

ARTS COUNCIL OF MONGOLIA



Lost and Found in the Gobi

By Jessica Lumb

As a part of their 10th Anniversary celebrations, the Arts Council of Mongolia (ACM) is getting Lost (and then Found) in the Gobi.

In a world of internet, Facebook, smart phones and 24/7 news channels, there are fewer and fewer places left on the planet which allow us to switch off completely. The Gobi region however, is one such place where falling off the radar and being enveloped by the vastness of the world is a real possibility.

With this idea in mind, ACM initiated a residency project designed to support innovation, experimentation and creativity of Mongolian artists and increase their contribution to the development of human and rural areas. S.Sarantsatsral (State Laureate Artist); D.Enkhgerel (choreographer

and dancer of Ulaanbaatar Ensemble); D.Dorjderem (Artist); A.Amarand (journalist of "Goo Dali" Magazine); J.Batzaya (Musician of Morin Khuur Ensemble); Ts.Khulan (Jazz singer) from Ulaanbaatar and B.Galindev (Long song singer of Dundgobi province) from Dundgobi province will work together to produce an art group based fusion performance mixing traditional and modern art under the theme of 'Lost & Found'. As a collaboration including local artists and people at Gobi attractions, it will maintain exchanges and contribute toward a more intensive collaboration among freelance artists of the two provinces.

The main message expressed throughout the project is the loss of contact that human beings have with nature. Ever since we were created in the universe, we have slowly become more and

more urbanized – to the point in fact that many believe we have lost our inner consciousness and ability to interact with nature at all. Have we lost the natural consciousness of our life? When do you last remember spending time with no other purpose than to connect with what was around you?

As separated and as lost as we appear to be, the good thing is that there are always opportunities to be found again. In an effort to achieve this, the group of artists will spend time in the pristine environment of the Gobi, allowing them the chance to look into and listen to their inner conscience, reacting and interacting with the nature that surrounds them. These responses will be presented in their combined final performances.

Travelling and working together from the 3rd of June, the final performance will be presented on two occasions. The first on June 7th, will be at

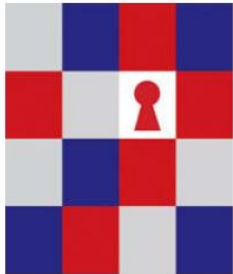
Baga Guzziin Chuluu, located in Adaatsag Soum of Dundgobi Aimag. The second will be presented on June 10th at Bulgun Soum of Ummugobi Aimag. Both of these locations are national reservation areas of granite rock formations in the middle of the Gobi desert with ancient human rock paintings, natural springs, and the remains of a destroyed monastery.

Ms. Sarantsatsral, a visual artist herself, will travel with the group as a curator, bringing together all the disparate aspects of the participants to create one cohesive fusion. A TV crew will also travel with the artists and project team to record the process and provide the national audience an opportunity to watch the collaboration. A catalogue to document the story will also be produced and include interviews with the individual artists about the project and photos of their travel and of the final performance.



Through the residency, ACM hopes to establish working partnerships between cultural organizations and individual artists and promote cultural and creative exchanges between Ulaanbaatar, Dugdobi and Ummugobi provinces and encourage an innovative and dynamic arts community.

"Stand still. The trees ahead and bush beside you are not lost," said Albert Einstein many years ago, and the same can be said for the sand and the granite of the Gobi region. Perhaps we should all take ACM's example and get Lost for a little while in order to be Found.



The Arts Council of Mongolia (ACM)'s strategic objective is to contribute to strengthening the sustainable capacity of Mongolian

Young artists organize Children's Day event

in Beijing. This year, nineteen Fabulous young artists were chosen to participate in the program and offered training and access to practical exercises in leadership, marketing & effective communication, project development, cultural policy, intellectual property, copyright and fundraising.

ACM has provided a 10 part mentoring program on arts administration and leadership skills and provided access to international festivals and networking opportunities. The major focus of the program is



Participants of the 'Young Arts Leaders for Youth'



Purevdorj, one of the happy participants



Children are making puppets

A networking e-list for artists to share and exchange ideas was created by ACM. The artists involved in the program will also learn to develop their own marketing and promotion strategy for their work and as result, The Fabulous Club www.thefclub.mn blog site is updated with new entries and portfolios of newly joined artists.

The Young arts leaders organized a one day event called 'Young arts leaders for Youth' for Children's Day with the children of the Children Nurture center which houses and educates one hundred children. The Young arts leaders initiated the event for the children, giving them a great opportunity to experience the arts. The Young arts leaders contributed their social ability and humanity through the event. They promoted skills and shared talents with children. The goal of the event was to celebrate Children's Day with kids, especially those who don't have parents and vulnerable children; being together and spending a happy and creative day with them.

They organized the One day event program, which consisted of music and dance performances, drama, contortion, painting, calligraphy, fashion, photography and video. It was a complex arts



Joint artwork by Young leaders & Children

field. Young leaders also ran a great art education program. All the children were very active and involved in all the program activities and got smiles and confidence from this event by Young art leaders.

Young leaders have created a video from the event and it will be broadcast on Mongol television on Children's Day. They want to appeal to other fabulous youth to contribute their skills and ability for social and culture of Mongolia through the video.

Young Leadership in the Arts

Program's graduation ceremony will be held at the end of June. Fabulous Nineteen Young Leaders are ready to contribute their great work and talent in the arts and culture field.

Finally, thanks to Mr. Svein O.Saether, the Ambassador of Royal Norwegian Embassy in Beijing, and other colleagues from the embassy for supporting Mongolian arts and culture and implementing this project and providing this great opportunity for Mongolian young artists and arts leaders.