

# Discover the Vibrant World of Urban Art at S'ART Urban Art Festival in Battambang

by [SOTHEAVY \(HTTPS://WHENINPHNOMPENH.COM/AUTHOR/SOTHEAVY/\)](https://wheninphnompenh.com/author/sotheavy/)

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Start of the S'Art Urban Art Festival in Battambang (Photo by: Osman Khawaja)

Enter the quaint town of Cambodia's Battambang for a thrilling journey through the vibrant and captivating world of urban art during the S'ART Urban Art Festival this week! From June 12 to 17, this annual event, now in its 3rd year, promises an exhilarating showcase of local and international artistic talent.

Immerse yourself in a week-long celebration of painting, sculpture, photography, music, dance, and theater. Get ready to explore the cultural diversity and creativity of Battambang, a city steeped in rich history and Khmer heritage. Join thousands of visitors who flock to this festival each year, and prepare for an experience like no other! The S'Art Festival in Battambang is a celebration of art and culture that attracts thousands of visitors every year.

Giant Puppet at the parade in the S'Art Urban Art Festival last year (Photo Supplied).

The cultural troupe Phare Ponleu Selpak (Brightness of the Arts) will join to help celebrate the 3rd annual S'Art Urban Art Festival.

The festival originally began on the initiative of Brightness of the Arts and Battambang province in 2018. After an absence due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the festival is returning with a full week of art workshops and exhibitions and will conclude with a big concert and parade of art and giant puppets.

Start of the S'Art Urban Art Festival in Battambang (Photo by: Osman Khawaja)

### **Immersive Art**

For six extraordinary days, Battambang will burst to life as a vibrant canvas for artistic expression. The festival's dynamic program boasts an impressive array of urban art styles, ranging from eye-catching graffiti and mesmerizing street art to larger-than-life murals. As you stroll through the streets, prepare to be spellbound by live painting demonstrations and interactive art installations that will captivate your senses. Renowned urban artists from Cambodia, as well as neighboring countries such as Vietnam, Thailand, Laos, Indonesia, and Malaysia, will showcase their incredible talent and innovative techniques.

Hip Hop Dance Workshop and Dance Battle at the S'Art Urban Art Festival (Photo by: Juliette

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## The Creative Spirit

The S'ART Urban Art Festival offers much more than visual delights; it aims to ignite a deeper connection between artists and visitors. Join interactive workshops and artist talks, where you can delve into the world of contemporary art, crafts, animations, and even hip-hop and break dance workshops complete with dance battles. Witness captivating mural paintings by renowned artists and be amazed by the energy and creativity of the competitive graffiti battle. Don't miss the famous Giant Puppet parade, featuring workshops and an enchanting parade on the festival's final day. Whether you're an aspiring artist or simply curious about urban art, these interactive sessions will awaken your creativity and leave you feeling inspired.

Giant Puppet Workshop at the S'Art Urban Art Festival (Photo by: Juliette Deloron)

## Embracing Heritage

At the heart of the S'ART Urban Art Festival is a celebration of Battambang's shared cultural heritage. By intertwining art and culture, the event promotes peace and understanding among diverse communities. RY Monisovanya (Fia), a Phare Ponleu Selpak graduate and festival coordinator, highlights the festival's role in showcasing the richness and diversity of urban culture. Beyond showcasing captivating artwork, the festival fosters a sense of community and inspires creativity among residents and visitors alike.

## Artful Collaboration

The S'ART Urban Art Festival is the result of a remarkable collaboration between local businesses, community organizations, and artists. With the invaluable support of the Battambang Governor's Office, the Tourism Department, and the Culture Department, the festival has soared to new heights. This year, the festival proudly partners with the Murals for Cambodia Festival and The Giant Puppet Project, enhancing the artistic experience for all attendees. International and local sponsors have united in their commitment to promoting Battambang's cultural identity and cultivating a thriving urban art scene.

Phare Ponleu Selpak at the S'Art Urban Art Festival (Photo by: Juliette Deloron)

