

PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

OUR CITY FESTIVAL 2011

8-18 SEPT | PHNOM PENH CAMBODIA

www.ourcityfestival.org

LAUNCH OF THE FESTIVAL – STREET PARTY – 8 SEPT FROM 6PM – JAVA CAFÉ & GALLERY – FREE DRINKS & FOOD – 2 EXHIBITION OPENINGS – MOBILE GARDENS LAUNCH - AND LIVE ART PERFORMANCE BY TOR VUTHA!

To kick-off on September 8 we're holding a street party and everyone's welcome to join in the fun at Java Café & Gallery (56 Sihanouk Blvd).

On opening day discover Meas Sokhorn's reclamation of urban space around the city so people don't forget about the need for art and Christian Thompson's *Australian Graffiti*, which adds an international voice to the festival, reflecting on complexities of identity and place. At about the same time mobile gardens will bring unexpected vibrancy and colour to the city's streets, alleys and grey urban spaces. The festival launch and exhibition openings will be accompanied by an art performance by Tor Vutha and musicians from Phare Ponleu Selpak.

As an educational accompaniment to the gardens, copies of Art, Place and People – which includes a map, an artistic book by Chan Pisey, postcards by Kong Vollaek and Loeum Lorn plus a packet of seeds that can be planted in the mobile gardens – will be given away free across the city.

Over 10 event-filled days, the city itself will be a vibrant backdrop to events, exhibitions, performances, talks and tours.

The festival publication provides a guide to the events including the Open Doors free tuk-tuk service that will transport people on a sightseeing tour of the capital's public and private buildings that, through conceptual design, express how a space can be transformed through time and use.

Films at Meta House, live performance art at Kandal Market, a moneyless Flea Market of Memories at Mith Samlanh near the National Museum, the premiere of The Lives of Giants performed by the Khmer Arts Ensemble at its theatre in Takhmao, an artistic expression of the evolution of our city over 30-40 years, plus the Festival Lounge in Tepui, the restaurant at the Chinese House on Sisowath Quay, and a free tour of the festival sites aboard the Kingdom Breweries tour bus.

To round off the 10-day experience, Manolis and Meta House will stage an open forum on Sunday evening with presentations, shorts and video installations plus a debate, involving the Our City participants and artists to reflect on how contemporary arts, the urban sector, and citizens of Phnom Penh engage in the development of the city.

A full itinerary of events and details about participants can be downloaded from www.ourcityfestival.org/contact.html or contact:

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