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S'Art Festival Brings Urban Arts to Life in Battambang

The biennial festival made a smashing, post-pandemic comeback in the arts and culture capital of Cambodia

BATTAMBANG, Cambodia—Phare Ponleu Selpak announced today the remarkable success of [the S'Art Urban Arts Festival](#) hosted from 12 to 17 June throughout the city, drawing in over 7700 attendees across all activities who hailed from around Cambodia and across Asia.

After the cancelation of the 2021 edition of the festival due to the pandemic, the S'Art Festival returned to Battambang after a four-year hiatus to introduce and celebrate urban art forms such as graffiti, street sculpture, mural painting, digital art, hip-hop music and breakdancing. The six-day festival featured artists, panelists, and performers from a wide range of countries, including Taiwan, Cambodia, Vietnam, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, France, Canada, and more.

Attendees and tourists came in from across Cambodia, wider Southeast Asia, and as far away as Europe just for the S'Art Festival. The week was capped off with an art parade through the old city of Battambang including giant puppets made by students during the week and a grand finale concert featuring musicians Vanthan, Sang Sokseray, Buubee, Nunkay and others.

“The success of the S'Art Urban Arts Festival shows that Battambang can rightfully claim its status as the arts and cultural hub of Cambodia,” said Osman KHAWAJA, Executive Director of [Phare Ponleu Selpak](#). “Battambang is a city where visitors can travel to experience cultural events and meet artists and musicians, and S'Art is a great example of that dynamic in action.”

Phare Ponleu Selpak served as the main organizer of the S'Art Urban Arts Festival, working alongside two key artistic partners: [Murals for Cambodia](#), a project of FT Gallery and Studio

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in Phnom Penh, and the [Giant Puppet Project](#) based in Siem Reap. Other important partners included [UNESCO](#), the [Battambang provincial government](#) and [iDEN agency](#), as the festival's media partner.

"We created and organized this festival to show off the diversity and potential of the urban arts in Cambodia," said RY Monisovanya "Fia," the Festival Coordinator for the S'Art Urban Arts Festival. "Thank you to everyone who performed, painted, presented, and participated. We were delighted to have you, and your energy made this festival come alive."

Other notable events at the S'Art Festival included:

- A UNESCO panel on understanding shared cultural heritage across the Mekong region, with panelists from Cambodia, Thailand, and Japan
- Art workshops led by a postgraduate delegation of MA Arts Pedagogy and Practice students from [LASALLE College of the Arts](#) in Singapore covering zine design, blind automatic drawing, augmented reality art, and teaching the arts
- Pop-up art exhibits featuring both Khmer and international artists
- Special talks on Battambang heritage arts, including pagoda architecture and billboard painting
- A panel discussion on Khmer contemporary arts, featuring a diverse array of Cambodian artists and performers
- Craft workshops on sticker animation, lantern painting, making maracas, and blow painting
- Hip-hop dance workshops for both beginners and experts
- Other artist talks and workshops on digital art, fabric design, cyanotype prints, and building cultural unity through AI art
- "Art After Dark" street parties with breakdancing, street jams, henna booths, portrait drawing, street sculpture, and digital art projections

Tiger Beer and the Swiss Foundation for Solidarity in Tourism (SST) served as the keystone sponsors of the S'Art Urban Arts Festival. Other major sponsors included Sabrina Group / Choice Accelerator, Total Energies, Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF), and Ever Asia. Many local Battambang businesses, despite having gone through difficult times, also stepped up to support the festival in whichever capacity they could whether by providing accommodation, venue space, or food and drinks for the festival artists.

The next edition of the S'Art Urban Arts Festival is planned for 2025, as the festival alternates with [Tini Tinou International Circus Festival](#) on a biennial basis.

[Photos, videos, and brochure \(EN, KH\) of the S'Art Urban Arts Festival can be accessed here.](#)

About Phare Ponleu Selpak

[Phare Ponleu Selpak](#) (PPS) – meaning the Brightness of the Arts – is a non-profit arts school that empowers children, youth and their communities. Inspired by drawing workshops at the Site 2 refugee camp along the Thai-Cambodia border, nine evacuee students founded Phare Ponleu Selpak in 1994 on the outskirts of Battambang, Cambodia. Today, more than 800 students participate in a multitude of daily artistic and cultural activities on the PPS

—campus free of charge. Classes and workshops include music, dance, visual arts, theatre,

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circus, animation, graphic design and illustration. PPS changes lives through the arts by giving students the opportunities to become professional and self-sufficient artists and performers.

More resources on Phare Ponleu Selpak:

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- [Follow Phare on Facebook](#)
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មហាសាស្ត្រសិល្បៈទីក្រុងសាតបាននាំចូសិល្បៈទីក្រុងភូមិខេត្តបាត់ដំបងកាន់ពេមានភាពរស់រវិក

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“ព្រៃយើងបានដឹក និងរៀបចំលោកស្រាវជ្រាវដើម្បីចែងបង្ហាញអំពីភាពច្បាស់និងសារ៖សំខាន់នៅសិរី: ទីត្រូវក្រោមប្រពេសកម្ពុជា” សម្បូរបស់ កញ្ញា វិមុនិសុរណូយ៉ា ហើយ “បីយ៉ា” អូគសម្របសម្រួលបាលសំមេហោស្រាវជ្រាវ: ទីបានការការ “សម្រាប់គណៈបំអ្នកទាំងអស់គ្នា ដែលបានចូលរួមម៉ោង ជាកំពាតីលើគីឡូវីយោ ធ្វើបរបាយការ និង

ចូលរួមក្នុងសកម្មភាពដោយបង្កើតពិភាក្សាបានក្នុងក្រុមហ៊ុនដែលមានអ្នក និងកម្មវិធីទៅការចូលរួមបែងអ្នកទាំងអស់គ្នាដែលព្យាយាយព្រមទាំងបានជិតជិកជិក” ។

ព្រឹកិការណ៍ដែលគ្នាយុកគំសម្ងាត់ដៃខែឆ្នាំនៅក្នុងមហាផ្លែងសិល្បៈរូមមាន៖

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នឹងបានរៀបចំឡើងរៀងរាល់ពីរថ្ងៃចាប់ពី

ផ្សេង់គ្របការ វិដែន និង ក្នុងសៀវភៅព័ត៌មានជាការណា (អង់គ្លេស និងខ្មែរ) នៃបញ្ហាស្របសិល្បៈទីក្រុងស្ថាត នៅខេត្តទេ។

អំពីហារពានីសិល្បោះ

ហ្មារភ្លើសិល្បៈ: Phare Ponleu Selpak (PPS) –គីឡូសាលាសិល្បៈ មិនត្រូវក្របាញ់ចំណោមទៅការ ខ័ណ្ឌបាត់ដែប ដែងបានផ្តល់ការគ្រប់គ្រងលក្ខមាន យុវរដ្ឋន៍ និងសហគមន៍តាមរយៈ សិល្បៈ ការអប់រំ និង កម្ពុជាតិ របច្ឆោះការការងារសហគមន៍។

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Le festival S'Art donne vie aux arts urbains à Battambang

Le festival bisannuel a fait un retour fracassant, après la pandémie, dans la capitale artistique et culturelle du Cambodge.

BATTAMBANG, Cambodge - Phare Ponleu Selpak a annoncé aujourd'hui le succès remarquable du "[S'Art Urban Arts Festival](#)" qui s'est déroulé du 12 au 17 juin dans toute la ville, attirant plus de 7 700 participants venus du Cambodge et de toute l'Asie, toutes activités confondues.

Après l'annulation de l'édition 2021 du festival du fait de la pandémie, le S'Art Festival est revenu à Battambang après une interruption de quatre ans pour présenter et célébrer les formes d'art urbain telles que le graffiti, la sculpture de rue, les fresques murales, l'art numérique, la musique hip-hop et le breakdancing. Ce festival de six jours a rassemblé des artistes, des panélistes et des créateurs venus d'un large éventail de pays, dont Taïwan, le Cambodge, le Vietnam, la Malaisie, la Thaïlande, l'Indonésie, la France, le Canada et bien d'autres encore.

Les participants et les touristes sont venus de tout le Cambodge, de toute l'Asie du Sud-Est et d'aussi loin que l'Europe pour assister au festival S'Art. La semaine s'est achevée par un défilé artistique dans la vieille ville de Battambang, avec des marionnettes géantes fabriquées par les étudiants au cours de la semaine, et un grand concert final réunissant les musiciens Vanthan, Sang Sokseray, Buubee, Nunkay et d'autres.

"Le succès du "S'Art Urban Arts Festival" montre que Battambang peut légitimement revendiquer son statut de centre artistique et culturel du Cambodge", a déclaré Osman KHAWAJA, directeur exécutif de [Phare Ponleu Selpak](#). "Battambang est une ville où les visiteurs peuvent se rendre pour assister à des événements culturels et rencontrer des artistes et des musiciens, et S'Art est un excellent exemple de cette dynamique en action."

Phare Ponleu Selpak a été le principal organisateur du "S'Art Urban Arts Festival", en collaboration avec deux partenaires artistiques clés : [Murals for Cambodia](#), un projet de la [FT Gallery and Studio](#) à Phnom Penh, et le [Giant Puppet Project](#) basé à Siem Reap. Parmi

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les autres partenaires importants figurent le [gouvernement provincial de Battambang](#) et [l'agence iDEN](#), partenaire média du festival.

"Nous avons créé et organisé ce festival pour montrer la diversité et le potentiel des arts urbains au Cambodge", a déclaré RY Monisovanya "Fia", coordinatrice du "S'Art Urban Arts Festival". "Merci à tous ceux qui ont joué, peint, présenté et participé. Nous avons été ravis de vous accueillir et votre énergie a donné vie à ce festival".

Parmi les autres événements notables du festival S'Art, on peut citer :

- une table ronde de l'UNESCO sur la compréhension du patrimoine culturel partagé dans la région du Mékong, avec des intervenants du Cambodge, de la Thaïlande et du Japon
- des ateliers artistiques animés par une délégation d'étudiants en master de pédagogie et de pratique artistiques du [LASALLE College of the Arts](#) de Singapour, portant sur la conception de zines, le dessin automatique à l'aveugle, l'art de la réalité augmentée et l'enseignement de l'art
- des expositions temporaires d'œuvres d'art présentant des artistes khmers et internationaux
- des conférences spéciales sur les arts du patrimoine de Battambang, notamment l'architecture des pagodes et la peinture des panneaux d'affichage
- une table ronde sur les arts contemporains khmers, avec un large éventail d'artistes et d'interprètes cambodgiens
- des ateliers d'artisanat sur l'animation d'autocollants, la peinture de lanternes, la fabrication de maracas et la peinture soufflée
- des ateliers de danse hip-hop pour les débutants et les experts
- Autres conférences et ateliers d'artistes sur l'art numérique, la peinture sur tissu, les impressions au cyanotype et la construction d'une unité culturelle grâce à l'art de l'intelligence artificielle
- Fêtes de rue "Art After Dark" avec du breakdance, des "street jams", des stands de henné, du dessin de portrait, de la sculpture de rue et des projections d'art numérique

Tiger Beer et la Swiss Foundation for Solidarity in Tourism (SST) ont été les principaux sponsors du "S'Art Urban Arts Festival". Parmi les autres sponsors importants, citons le Groupe Sabrina / Choice Accelerator, Total Energies, l'Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) et Ever Asia. De nombreuses entreprises locales de Battambang, bien qu'elles aient connu des temps difficiles, se sont également mobilisées pour soutenir le festival dans la mesure de leurs moyens, que ce soit en fournissant un hébergement, un espace ou de la nourriture et des boissons pour les artistes du festival.

La prochaine édition du "S'Art Urban Arts Festival" est prévue pour 2025, le festival alternant avec le ["Tini Tinou International Circus Festival"](#) sur une base bisannuel.

[Des photos, des vidéos et des textes \(EN, KH\) du "S'Art Urban Arts Festival" sont disponibles ici.](#)

À propos de Phare Ponleu Selpak

Phare Ponleu Selpak (PPS) - qui signifie la lumière des arts - est une école d'art à but non lucratif qui renforce l'autonomie des enfants, des jeunes et de leurs communautés. Inspirés par les ateliers de dessin du camp de réfugiés Site 2, situé le long de la frontière entre la Thaïlande et le Cambodge, neuf étudiants évacués ont fondé Phare Ponleu Selpak en 1994 dans la banlieue de Battambang, au Cambodge. Aujourd'hui, plus de 800 étudiants participent gratuitement à une multitude d'activités artistiques et culturelles quotidiennes sur le campus de PPS. Les cours et les ateliers comprennent la musique, la danse, les arts visuels, le théâtre, le cirque, l'animation, le graphisme et l'illustration. PPS change des vies grâce aux arts en donnant aux étudiants la possibilité de devenir des artistes et des interprètes professionnels et autonomes.

Plus de ressources sur Phare Ponleu Selpak :

- Allez jeter un oeil à phareps.org
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- [Abonnez-vous à la chaîne YouTube de Phare](#)
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