

Southeast Asia Short Film Screening held hybrid
Organized by CSEAS in collaboration with the Kyoto International Film and Art Festival 2022

VISUAL DOCUMENTARY PROJECT "DEATH / LIFE"

We are presenting five short documentary films awarded by VDP2021, which were selected through an open call for entries on the theme of "Death/Life". These documentaries offer a chance for us to dwell on processes, experiences, and meanings expressed in death and life across the region. All documentaries will be screened with English and Japanese subtitles.

Onsite-Screening

Date: October 15, 2022(Sat) 13:00-15:30
Venue: 1st floor, Former Kyoto Prize Library Room, Inamori Building, Kyoto University
Registration: No registration needed. Free of charge. All are welcome to join.

Online-Screening

Date: October 10 (Mon) 10:00- October 16, 2022(Sun) 23:59 (JTS)
Venue: Films are available to view free on the Kyoto International Film and Art Festival 2022 website.
<https://kiff.kyoto.jp/film/>
Registration: Please register via the fany ID to view the documentaries.
<https://id.yoshimoto.co.jp/>



Program

- 12:50 Doors open
- 13:00 Introduction by Mario Lopez
(Associate Professor at the Centre for Southeast Asia Studies, Kyoto University)
- 13:05 Film 1
Strike with the Beat (Myanmar/25min)
- 13:35 Film 2
Broken (Myanmar/12min)
- 13:55 Film 3
August Letters (Vietnam/26min)
- 14:25 Film 4
Madam Lien's Factory (Vietnam/30min)
- 15:00 Film 5
The Twilight Years (Malaysia/22min)
- 15:30 Close

- There will be a short commentary after each documentary.

The Winners of VDP 2021



Strike with the Beat (Myanmar/2021/Color/25min/Burmese)

Director: Sai Kyaw Khaing

"Strike with the Beat" bears witness to cold blooded killings in the wake of the Coup d'état by the Burmese military when they seized power. This documentary provides a bare account of how civil society rose to protest and focuses on one group called "Drum Revolution" who unified and came out against the military Junta. This documentary provides a critical on the ground overview of the turmoil that struck Yangon and the whole country in early March.



Broken (Myanmar/2021/Color/12min/Shan)

Director: Nan Khin San Win

Life for women and girls is far from safe in parts of conflict affected Kayah State, in the Eastern part of Myanmar. In this absorbing short documentary, first-time director Khin San Win explores both her own trauma and that of another woman from her village in a bid to break the silence that shrouds violence against women in Myanmar.



August Letters (Myanmar/2021/Color/25min/Burmese)

Directors: Mai Huyền Chi (Chi Mai) & Xuan Ha

The news of the call for submissions to the VDP came in August 2021, when one of the filmmakers was commemorating her father's death anniversary and her cousin's birthday. This became the reason for her to invite the other filmmaker to use their shared language (cinema) and contemplate on themes, in the context of the Covid-induced lockdown. This documentary contemplates the meaning of life and death blending personal, intimate stories and provides a reflection of contemporary life, family relations, and networks in contemporary Vietnam.



Madam Lien's Factory (Vietnam/2021/Color/30min/Vietnamese)

Director: Nguyen Thu Huong

Madame Lien is the head of the third generation of her family to take over a shipyard where traditional wooden boats are built. Existing along the banks of the Mekong River for almost a century, it has witnessed many drastic times of change. Today, sustainable development has become a goal along the river, yet parallel to this, as cities modernize, traditional values are gradually disappearing. This documentary focuses on Madame Lien and her efforts to keep the shipyard afloat. It dwells upon how it gives her life meaning as she remembers how she fought to preserve it in the past. This documentary poignantly presents a person with compassion toward her workers, her relationship with them, and how they have trusted and followed her their whole lives.



The Twilight Years (Malaysia/2020/Color/22min/Malay)

Director: Lily Fu

The Twilight Years (*Meniti Senja*) is a documentary that reflects on the breakdown of traditional family values in modern Malaysian society that are marginalizing the elderly. Age will eventually catch up with everyone and by 2030, Malaysia's over 65 population is set to increase to 15%. Are we witnessing our own fates in a not-too-distant future? This work sensitively explores the alarming rise of the elderly being left to fend for themselves in aged care centers removed from the comfort of homes they knew and children they raised. It recounts the stories of people who were once mothers, fathers, grandparents - now slowly aging amidst strangers within the walls of a care home in Puchong and shares their heart-breaking stories of abuse, exploitation, and abandonment.

About Project

The Visual Documentary Project (VDP) was started in 2012 and aims to provide a platform to deepen exchanges on Southeast Asia through documentary filmmaking. It aims to supplement academic research on Southeast Asia and create bridges between filmmakers and researchers working in the region. Each year VDP holds a call for documentaries from the region on different themes and promotes exchanges between directors, researchers and citizens.

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