

OPEN CALL

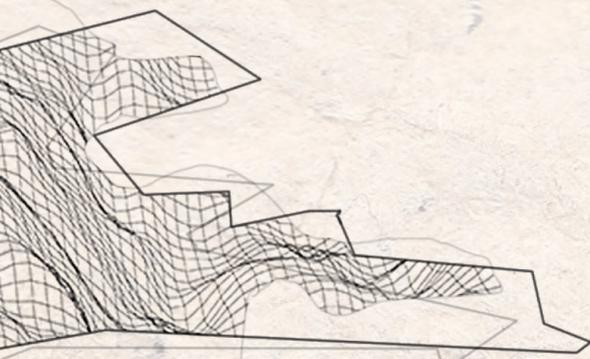
RE (IMAGINED) CHOROGRAPHY

WORKSHOP + OPEN STUDIO

We invite those whose practices in visual and sound, with a research interest in subjects relating to the urban, to apply for the first session of a workshop series. This session is co-organized by Sàn Art and Đường Chạy, and is under the framework of a Cascade Training initiative sponsored by the British Council.

THIS OPEN CALL
WILL END ON

31 / 10 / 2020



To apply, please email us before **31/10/2020** via hello@san-art.org titled "Application: (Re)imagined Chorography" along with:

- CV
- Personal statement on your practice or research interest (if applicable).
- A project proposal that you want to develop, no more than 600 words.

We will respond as soon as we can. If you have any inquiries, please email us using the above address titled "Inquiry: (Re)imagined Chorography"

All the best,
Sàn Art & Đường Chạy

chorography: the art of describing or mapping a region or a district, the physical conformation and features of such region, including history, living habits, economy and culture of the habitats in the region.

Pop culture, the media, propaganda, Geography and History lessons are regarded as the main influences on one's territorial perception. Nations, borders, the concept of urban-rural are contextualised and politicised through the use of maps, family registration books, and passports. When a political state is formed, individuals (living on the same land) create an imagined community*, where people are connected with each other and with the land by the lawfully rights and the concept of identity, which is formed by the "collective memories"**.

Chorography, by definition, is a systematic look into a region based on three core elements: soil, climate, and its habitats. Chorography, hence, can be viewed as a systematically and intentionally written, organised, and archived texts that are institutionalised as a grand narrative over time.

When did we start to pay attention to the personal narratives and use them as a way to resist the mainstream narrative? After World War II, European intellectuals and artists showed rising discontent towards the establishments and their influence on the every day's life, that led to the formation and circulation of the political and social movements that called for "revolutions" from the grassroots level in order to reclaim national narratives, cultural identity and economic independence from the imperialist forces. Art also moved away from the ivory tower to exist in the alleys and be practiced within the mundane of life.

The workshop will discuss Situationist International movement and its satellites practices. Founded in the late 50s with the appeal for "the liberation of every day's life," the movement was well received and supported by artists and intellectuals at that time with high resistance towards consumerism – the child of capitalism, which already infiltrated personal lives: living habits, transportations, house planning, work and leisure. We will practice "dérive – drifting with no purpose" in urban spaces, journaling through existing devices to create our own micro narratives chorography, a result of personal and collective memories' interactions.

* In *Imagined Communities*, Benedict Anderson refers to "nation" as "an imagined political community" where, even though most citizens won't ever know most of their fellow members face-to-face, but still being connected through the mental images and the affinity of the nation.

** Nguyen Hung Quoc, arguing about the role of memories in the formation of identity, said the action of remembering is like a way to connect the self to its surroundings, thanks to the interactive characteristics of memories. Therefore, memories have both personal and collective elements. The two elements constantly affect each other that leads to memories being selective and renewable.

14 - 19 DECEMBER, 2020 AT THE WORKSHOP, YOU WILL

- Learn, discuss about the Situationist International Movement and the concepts of "dérive," "psycho-geography".
- Share and discuss on the practices in sound, photography and moving image with three invited artists: Nhung Nguyen (sound artist), Uyen Minh (visual and multi-media artist), Viet Thuy (copywriter and independent filmmaker). The aforementioned artists will conduct the workshops and will also be the curators for open studio sessions.
- Research and field works in Saigon center.
- Learn to organize and install multi-media artworks in the space
- Learn to manage a space and conduct critiques.



This workshop will be conducted in Vietnamese; however, participants are required to be able to read recommended materials in English.

The workshop is intensive and will take place in 6 days; participants are expected to join the workshop in full. The result of the workshop will be an open studio, followed by a critique by San Art's guest artists.

Last of the workshop will consist of an open studio and a critique with invited guests from Sàn Art and Đường Chạy.

ORGANIZERS



Sàn ART

SPONSORS



The workshop *(Re)imagined Chorography* is under the framework of a Cascade Training organized by Sàn Art and Đường Chạy, with a focus on "Hub Management Skills" and "Cultural and Creative Skills". The workshop *(Re)imagined Chorography* is initiated with the sponsor of The British Council through Cultural and Creative Hubs Vietnam (CHV), 2018-2021, a project co-sponsored by the British Council and European Union, and organized by the British Council Vietnam in collaboration with VICAS.

Learn more about CHV [here](#).