

Annotated List¹ of Collectives
prepared by
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A3BC

Oppression of world peace and freedom is now increasing by enforcement/capitalism/military forces.

Holding a “knife” against the world of darkness, we are carving peace and freedom! A block-print collective A3BC -Anti-War, Anti-Nuclear and Arts of Block-print Collective- has launched at Irregular Rhythm Asylum.

<https://a3bcollective.org/>

Geocinema (aka Solveig Suess & Asia Bazdyrieva)

Geocinema (aka Solveig Suess & Asia Bazdyrieva) is a collective that explores the possibilities of a “planetary” notion of cinema. The surface of the planet is documented in ever-greater detail by the increasing proliferation of images captured by individuals and technologies today, and by the collection of data on different scales. Geocinema’s research reflects both the architecture and infrastructure behind this network, which to it constitutes a decentralized moving-image apparatus. It also engages with the intersection between corporations and governments that feed into and extract from this widely dispersed network of footage. Solveig Suess is a design researcher and filmmaker based in Berlin. Asia Bazdyrieva is an art critic and art historian based in Kiev.

<https://geocinema.network/>

The Forest Curriculum

The Forest Curriculum is an itinerant and nomadic platform for interdisciplinary research and mutual co-learning. It proposes to assemble a located critique of the Anthropocene via the naturecultures of zomia, the forested belt that connects South and Southeast Asia. The Forest Curriculum works with artists, researchers, indigenous organizations and thinkers, musicians, activists. It was founded and is co-directed by curators Abhijan Toto and Pujita Guha. Abhijan Toto is an independent curator and researcher, who has previously worked with the Dhaka Art Summit, Bellas Artes Projects, Manila and Council, Paris. He is the recipient of the 2019 Lorenzo Bonaldi Prize at the GAMEC, Bergamo. Pujita Guha is currently a Ph.D student and Chancellor’s Fellow at the University of California, Santa Barbara and publishes on South and Southeast Asian cultures and ecosophical thought.

<http://theforestcurriculum.com/>

Woodcut Wavement

Woodcut Wavement is a nomadic woodcut workgroup/working method. The group members carry some of the necessary equipment to different localities, and connect with local communities to collectively make woodcut printings based on the issues they are working on, the local materials, and human power. The woodcut workshop is in collaboration with communities in different localities by the principle of mutual-aid or mutual-remuneration.

¹ The ISGS participants were invited to prepare an annotated list of collectives. Please note, this is not an exhaustive list of collectives.

Australia

The Hyperbolic Crochet Coral Reef

Spearheaded by artist and biologist Helle Jorgensen. Coral colonies are crochet from yarn they create from trash that washes up along the shoreline. Communities around the world have joined her in this work creating their own coral colonies using her method of hyperbolic crochet, a mathematically driven stitching technique. This work speaks to both human created catastrophe, but also to the power of collective creativity to regenerate ecologies.

[Trash as Treasure: Crocheting Plastic Coral Reefs | Science | Smithsonian Magazine](#)

Cambodia

Stiev Selapak

Founded in 2007 by Khvay Samnang, Lim Sokchanlina and Vuth Lyno, as a continuation of the White Building's modernist artistic struggle against Pol Pot, interested in both artistic mediums as well as knowledge sharing. They run Sa Sa Art Gallery and offer residencies to connect local young artists to global arts and expand international connections with Cambodia. In addition to creating resources for artists, they attend to their local community as well through online archives and databases to capture the history of their neighborhood.

[Rebels at Heart \(luxuo.com\)](#).

Indonesia

Irwan Ahmett and Tita Salina are an artist duo from Jakarta, Indonesia. Working together since 2010, their tactical interventionist approach is developed in response to their experience of living in Jakarta, a megacity of 15 million people fraught with political power struggles. *The Ring of Fire (2014–ongoing)* brings together for the first time the most significant works realised by the artists, either together or individually, since the inception of the project. In geography, The Ring of Fire denotes the volcanic belt and the collision zone of tectonic plates running around the edges of the Pacific Ocean, a deadly area where the majority of the world's earthquakes and eruptions occur. Evoking the invisible geological kinships that flow under the oceans and lay deep in the earth's crust, this geologically unstable territory demarcates a field of artist inquiry for the issues of social injustice, political struggles, colonial histories, and environmental crises encountered along erratic routes that stretch from Indonesia to New Zealand, from Taiwan and South Korea to Japan.

Lembaga Kebudayaan Rakyat or LEKRA or Institute for the People's Culture

A collective of musicians, writers, artists and revolutionaries socialist realism and uniting the Indonesian people and politics in democracy. They gained enough strength to become a political organization and people's movement. Suharto's 1965 30 September movement coup viciously suppressed this collective.

[A Brief History of Artist Collectives in Southeast Asia \(luxuo.com\)](#)

Marjinal

Marjinal are a punk band based in Srengsengsawah on the outskirts of Jakarta. Formed in 1997, for the past 19 years they have created a uniquely Indonesian brand of punk, combining music, art and activism. Building a large and enthusiastic following and networks of like-minded punks, Marjinal have stayed committed to the punk ethic of 'Do It Yourself', avoiding the traps and temptations of

commercialism and encouraging others to create and distribute their own music and art through free ukulele, silk-screening and woodcut workshops.

Serrum Studio

Serrum Studio is a Jakarta-based art collective that introduces the notion of collective as a school in order to address educational issues related to the effectiveness and quality of knowledge sharing. The name of the collective “Serrum” derives from the pronunciation of “share” and “room” meaning a sharing space. Founded by a group of fine arts graduates at Jakarta State University in 2006. Driven by research and collaboration, they aim to engage with members of the public through a range of participatory and activation events in the form of such as exhibitions, workshops, discussions, installations, urban interventions as well as comic books and graphic narratives.

<https://serrum.id>

The New Art Movement

Formed in 1974 as a new mode of making outside of institutionalized art. Their manifesto asked for a redefinition of fine art, arguing for a postmodern approach inseparable from social criticism, pushing mediums of performance and installation rather than resting on classical art forms.

[A Brief History of Artist Collectives in Southeast Asia \(luxuo.com\)](#)

Taring Padi

Taring Padi is an art collective based in Yogyakarta Indonesia that uses art as a tool for political expression and education for all.

Taring Padi (TP) proclaimed its existence in the political-cultural realm of Yogyakarta, declaring and announcing its mission statement (Preamble) and the “Five Evils of Culture” at the Yogyakarta LBH office on December 21, 1998. As a progressive cultural organization, Taring Padi outlined its mission to revive “People’s Culture,” and to advocate and strategize for a united front supporting democratic and popular change in Indonesia. Taring Padi’s statement was signed by a group of cultural activists, students, artists, and self-taught artists.

<https://www.taringpadi.com/?lang=en>

The PERSAGI, Persatuan Ahli-Ahli Gambar Indonesia, or Union of Indonesian Painters

Established in 1938 with the goal of depicting local people and their viewpoints, in stark contrast to a setting of colonialism. It’s best known artist, S. Sudjojono, is recognized as sparking a whole movement of modern art in Indonesia as focused on its people, glorifying their history, and their struggle for freedom.

Japan

Ogawa Pro

Founded in the late ‘60s by Japanese documentary filmmaker Ogawa Shinsuke. The group collectively documented postwar student struggles and the Sanrizuka protests, most notably with the film, “Narita: Peasants of the Second Fortress”, which captures the local people fighting to prevent the erasure of their homeland, by the construction of the Narita airport. They aimed for independent and collective decision making, finding new models for making and funding work, and creating alternative venues to connect with new audiences.

<https://archive.ica.art/whats-on/season/ogawa-shinsuke-and-ogawa-pro-collective-filmmaking-and-culture-dissidence>

Singapore

Film Community SG

An online collective for Singaporean independent filmmakers to share opportunities and ask for help. Founding member, and acclaimed documentary maker Tan Pin Pin, has worked collectively for film advocacy and screening rights. Her film, "To Singapore with Love" was denied rating by the Media Development Authority, effectively banning it from screening in Singapore. She was on a team that lobbied the Singapore Film Commission to include documentaries and films with artistic and cultural merit in the New Talent Feature Grant Scheme.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/425224300844035>

<https://sg.news.yahoo.com/singapore-director-tan-pin-pin--disappointed--over-film-ban-120910886.html>

OrangLautSG

A project of archive and food sharing by the last residents of Pulau Semakau, an island that is now Singapore's landfill hinterland. They work to preserve indigenous way of life, food history, family history, and documents of the island in its previous form through events and cooking traditional meals. They have been relocated to the city and moved into government housing called HDB to live a very different life.

[The Story of Semakau - Orang Laut](#)

The Migrant Ecologies Project

Founded by Lucy Davis, who was also a founding member of the School of Art Design and Media, at Nanyang Technical University, The Migrant Ecologies Project works to facilitate transdisciplinary collaboration on "art ecology and more than human connections". Works look into migration and memory, by studying plants and animals, and art and visual culture, in primarily Southeast Asia. Their "Stories of Wood" uses art, objects, and oral histories to tell of the rapid shift of landscape, in conjunction with how we live in it. Their "*if your bait can sing the wild one will come*" Like Shadows Through Leaves", on Tanglin Halt, one of Singapore's oldest social housing estates, now undergoing redevelopment, and it won the International Federation of Film Critics Award, at Oberhausen International Short Film Festival.

[About - The Migrant Ecologies Project](#)

The Artists Village

Rooted in performance and new media, with the intention to "foster and develop an increased consciousness of the importance of the arts" and "their contribution to the Singaporean society". The Artists Village was founded by Teng da Woo, in 1988 as a way to reclaim local identity and culture in response to the rapid development and economic growth of that time, as well as a separation from postcolonial histories.

[A Brief History of Artist Collectives in Southeast Asia \(luxuo.com\)](#)

Malaysia

Five Arts Centre

Five Arts Centre is a dynamic collective of Malaysian artists, activists, and producers, dedicated to generating alternative art forms and images in the contemporary arts landscape. It is well-known for cutting edge performances in theatre, dance, music, and young people's theatre, and incorporates

aspects of the visual and digital arts as well. The collective has performed and presented its work across Southeast Asia, as well as in Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong, India, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Greece, Portugal, Switzerland, Austria, Germany, Belgium, Finland, United Kingdom, Canada, and Australia.

<https://www.fiveartscentre.org>

Mexico

Buñuelos Community Creativa

A creative community founded in shared stories, giving voices to those that have been omitted, and working with a human, political, and ecological understanding of the current social crisis. Much of their work focuses on injustice in Mexico, as well as indigenous rights. They work in the mediums of film and audiovisual essay, podcast, and curate TXT a publication for writing and art production, and have a relationship with FICUNAM, an annual film festival organized by the National Autonomous University of Mexico. [Home - Buñuelos Comunidad Creativa \(bunuelos.com.mx\)](http://bunuelos.com.mx)

Colectivo los Ingrávidos [The Weightless Collective]

Formed in 2012, they produce short films and poetry collections in radical opposition to commercial filmmaking taking on issues of violence, femicide, migration, and resistance, often merging manipulations of found footage, current histories, and abstract imagery in a retelling of both the past and the future. Their work has shown at the Whitney Biennale

[Colectivo Los Ingrávidos - Terremoto](#)

Sociedad de Carne y Hueso

A performance community focused on reinterpreting Japanese Butoh, the dance of darkness, founded by Aura Arreola. They create embodied experiences by way of immersive performative experiences concerned with movement, sensory, memory, and imagination. [Manifiesto | Sociedad de Carne y Hueso](#)

Myanmar

Thuma Collective

Thuma Collective is a collective set up by a group of female photographers in Myanmar in 2017 with a goal to tackle the under-representation of women in photography. As the only female photographers' group in Myanmar, it plays a significant role in creating a safe space for them to share resources and provide mutual support to one another. By building a supportive and learning community, it not only increases visibility of Myanmar's female photographers' work in international festivals and markets, but also actively challenges gender stereotypes and inequality through visual storytelling.

<https://www.facebook.com/thumacollective/>

The Philippines

Pineapple Lab

Pineapple Lab, located in a historic neighborhood of Barangay Poblacion in Makati City, is a creative hub for performance and art exhibitions. Since its establishment in 2015, it has collaborated with many acclaimed artists to produce the Fringe Manila with a key focus on vulnerable and marginalised people in the society, in particular the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBTQ) communities. Underpinned by the values of openness, selflessness, and honesty, it not only offers a safe space for

self-expression and artistic experimentation for LGBTQs, but also makes their work more accessible to a wider audience.

<https://www.facebook.com/pineapplelabph/>

Green Papaya Art Projects

Green Papaya Art Projects is an independent initiative that supports and organises actions and propositions that explore tactical approaches to the production, dissemination, research and presentation of contemporary practices in varied artistic and scholarly fields. It endeavours to provide a platform for intellectual exchange, sharing of information, critical dialogue and creative / practical collaboration among the artistic community. Founded in 2000, it is the longest running independently run multidisciplinary platform in the Philippines.

<https://greenpapaya.art/>

United States

Extraction: Art on the Edge of the Abyss (USA)

Non-hierarchical and self-organized borderless collective intervention on art, history, and the environment “which seeks to provoke societal change by exposing and interrogating the negative social and environmental consequences of industrialized natural resource extraction” organized by the Codex Foundation.

[About — Extraction: Art on the Edge of the Abyss \(extractionart.org\)](https://extractionart.org/)