



ACM: One Decade Down

Arts Council of Mongolia kicks off their tenth year with style!

Jessica Lumb

On March 14, there was a buzz of excitement at the Zanabazar Fine Arts Museum in Ulaanbaatar as ACM announced plans for their 10th anniversary celebration. Representatives from media organizations filled the second floor for the press conference to hear from ACM staff, board and donors as they talked about the year ahead.

Established in 2002 by Mongolian arts, civic and business leaders, with the support of the Mongolian Foundation for Open Society (Soros Foundation), ACM's mission is to support the sustainable development of Mongolian arts and culture and the preservation of cultural heritage.

For the past 10 years of operation, it has established a strong and visible governance structure, and has achieved significant program and fundraising successes. By December 2011, ACM had raised \$3,500,000 in cash since its establishment, implemented 210 projects, involved 2,467 artists and cultural workers, 3,161 arts and cultural & educational organizations, 25,574 children and youth, 88,806 audience and partnered with 165 local & international organizations. During this time it also expanded the geography of its cultural partnerships to form international ties with similar organizations in Central Asia, North America, South East Asia, Japan and Korea.

The big announcement revealed a series of launches and events that will be held to commemorate 10 years of creative partnership; promote artistic excellence; preserve Mongolian cultural heritage; build creative youth and children; and bring arts to the public. Beginning in March, and happening all the way through the year, these events will be supported by newly created partnerships with local and international organizations.

The program started with "From the heart..." a contemporary visual art exhibition by J.Munkhtsetseg, which was supported by Tseren Tours LLC, and ran from March 14 to 28. The remaining events will include an exciting mix of heritage, education, theatre, dance, film and visual arts events:

- "Bringing the arts to you" fundraising event to support student of Music & Dance College, April 2012
- "Museum in a box" heritage education project supported by XAC Bank, Zanadu Mines and ACM-US, April-November 2012
- "The Betrothed" Italian theatrical performance supported by Aijigana Group, May 9, 2012
- "Arts Journalism" training supported by the US Embassy, May 2012
- "Culture Naadam" festival supported by Ministry of Education, Culture and Science and co-organized by META LLC, Korea & Mongolian University of Arts and Culture, July 11-12, 2012
- "Arts Leadership" programs supported by ACM-US and Norway Embassy in Beijing, March-July 2012
- "Margaret Mead" international documentary film festival supported by Open Society Foundations, September 2012
- "Time and space" Mongolian Korean nomadic arts residency program supported by Arts Council Korea, September 2012
- "Mongolian modern dance performance supported by Energy Resources LLC, October 2012
- "International modern dance performance supported by Monre Impex LLC, October 2012
- "Tour of "Arga Bileg" ethno jazz band to the USA, October 2012



10th Anniversary festivities for the Arts Council of Mongolia



Ribbon cutting for J.Munkhtsetseg's exhibit



Sculptures by J.Munkhtsetseg



Artist J.Munkhtsetseg explains her work



Visitors peruse the gallery's artworks

"Amarbayasgalant Monastery preservation" project closing ceremony supported by US Embassy, November 2012

The year will end with a "10 years of creative partnership" ACM 10th anniversary party at iLoft Function House on November 30, where ACM will present five prestigious Arts for Development Awards to nominees who have made exceptional contributions to the artistic and cultural development of Mongolia over the past ten years.

The opening event for "From the heart..." occurred immediately following the press conference and the throng of reporters moved downstairs to mix with the supporters who had come along to celebrate visual artist Munkhtsetseg's achievements. The exhibition brought together 5 works on paper, 16 paintings and 9 bronze sculptures, which filled both the Red Ger and Green Horse Galleries.

People stood shoulder to shoulder as a brief ceremony opened the exhibition, before wine and food was served and they were encouraged to

spend some time experiencing the works first hand. Comments from the crowd, who didn't want to miss out on a rare opportunity to see the work of one of Mongolia's most recognized artists, were full of praise. Discussions surrounded the honesty that was portrayed, the beauty of individual works and the overall presentation in the gallery space.

"Not for a long time have I felt so touched by an exhibition," said one visitor from Australia. "Being here is like meditating," said another, "I feel like I know the artist without ever having met her".

A decade can seem a long time and there is always a chance that the shine will wear off anything that lasts that long. Not so for the Arts Council of Mongolia however, who still have a twinkle in their eye and a spring in their step as they continually find new and exciting ways to support the sustainable development of Mongolian arts and Culture.

May the next 10 years be just as successful!

The lawyer's advice



Hanns Seidel Foundation

In cooperation with Hanns Seidel-Foundation Project Mongolia and its "Legal Education" Academy

-If someone sells one piece of property to several persons, who has the right to get the property?

-If a seller sold one property to several buyers, then the buyer who was first to receive the property in his/her possession shall have the prevailing right to get the property definitely into his/her possession. If the property has not yet been transferred to any of the buyers, the one who first concludes the contract with the seller shall have the prevailing right to the property.

-I work at a company as a cashier. Two months ago, our chief accountant cashed-out Tgs 400,000 through my service saying that he needed to buy copy paper. Soon after this, he left the company at his own request. I saw him and asked to return the money he had taken. He brought some papers he had bought, but these papers did not meet quality requirements. When our director learned of this issue, he requested me to pay that sum of money taken from treasury. He considers that I let out money at my discretion while there was no right granted to me to dispose of money. Can I go to court? Where do I make application to resolve this problem quickly?

-In this situation, there are some grounds to think that you are guilty. As a cashier, you are allowed to give cash out only after entering expenses in the ledger book, the first and second signatures received on the relevant document. Although a cashier in any organization should be subordinated by an accountant, you must be careful about strictly observing established financial rules. You have the right to sue your accountant and submit a claim to the court. However, it is not clear from the above account what claiming grounds you can formulate. Therefore, if you want to go to court, you should get a defence lawyer and work out all the details about your claim with him/her.

-We have seen various meetings and demonstrations held in recent years. Particularly, demonstrations were multiplied on Sukhbaatar Square. Moreover, assaults to the Government Palace occurred. Can anyone organize a demonstration on Sukhbaatar Square? Recently, on the occasion of the Anniversary of the Constitution, statesmen held a wreath-laying ceremony on one side of Sukhbaatar Square while some people made their demonstration on other side of the square. Can you please give us some explanations about legal aspects of this situation?

-Article 7 of the Law on Regulation for Meetings and Demonstrations indicates the sites prohibited for meetings and demonstrations. For instance, it is prohibited to hold demonstrations and meetings on Sukhbaatar Square. This law provides that any political party or public organization shall be fined Tgs100,000 to 250,000 if they organize meetings or demonstrations at places prohibited by law, or organize unauthorized demonstrations or meetings, or organize them without obtaining authorization, or organize meetings or demonstrations prohibited in Paragraph 1, Article 8 of this law by altering the purpose of their meetings or demonstrations.

-What can I do if it is too hard to repay a loan with very high interest?

-If the interest rate was set in the amount obviously damaging the right and legitimate interests of the borrower, the borrower may submit his/her request to the courts to reduce the loan's interest rate.

Address : Sukhbaatar District, Khoroov 6, Sakhbaatar Street 11-2.

Office of the Legal Education Academy (inside the court of the Children's Art Center, in the right side) Tel : 321294