

Reyum: Promoting the Arts and Culture of Cambodia

Founded in 1998 (by Ly Daravuth and Ingrid Muan), the Reyum Institute of Arts and Culture is a non-profit, non-governmental organisation dedicated to the research, preservation, and promotion of traditional and contemporary Cambodian arts and culture. Activities conducted by Reyum are free and open to the public. Through exhibitions, events, and publications, Reyum aims to stimulate an exchange of ideas, while fostering creative expressions and encouraging further research. The institute is located across the street from the Royal University of Fine Arts and the National Museum of Cambodia in Phnom Penh, and offers a space as a point of encounter for students, scholars, residents, expatriates and foreign visitors.



Entrance to Reyum

Research and Training

While Cambodia rebuilds its educational institutions following years of civil war and unrest, and improves the skill levels and research experience of university students, graduates continue to find few opportunities to use the knowledge and skills that they have learnt, and even fewer possibilities to further their studies to expand their capabilities as scholars and researchers.

With this in mind, Reyum offers research opportunities and training to university graduates, and assist them in their research, from the initial period of fieldwork and investigation to the final public presentation in the form of an exhibition and a publication. Research projects at Reyum relate to, for example, the following topics:

1. Traditional tools and the changes which modernisation brings to habits and ways of using things.
2. *Kbach*, the unique ornamental language used in many forms of visual arts in Cambodia.
3. Traditional painting and the representational canon through which characters and stories are presented.



Training at the insititute

4. Local histories, individual recollections and the relation of such informal memories to official histories.

Exhibitions

When Reyum was established, the few venues that existed in the city for holding exhibitions offered permanent shows or commercial art objects for the tourist market. Reyum decided to establish a space in which a changing series of exhibitions could address a wide variety of topics, not only in the visual arts, but within the broader realms of culture and society.

Art exhibitions organised at Reyum aim to foster creativity and critical thinking, providing contemporary artists the opportunity to explore and create new work. In addition to art exhibitions, Reyum organises an ongoing series of more didactic exhibitions on history, culture, and the arts.



Art venue

Events

Reyum also presents lectures, performances, film evenings, and concerts to offer the public activities and events without charging them:

- Performances and
- Music concerts
- Film screenings
- Lectures



Publications

There is a lack of publications in the Khmer language, and those that were produced are generally of poor quality. Books do not reach broad sections of the public, particularly in the countryside, where children could benefit from better distribution efforts.



Reyum focuses on two areas of publishing: general interest books in conjunction with its research and exhibition projects; quality Khmer language books for children, through a partnership with the Kasumisou Foundation.

Art School

The Reyum art school aims to offer an alternative for children who have a great amount of time, and whose parents are busy working; and children who cannot afford to go to school, and who work in the markets or sell things on the street. The art school offers free half-day classes in drawing and painting for all children who are willing to come on a regular basis and participate in the lessons. The aim of the school is to train children to become skilled in representational drawings, and improve their sense of creativity and imaginative thinking which will help them in their adult lives.

The Reyum art school is funded by a generous grant from the Kasumisou Foundation.



Classes for children



Making good use of their time

Reyum Institute of Arts and Culture

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