



*Press release*

Frankfurt, 19.01.2019

***we will have been young***

Young photographic positions from Southeast Asia

Alvin Lau (\*1994, Malaysia) / Amrita Chandradas (\*1987, Singapore) / Muhammad Fadli (\*1984, Indonesia) / Dennese Victoria (\*1991, Philippines) / Kanel Khiev (\*1988, Cambodia) / Dwi Asrul Fajar (\*1986, Indonesia) / Elliott Koon (\*1980, Malaysia) / Watsamon Tri-yasakda (\*1990, Thailand) / Lee Chang Ming (\*1990, Singapore) / Geric Cruz (\*1985, Philippines) / Linh Pham (\*1991, Vietnam) / Yu Yu Myint Than (\*1984, Myanmar)

Press viewing: Thursday, March 7, 2019, 11 am

(all artists and the curator will be present)

Foyer basis, Gutleutstraße 8-12, 60313 Frankfurt

Opening: Thursday, March 7, 2019, 7pm

Exhibition: March 8 – May 12, 2019

Curator: Vignes Balasingam (Obscura Festival Penang, Malaysia)

Coordination Frankfurt and Programming: Laura Wünsche (basis Frankfurt)

The group exhibition *we will have been young* shows twelve young photographic positions from eight countries in Southeast Asia that deal with questions of youth, identity and the ambivalence of the future. As visual photo essays, they illuminate social phenomena in the context of economic progress and globalization in the photographers' home countries and also arouse awareness of longings and injustices within these realities.

The photo series shown were created during the Photography Masterclass 2016/17 in Penang, Malaysia under the direction of Jörg Brüggemann and Tobias Kruse of the OSTKREUZ - Agentur der Fotografen. After stops in Jakarta, Singapore, Manila and Kuala Lumpur, among others, *we will have been young* can now be seen for the first time in Germany at basis in Frankfurt.



Rolf Stehle, Director of the Goethe-Institut Malaysia about *we will have been young*:

„The result is a socio-cultural kaleidoscope on the life of young people in the vibrant context of economic progress and globalisation in these South-East Asian countries. The visual stories deal with diverse issues – online dating and the transformation of relationships, illnesses and their psychological effects, family constellations and identities, nostalgia and transience, social housing and urbanization, psycho-social challenges, the marginalisation of aboriginals, homosexuality and the search for a sense of belonging, club scenes as a sign of revolt, creative Vespa clubs, gender-identity in school children, abuse and the longing for a feeling of home. The series of photographs address social phenomena, and through their subject matter and aesthetics we are invited to engage with them, to confront them. The photographs are based on reality, but at the same time they look beyond it, transcend it and create notions of other realities, opposing concepts and new worlds. In doing so, they ask questions about the future and, in their aesthetic context, create implicit concepts of the future coexistence of people, social systems and living environments. Powerfully, the role of the viewer in the future implied in these images, cannot be easily dismissed.(...)“

*we will have been young* is an exhibition of the OBSCURA Festival of Photography, in cooperation with the OSTKREUZ - Agentur der Fotografen and the Goethe-Institut.

Kindly supported by:



In cooperation with:





## Accompanying program

Sunday, March 10, 2019

2 pm: Photographer's Get Together (aimed at selected protagonists in the Rhine-Main photo scene and at the photographers of *we will have been young*)

4 pm: Perspectives on youth and identity in Southeast Asia. A panel discussion with curator Vignes Balasingam, selected artists and Dr. Amanda-Katherine Rath

Wednesday, May 8, 7pm

Lecture by Dr. Amanda-Katherine Rath (Southeast Asian Studies, Goethe-University Frankfurt)

A photo book (De/En) has been published in close cooperation between the photographers and dienacht Publishing and is available at basis for 20€.

Accompanying blog:

<https://www.obscurafestival.com/flagship-programmes/seamaster-class2017>

Previous press review of the travelling exhibition *we will have been young* and about selected series:

DER SPIEGEL

<http://www.spiegel.de/auto/fahrkultur/muhammad-fadli-fotoprojekt-ueber-extreme-vespas-a-1174512.html>

THE STAR

<https://www.thestar.com.my/metro/community/2017/09/01/young-shutterbugs-from-the-region-take-centre-stage/>

CNN

<http://edition.cnn.com/style/article/we-will-have-been-young-exhibition/>

VICE

[https://www.vice.com/id\\_id/article/pazeey/memotret-secara-harfi-ah-problem-kesehatan-mental-di-indonesia](https://www.vice.com/id_id/article/pazeey/memotret-secara-harfi-ah-problem-kesehatan-mental-di-indonesia)

[https://www.vice.com/en\\_id/article/9kqee7/shattering-the-stigma-around-mental-illness-with-intimate-bedroom-portraits](https://www.vice.com/en_id/article/9kqee7/shattering-the-stigma-around-mental-illness-with-intimate-bedroom-portraits)



**OBJECTIFS**

<https://www.objectifs.com.sg/we-will-have-been-young/>

Photographic Museum of Humanity

<https://phmuseum.com/watsamon/story/7465-886350cf8c>

Istanbul Photo Awards

<http://istanbulphotoawards.com/StoryPortrait2018.aspx>

**NOW! JAKARTA!**

<http://www.nowjakarta.co.id/the-angst-of-youth-examined-through-photography>

Opening hours:

Tuesday – Friday, 11 am – 7 pm

Saturday, Sunday, noon – 6 pm

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**Press image ,we will have been young`**

Photo: Amrita Chandradas, from the series ,All is not lost' (11 photos),  
2017, 40 x 40 cm, © the artist

