Defining Sacred Space: Further Reflections on Representations of the Feminine in and after Angkor

By Ashley Thompson / in Khmer & English by Ashley Thompson (SOAS, London)

Friday, November 24, 2017, 5:30pm at RUFA (behind the National Museum)

Yosothor@gmail.com www.yosothor.org
Defining Sacred Space:

Further Reflections on Representations of the Feminine in and after Angkor

Ashley Thompson

SOAS, London

This talk will examine the Khmer ritual accessory known as a babil, emphasizing comparison with two type of femininized representations in and of a pedestal: the Angkorian yoni and the Angkorian-post-Angkorian-modern Buddha pedestal featuring the Earth Goddess. The talk will also include consideration of similar objects and associated ritual beyond the Cambodian realm proper. The aim is, first, to explore the broad conceptual field in which these objects operate, where sacred space is delimited through material representations of sexual difference; and, second, to sketch paths students might follow for future research on these and related objects.