlighted by Ms Micock was on the recent exhibition produced by the Theatre association of Seychelles (TAS) in collaboration with the NAC and the Chagosiens association to commemorate the world theatre day. Ms Micock informed the audience that a number of photos and artifacts about the Diego were displayed and part of a play “A dye Diego orevwar Jeline” was showcased by the association.



MEETING WITH MR BUDSHEE

Mr Budhsee is a Mauritian artist who owns the Ananta Art Gallery.

NAC representative met with him to discuss on the possibility of producing the Arts Award and Biennale trophies.



CONCLUSION

The Seychellois artists once again expressed their appreciation to NAC and pARTage for having provided them with the opportunity to participate in such platform which will certainly provide them with international exposures, making of new acquaintances and gain extensive knowledge and skills being interpreted by their peers.

During the Seychelles Soiree, some token of appreciation were presented to the pArtage organizer Mr Krishna Lunchoomun, Ms Sultana and to the past Biennale 2017 participant Mrs Pamela Sunee. Ms Micock also made a presentation on the upcoming Seychelles Biennale of Contemporary Arts due to take place in April 2020. The participants were also briefed on the objectives of organizing the events and were presented with the theme “Lost and Found”. The Biennale leaflets and promotional materials were handed to all and we gave them a brief on the logistics and requirements needed to participate in the event.

Submitted by:

Denise Victor
Director Arts Development
&
Ms Juliette Micock
Senior Liaison and Communication Officer