

មកដូរព្រៃងរាយភាមលាំដាប់ពេលវេលា និងលាំដាប់ប្រជាធិបតេយ្យល័យថា Ingrid ធានដើមក។

អត្ថបទដាច់បុងមានវឡាងេះថា Haunted Scenes: Painting and History in Phnom Penh ដែលប្រមួលដំគិតសំខាន់ៗនៃនីតិក្រុបបទនោះ។ អ្នកនិពន្ទធដើការពិចារណាលើគំទិកនិងរំបែបទ ដែលអាណាពាពរាត្រាលាតរាជំង់ធ្វើឡើងដែលមួយ្យរៀបចំនិងលើកតែម្រួល “សិល្បៈនៅក្នុងប្រព័ន្ធផីខ្ពស់” ដាក់សែសនោក្នុងវិស័យគំទូរ។ ក្នុងនោះមានការសង្គត់ជ្រើនទៅលើការទិន្នន័យប៉ុណ្ណោះនៃរដ្ឋបាលបារាជំង់ តែស្ថាកស្មាមនិងលទ្ធផលអវិជ្ជមាននៃការងារទាំងអស់នោះមកទល់ពេលបច្ចុប្បន្ន ក៏លើកមកនិយាយដែរ។ អ្នកអាណាពាពយើងពីថ្ងៃ ការវិនិច្ឆ័ន់ខ្លះដែល Ingrid ធ្វើឡើងចំពោះរដ្ឋបាលអាណាពាពរាត្រាលាតរាជំង់ មានការទាក់ទងដិតស្តីទូទឹងឱ្យបិត្តរបស់ភាគក្នុងការលើកតែមួយសិល្បៈខ្លួន ដែរ។ ពីមួនដាការចែងច្រៀន ដែលលោក Georges Groslier ធ្វាប់តិកតុអំពី “ក្បាប់” នៅដើមទស្សនាគ្រោះ៩២០ក្នុងក្របខណ្ឌនៃកម្មវិធី “បង្កស់” សិល្បៈខ្លួយវិញ ហើយដែលក្រាយមកវិញ្ញាស្ថាននូវយំក់បានរៀបចំពីរណីព្រមទាំងដូចជាប្រជាពលរដ្ឋនៅក្បាប់។

អត្ថបទប្រឡាប់មក តិ Playing with Powers: the Politics of Art in Newly Independent Cambodia ព្រមទាំង States of Panic: Procedures of the Present in 1950s Cambodia សិក្សាគារពីវិស័យសិល្បៈដែលបុំនួនសម្រាប់ប្រព័ន្ធរាជរដ្ឋបាល បីក្តិកតែដាសម័យដករាជ្យ អ្នកនិពន្ទធតែវិកាបិត្តទុកដាក់យ៉ាងខ្លះដោនីបរិបទសង្គម និងនយោបាយដែល ត្រូវពេលនេះ “ស្រីមត្រជាក់” និងនយោបាយដែលនៅជុរីព្រៃនោះ ដែលស្ថិតលខ្លះដែលបុំនួនសម្រាប់ប្រព័ន្ធរបៀប អាមេរិកដែលធ្វើស្រីមនៅប្រទេសរៀបគណនោះ ហើយធ្វើការយោសាទាយ៉ាងខ្លះដូរឯករាជ្យ ស្រីមត្រជាក់នោះ។ Ingrid សិក្សាគារពីវិស័យប្រជាពលរដ្ឋនៅទៅលើវប្បធម៌នៃស្រុកដែលបាក់ពីនឹងប្រវត្តិសាស្ត្រ ដាក់នេះទៅទៀត ការសិក្សានោះពីមួនស្តីពីប្រវត្តិសាស្ត្រសិល្បៈបុំនួនឡើយ តើបាក់ពីនឹងប្រជីនទៅនឹងប្រវត្តិសាស្ត្រ និងការវិវត្តិនៃសង្គមត្រដែលបាក់ប្រជាពលរដ្ឋនៅក្នុងគំនិត ដំឡូលឡើលាយមួយ ដែលអ្នកនិពន្ទធនឹងលើកយកមកនិយាយនៅអត្ថបទចុងក្រាយ បាក់ខ្លួនយល់ដូចមេចអំពីរបៀប ទូនាទីនៃសង្គម មានមនុស្សពាណាក់ដែលអ្នកនិពន្ទឲលើកឡើងបានខ្លាបរណីនៃអ្នកកសាងបង្កើតដែនទាំង “សង្គមកាស្ត្រិយម” ព្រមទាំងរដ្ឋបាលក្នុងសិហនុ (ដោយលើកយកខ្សោយក្នុងការប្រព័ន្ធនឹងស្រុកដែលបាក់ប្រជាពលរដ្ឋនៅក្នុងគំនិត ដើម្បីពិចារណា), លោកវណ្ណៈមុនីវណ្ណៈ (សាបក្សករខ្លួនិងដែលបាបស្ថិតនៃការប្រព័ន្ធនឹងស្រុកដែលបាក់ប្រជាពលរដ្ឋនៅក្នុងគំនិត ដើម្បីដល់សំណង់សារណារណៈរដ្ឋបាក់ប្រជាពលរដ្ឋនៅក្នុងប្រទេស), លោកក្រៀម ឪម (អ្នកគំនុរដែលបាក់ប្រជាពលរដ្ឋនៅក្នុងគំនិត ដើម្បីពិចារណា) អាមេរិកដែលហើយដែលមនុស្សជាប្រជីន “សិល្បៈករខ្លួនសម្រាប់ប្រជាពលរដ្ឋនៅក្នុងគំនិត”។

អត្ថបទក្រាយបង្កើសមានវឡាងេះថា Selling Space: Socialism and Signage in Phnom Penh after the Khmer Rouge ។ អ្នកនិពន្ទឲលើកសិក្សាគារពីវិស័យក្រាយស្រីមត្រ ដោយផ្តាក់ការបាប់អាមុនុកដែលបាក់ប្រជាពលរដ្ឋនៅក្នុងគំនិត ដើម្បីដល់សំណង់សារណារណៈរដ្ឋបាក់ប្រជាពលរដ្ឋនៅក្នុងប្រទេស) លោកក្រៀម ឪម (អ្នកគំនុរដែលបាក់ប្រជាពលរដ្ឋនៅក្នុងគំនិត ដើម្បីពិចារណា) អាមេរិកដែលហើយដែលមនុស្សជាប្រជីន “សិល្បៈករខ្លួនសម្រាប់ប្រជាពលរដ្ឋនៅក្នុងគំនិត”។

រៀងរាយណ៍ទៅក្នុងប្រទេសកម្ពុជាសម្រាប់រាជរដ្ឋបាល និពន្ធដោយលោក សីហុង សុភារិទ្ធី។ អ្នកនិពន្ធប្រមូលចម្លាក់ទាំងមករបៀបធ្វើបន្ទីសិលាថាឪីកជាការសាសំស្តីកដែលស្ថាល់ទាំងអម្ចាលម៉ាននៅប្រទេសខ្មែរ។ ការដឹងអត្ថបទសិលាថាឪីកជាការមួយចម្លាក់នេះ បង្ហាញឡើងទៅកាមលំដាប់លំដោយ ដែលគេយល់ថាមាននៅក្នុងរៀងរាយណ៍របស់វាលើកិននៅប្រទេសឥណទាន។ លុះយករូបដែលប្រទេសដើរីករាយនៃក្នុងរៀងរាយណ៍។ តារាជសង្គ់បន្ទះប្រាស់ជាមិនពេញលេញទេ ត្រូវឯកសារដើរីករាយបង្ហាញ ដើរីករាយសល់សិលាថាឪីកជាការមួយយិនាយរៀងរាយណ៍មួយចប់ឡើយ។ តាមពិតិត្រនៅក្នុងនិពន្ធដោយជាសំណុរឡើងថា តីពិមុនមកមានសំណែរអ្នមួយដែលបង់បង់បង់ដើមអំពីរៀងនៅប្រទេសកម្ពុជាដូចគេស្ថានដែរបន្ទី? តីនៅដំនាន់ណាមួយនៅខ្ញុំស្ថាល់រៀងរាយណ៍ពេញលេញ ប្រគាន់តែស្ថាល់ជាច់កាមលើកិនដោយមានការទិន្នន័យទៅកាមសម្រាប់រាជរដ្ឋបាលខ្លួន។ ទិន្នន័យដែលប្រមូលចាន ហើយកមករបស់វិញ នៅក្នុងនិពន្ធដោយបង្ហាញបាន។ វិភាគលម្អិតកន្លែងនៅក្នុងនៅក្នុង និពន្ធដោយបង្ហាញបាន។

សិល្បីវិទ្យាលី ឬវិទ្យាលី កិមានអត្ថបទមួយនៅទីនេះដែរ ឈ្មោះវហិចា Picture–Perfect Pairing: the Politics and Poetics of a Visual Narrative Program at Banteay Srei ដែលល្អជសិក្សាឌីចានកោរះក្បាយ ដើម្បីយល់ចាបម្លាក់ខ្ញុំនៃដែលនិទានរៀង មានអ្នមួយដោខ្ញុំគឺនិត្តដើម្បីដោរតាម។ សំណុរនេះហាក់ដូចជាកមកអំពីសំណុររបស់លោក សីហុង សុភារិទ្ធីដោរ។ ទិន្នន័យសំវានដែលយកមកពិត្រានេះ គីម្លាក់នៅប្រាសាទបន្ទាយស្រីដែលល្អល្អបាន មានបង្ហាញរៀងប្រកបដោយក្បារក្បារចំរចនាយ៉ាងលើកិនក្នុងនៅខ្ញុំ។ អ្នកនិពន្ធគឺអេកាដីយុទ្ធផលដែរដែលបង់បង់ដើម្បីយល់ចាន នៅក្នុងសិល្បីខ្ញុំប្រាស់ ហើយដែលយើងបានកុំដែលយកមកបង្ហាញបន្ទាយក្នុងការបង់បង់ដែរ។ និពន្ធដោយបង្ហាញបាន ពីរំមនមាននិយមាសិល្បីករដំនាន់មុននោះយកឈុតមកកបង្ហាញបានការបង់បង់ដើម្បីយល់ចាន ហើយកិនក្នុងនៅខ្ញុំ។ យើងបានកុំដែលការបង់បង់ដើម្បីយល់ចាន “កម្បិន” បង្ហាញរៀងនៅកាមប្រាសាទ។

នៅចុងបញ្ហាបានអត្ថបទយ៉ាងខ្លួនមួយរបស់លោក អំដី ជូលាន ដែលមានចំណាច់ដើរីកជាការ កិមាន សំណុរ នៅប្រាសាទប្រើ និងបន្ទាយប្រើ នៅអង្គរ។ កំណាត់នោះឱ្យយើងបាន ជាងច្នាក់បង្ហាញបន្ទាយស្រីទាំងនេះ ខ្ញុំត្រូវបាន អស់ ជាភាគកាយ, មុខមាត់ ហើយប្រើហលជាថីបង្ហាញបាបុគ្គលិកលក្ខណៈខ្ញុំ និងបន្ទាយស្រីទាំងនេះ ទៅមួយកន្លែកទៅក្នុងការបង់បង់ដើម្បីយល់ចាន អ្នកនឹងការបង់បង់ដើម្បីយល់ចាន នៅប្រាសាទបាន។ មាននិយមាដោយសិល្បីករពិតប្រាកដ ពីរំមនដើម្បីអត្ថបទរៀងនៅក្នុងនៅខ្ញុំ។

ក្រោអំពីការងាររបស់គាត់ដោយវិចុះ និងជាអ្នកជំរូញឱ្យសិល្បៈខ្លួនមានសង្គម Ingrid ក៏ដាម្នកតំនើរមួយរូប ដែរ។ នៅលើក្របសៀវភៅនេះ មានរូបថតក្នុកមួយស្រដែលកម្រិតរូបថតក្នុកជារចឹន ដែល Ingrid តម្រូវបានត្រូវដោយទៅក្នុងពិរណីមួយ។ កម្មសំដែលរូបទាំងនេះការងារ គឺផ្តល់លួមត្រូវឱ្យអ្នកទស្សនាដើម្បីលទ្ធផលិតិបាយឱ្យព្រមទាំងមួយសង្គម ទិន្នន័យកម្រិតក្នុកនេះសម្រួលិចចុះមកក្រោមមីលូន។ អ្នកស្រី Debra Diamond ដែលជាទិន្នន័យ របស់ Ingrid បានឱ្យដែលបានដូចម្នាក្រុហន់ខ្លួន នៅលម្អាតាការព្រៃគ្នាតំនើន និងការងាររបស់ Ingrid តីនៅក្នុងរូប នៅក្នុងទាំងនេះ។

ឱ្យដឹងទុក្ខុមថ្មីដែលកុណាប់អ្នកដែលបានដូចម្នាក្រុហន់ខ្លួន និងការកងកសារទាំងអម្ចាលម៉ោង នៅលម្អាតាការព្រៃគ្នាតំនើន និងការងាររបស់ Ingrid នៅខាងក្រោមនេះ: Hildegard Muan, Michael Muan, Penny Edwards, Greg Muller, លី តារាវិញ្ញាបាល ចាន់ម៉ោង រណី សុវានិន្ទី Jelena Stojnacic, Anna Botta, John Clark, Anne Hansen, Kate Frieson, Nora Taylor ព្រមទាំង Joel Montague។

From the Editors

This volume of *Udaya* is dedicated to our friend and colleague Ingrid Muan, whose sudden death in January 2005 remains difficult to fathom. We had the good fortune to know and work with Ingrid in and on Cambodia for nearly a decade. In *Udaya*'s inaugural volume of the year 2000, Ingrid published, with co-author Ly Daravuth, a presentation of the Ceramics Section of Phnom Penh's Royal University of Fine Arts' Department of Plastic Arts. This article was not only a scholarly contribution to the thematic issue on Khmer ceramics, but also a gesture of solidarity. For years by then we had shared a commitment to critical thinking on Cambodian culture. This commitment was in many ways mutually incited and sometimes realized through pedagogical involvement in the renascent University of Fine Arts. It was further developed, for Ingrid and Daravuth, through the establishment of Reyum Institute of Arts and Culture, under the name of *Situations* in 1998, and for us, through the establishment of *Udaya* as the central research forum for APSARA, with which we had been involved since the 1995 inception of what was to become the national umbrella institution for managing Angkor. Publishing in Cambodia, on Cambodia and in Cambodian was a mutual goal, which we frequently discussed and attempted to realize with varying methods and means. If our approaches met and separated in different ways at different times, our interests remained common, wavering little from this initial commitment to grounding cultural and educational development in critical research. In the staggering energy, determination and discretion she brought to these endeavors, Ingrid will always remain an essential point of reference for us.

Four of Ingrid's unpublished conference papers constitute the first half of this volume. Presented in 2004-5, together these papers reflect the range of Ingrid's scholarly work in the last few years of her life. They are each grounded more or less directly in her Ph.D. dissertation, *Citing Angkor: the “Cambodian Arts” in the Age of Restoration 1918-2000*, submitted to Columbia University's History of Art Department in 2001. We have arranged them in the chronological and thematic order that Ingrid seemed to be following in her research.

The series opens with “Haunted Scenes: Painting and History in Phnom Penh,” a piece which explicitly condenses much of Ingrid's dissertation work. This paper studies the ways in which the French colonial administration reshaped Cambodian “traditional arts,” and painting in particular, in the very name of preserving them. Though focused on colonial innovations, the article traces the effects of these into the contemporary period. One can only feel that Ingrid's intense criticism of the colonial enterprise participated in an ongoing exploration of her own professional engagement in promoting Cambodian arts in the modern context. The concomitance of her

scholarly research into Groslier's early 20th-century "revival" of the Khmer ornamental tradition known as *kbach*, and the Reyum preparation of a book on the subject of *kbach* is only one of many complex exchanges which can be detected here.

In the next two pieces, "Playing with Powers: the Politics of Art in Newly Independent Cambodia" and "States of Panic: Procedures of the Present in 1950s Cambodia," Ingrid turns to the post-Independence period. While apparently shedding interest in the impact of French colonial intervention *per se*, she maintains a close eye on the broader socio-political context which continues to condition the development of the Cambodian arts at that time, namely the Cold War. Criticism is largely directed here at American imagery in Cambodia during the lead-up to the "Vietnam" war, as Ingrid gauges the relevance, meaning and influence Cold War propaganda had – or did not have – in and on local cultures. These pieces attend less to "art history" in traditional understandings of the discipline (with close study of the more formal aspects of formal artistic production, etc.) as they nonetheless continue to trace out a social history of the Cambodian arts. We can read this work as part of a larger project, more clearly delineated in the final article of the series included here, to better see how Cambodians see. Highlighted in these post-Independence pieces are three major "artisans" of the "Sangkum" period, (King) Sihanouk himself, with his films, magazines and exhibition halls, Vann Molyvann, Cambodia's first Western-trained architect who literally gave the country its modern public form, and Nhek Dim, a painter who trained in both Cambodia and the United States, and who remains for many the model of the "modern Cambodian artist."

The final paper in the series is "Selling Space: Socialism and Signage in Phnom Penh after the Khmer Rouge." Chronologically, Ingrid moves here to the post-war period, while thematically she broadens explorations into Cambodian "arts" to specifically consider signage in the city. In her critique of colonial distinctions made between fine arts and traditional craftwork laid out in "Haunted Scenes...," Ingrid saw an attempted exclusion of Cambodian participation in modernity as defined by the colonial power; yet she argues that this exclusion, along with reactions against it, rigorously participated in the formation of modern Cambodian arts. This first appeal to reassessing what constitutes modern art is pursued here with an analysis of sometimes troubling in-distinctions between the "traditional," the "fine" and, now, the visual arts. Reading contemporary "art" as surface without depth, as pure display, "Selling Space" thus continues on from "Haunted Scenes," but with an ever clearer orientation toward the socio-political conditioning of visual production. In this article Ingrid appears her most poetic, and her most estranged. She is self-consciously distant from Marxist perspectives which in one way or another have defined the socialist and post-socialist context in which she has become immersed in her work and life, and which have in many ways defined social histories of art in our times; yet she is at the same time intentionally

distancing herself from the prejudices and assumptions of her American upbringing. Through Ingrid's eyes we see apparent distinctions blur as the surfaces of 1980s socialist Phnom Penh are made to resemble the city's capitalist corporate surfaces emerging today. She seems to be searching for an alternative to these apparently opposed yet uncannily like viewpoints - for some sort of distinction to be found not in the traditional "traditional" but in a traditional less visible to the naked scholarly eye. Pondering the Cambodian storefront with no *sign* as we know it, adjacent to the totalizing corporate Total station sign we all know, Ingrid continues to ask: what and how do Cambodians see?

The other four articles in this volume can all be seen as attempts to answer these last questions. Preap Chanmara's "Beauty no matter what" opens with a reflection on the universality of desire for visual pleasure, along with the cultural specificity of canons of beauty. Preap is particularly concerned with the paradox of the finely crafted disposable object in contemporary Cambodia. Requiring hours if not days or weeks of preparation, intense collective labor and often significant financial input, these objects are used only briefly, sometimes under cover of night, and if not literally destroyed in their ritual use, discarded afterwards. The objects examined – from meditation pavilions, to coffins to hairpins to food offered to monks... - are all in one way or another associated with religious ritual, leading to the concluding speculation that the universal need for beauty can find its height of expression in the religious context.

Siyonn Sophearith's "The Life of the Ramayana in Ancient Cambodia: A Study of the Political, Religious and Ethical Roles of an Epic Tale in Real Time" is the first installment of an extensive study of the Indian epic tale, the Ramayana, in ancient Cambodia. This study first compiles iconographic depictions of and Sanskrit epigraphic references to episodes of the Ramayana throughout Cambodia's ancient period. Siyonn presents this material according to the narrative order of the presumed original Indian Valmiki Ramayana in an attempt to trace out a sort of "synopsis" of the tale as it would appear to have been known in early Cambodia. As there is no extant Ramayana text proper from ancient Cambodia, this synopsis is necessarily fragmentary. Siyonn indeed questions the prevailing scholarly notion of a lost "complete" text, and even the relevance of the notion of a singular linear narrative of the Ramayana as a whole in Cambodia at all, insofar as select episodes would seem to have been accorded preference over the course of time. The material collected and thus organized in this first article suggests which of the tale's uncountable episodes and themes were known and perhaps most widely exploited for political and religious prescriptive purposes in ancient Cambodia. In the second installment, to appear in *Udaya* 7, Siyonn analyzes the material in this light.

Art historian Boreth Ly's contribution, "Picture-Perfect Pairing: the Politics and Poetics

of a Visual Narrative Program at Banteay Srei,” is a sustained attempt at understanding narrative logic in ancient Khmer sculpted reliefs. In this, he pursues issues raised in Siyonn’s work. Ly takes as his point of focus the reliefs of tenth-century Banteay Srei temple, which are renowned for their refinement and iconographic precision as the earliest extant fully narrative sculpture in Khmer art. He argues that the long remarked non-linear nature of Khmer narrative in ancient stone sculpture should not be equated with arbitrary episodic representation; instead, he reads symbolic pairing of episodes as the principal ordering mechanism in what he sees as the temple’s narrative “program.”

The volume closes with « Psychology of the Khmer artisan : a small contribution to a complex problem.” In this note Ang Chouléan takes a quick look at the devata of two adjacent temples at Angkor, highlighting ways in which the reliefs in question render remarkable diversity, both in terms of physique and individual personality; representation here may well render reality. “Diversity” thereby appears to allow for a sort of “flexibility” or “originality” on the part of the sculptor who, in the case of these two temples, does not refrain from expressing his personal vision of a range of women, at the very least in representing their various physiques.

Besides her work as an art historian and promoter of Cambodian arts, Ingrid Muan was also a painter. The cover image of this issue is a signature piece: one of many rectangular paintings of eyes (taken from European paintings) which Ingrid hung very high – or in niches – within an exhibition so that viewers would only gradually find these things looking down at them. As Ingrid’s friend Debra Diamond, who has kindly provided us with this image, has said: Ingrid’s reticence and sly humor are in them.

Our thanks are also extended to those who have assisted us in identifying and obtaining Ingrid’s work published here: Hildegard Muan, Michael Muan, Penny Edwards, Greg Muller, Ly Daravuth, Preap Chanmara, Van Sovanny, Jelena Stojnavic, Anna Botta, John Clark, Anne Hansen, Kate Frieson, Nora Taylor and Joel Montague.

Note des éditeurs

Le présent numéro d'*Udaya* est un hommage à notre regrettée amie Ingrid Muan dont le soudain décès en janvier 2005 fut pour nous une stupéfaction. Pendant presque dix ans nous avons eu le bonheur de connaître Ingrid et de travailler avec elle au Cambodge et sur le Cambodge. Dans le tout premier numéro de notre journal publié en 2000, Ingrid fit avec Ly Daravuth la présentation de la section « Céramique » de la Faculté des Arts Plastiques, Université Royale des Beaux-Arts. Il ne s’agissait pas seulement d’une contribution scientifique de valeur à ce numéro thématique sur la céramique khmère, mais c’était aussi un geste de solidarité. Notre souci commun, dicté par la réflexion sur la culture khmère, ne cesse de s’affirmer depuis. Il faut dire qu’au départ cet engagement a trouvé son impulsion dans nos enseignements respectifs à l’Université Royale des Beaux-Arts. Chez Ingrid et Daravuth il s’est concrétisé dans la création de Reyum avec, pour sa toute première exposition en 1998, *Situations*, et pour nous dans la création d'*Udaya*, dont nous avons voulu faire le forum de recherche pour l’Autorité APSARA, l’organe national chargé de gérer Angkor. Notre but convergeait, qui ressortait de nos discussions et que nous essayions de traduire dans les faits avec des méthodes et par des moyens variés : publier au Cambodge, sur le Cambodge et en cambodgien. Si donc les approches peuvent différer, notre engagement reste le même car il répond à la volonté initiale de fonder la recherche et de la développer dans le pays même. Déterminée, pourtant discrète, mais toujours mue par une incroyable énergie à réaliser ses projets, Ingrid reste pour nous une référence.

Quatre textes d’Ingrid, élaborés pour différentes conférences mais non encore publiés, constituent la première moitié du présent volume. Présentés en 2004-5, ces textes reflètent les travaux de réflexion conduits dans les dernières années de sa vie. Plus ou moins directement, ils puisent leur source dans sa thèse de doctorat présentée à l’Université de Columbia, Département d’Histoire de l’Art, en 2001, thèse intitulée *Citing Angkor: the “Cambodian Arts” in the Age of Restoration 1918-2000*. Nous les présentons ici suivant ce qui nous semble être l’ordre chronologique et thématique de sa recherche.

La série commence avec “Haunted Scenes: Painting and History in Phnom Penh” qui, manifestement, regroupe les idées principales de la thèse. C’est un article qui traite de la manière dont l’administration coloniale française remodelait les « arts traditionnels », la peinture en particulier, sous couvert de leur « préservation ». Quoi que l’accent soit mis sur les innovations coloniales, l’auteur pointait du doigt les effets de ce remodelage dans la période contemporaine. On sent bien que les critiques d’Ingrid, sévères il faut bien le dire, sur l’entreprise coloniale étaient formulées dans un contexte où elle-même se questionnait sur la ou les voies à adopter, en réponse à son

engagement personnel de valoriser les arts du Cambodge contemporain. En témoigne, pour ne prendre que ce seul exemple, la concomitance de sa réflexion sur les efforts entrepris par Georges Groslier au début du 20^{ème} siècle pour le « renouveau » des traditions ornementales et la préparation par Reyum du livre intitulé *Kbach* (motifs ornementaux).

Avec les deux articles qui suivent, “Playing with Powers: the Politics of Art in Newly Independent Cambodia” et “States of Panic: Procedures of the Present in 1950s Cambodia”, la réflexion d’Ingrid portait sur le Cambodge après l’Indépendance. L’impact de l’intervention coloniale n’était plus directement évoqué, mais Ingrid braquait toujours son regard sur le contexte socio-politique qui ne cessait de conditionner les arts cambodgiens, cette fois-ci la « guerre froide ». Dirigeant ses critiques contre l’imagerie américaine au Cambodge durant la montée croissante de la « guerre du Vietnam », Ingrid tentait de jauger la pertinence, le sens ainsi que les effets de la propagande autour du thème de la guerre froide sur les cultures locales. Ces deux articles tiennent moins de l’« histoire de l’art » dans l’acception habituelle du terme (les productions artistiques en elles-mêmes, par exemple) qu’à l’histoire sociale des arts khmers. On peut les regarder comme faisant partie d’un projet plus vaste, qui se précisera avec le dernier texte de la série, et qui tente de comprendre la perception des Khmers. Trois « artisans » de la période du « Sangkum » sont particulièrement mis en relief : (le roi) Sihanouk lui-même, avec ses films, ses revues et ses salles d’exposition, Vann Molyvann, le tout premier architecte khmer ayant fait ses études en Europe et qui a donné des allures modernes aux bâtiments et constructions publics, Nhiek Dim, peintre formé à la fois au Cambodge et aux Etats-Unis et qui, pour beaucoup, demeure le modèle d’« artiste cambodgien moderne ».

Le dernier texte s’intitule « Selling Space: Socialism and Signage in Phnom Penh after the Khmer Rouge ». Poursuivant la chronologie, Ingrid en vient à la période d’après-guerre, orientant le thème vers les « arts » à travers les affichages de toutes sortes dans la ville. Dans « Haunted Scenes... » l’auteur critiquait la distinction coloniale entre beaux-arts et artisanat traditionnel, y voyant une tentative d’exclusion des Khmers de l’entreprise de la modernisation des arts. Par contre coup, selon elle, les réactions ne manqueront pas de participer à formuler cette modernité. Ici Ingrid poursuit le débat sur la classification des arts. Finalement qu’est-ce qui est « traditionnel », « beau » et, aujourd’hui, « visuel » ? Elle voit dans « l’art » contemporain des surfaces sans profondeur – une sorte de mouvement n’ayant pour finalité rien d’autre que l’exhibition. « Haunted Scenes... » se continue ici, mais en précisant les vues sur les conditions socio-politiques de la production des arts visuels. Le texte prend une allure poétique alors que son auteur apparaît comme distancée par rapport au monde. Consciemment Ingrid se démarque des perspectives marxistes qui, d’une manière ou d’une autre, ont façonné un certain monde dans lequel baignent ses recherches, tout comme simplement sa vie – perspectives qui ont également défini l’« histoire sociale de l’art »,

surtout dans le monde anglo-saxon de notre époque. En même temps elle prend des distances vis-à-vis de son éducation américaine. Aux yeux d'Ingrid les choses ne sont distinctes qu'en apparence, car elles s'embrouillent : les surfaces du Phnom Penh socialiste des années 1980 ressemblent finalement à celles de la ville capitaliste qui émerge aujourd'hui. Ingrid semble chercher une alternative à ces points de vue apparemment opposés mais étrangement semblables, et qui serait à trouver non plus dans le « traditionnel » traditionnel, mais dans un traditionnel pas toujours clairement visible à l'œil nu du chercheur. Méditant sur le magasin cambodgien sans *enseigne* – comme cela arrive souvent – jouxtant la station service Total avec son panonceau connu de par le monde, Ingrid continue de questionner : que voient les Cambodgiens ? Et comment voient-ils ?

Les quatre autres articles de ce volume apparaissent comme des esquisses de réponses à ces dernières questions. Avec « La beauté, quoi qu'il en soit », Preap Chanmara traite de ce besoin, somme toute universel, de donner de la beauté aux objets, chaque culture selon ses canons. L'auteur met en particulier l'accent sur le paradoxe de la nécessité esthétique et le caractère éphémère de certains objets, paradoxe observé dans le Cambodge d'aujourd'hui. Le nombre d'heures, de jours, voire de semaines, bref le temps mis à les confectionner est sans commune mesure avec la brièveté de leur utilisation rituelle, et cela sans même parler de l'effort collectif et des dépenses financières qu'ils occasionnent. Très divers, ces objets vont des pavillons de méditation aux broches à cheveux utilisés le temps du rite, des cercueils aux plats de nourriture destinés aux moines bouddhistes... Et l'auteur de conclure que plus la fonction et l'usage s'affirment comme rituels ou relatifs au sacré, plus la préoccupation esthétique est flagrante.

L'article de Siyonn Sophearith “The Life of the Ramayana in Ancient Cambodia: A Study of the Political, Religious and Ethical Roles of an Epic Tale in Real Time” constitue la première livraison d'une étude intégrale sur le Ramayana dans l'ancien Cambodge. A ce stade l'auteur rassemble le matériau iconographique et les passages épigraphiques sanskrites correspondant à différents épisodes de l'épopée. Il les présente selon l'ordre narratif présumé du Ramayana de Valmiki, essayant de dresser un « synopsis » de l'histoire telle que les Khmers l'auraient assez tôt connue. Un tel synopsis est forcément fragmentaire, étant donné qu'aucun texte complet qui aurait existé dans l'ancien Cambodge ne nous est parvenu. Et précisément Siyonn Sophearith se demande si l'idée d'un texte « complet » qui se serait perdu est vraiment fondée, et si même l'idée d'une ligne narrative continue ayant prévalu dans le Cambodge ancien est pertinente. Car il lui semble bien que préférence était donnée à tel et tel épisodes, à en juger par leur récurrence dans les matériaux collectés. La seconde et dernière livraison, à paraître dans *Udaya* 7, consistera dans l'analyse de ceux-ci.

“Picture–Perfect Pairing: the Politics and Poetics of a Visual Narrative Program at

Banteay Srei,” est une contribution de l'historien de l'art Boreth Ly qui essaye de saisir la logique de la narration des bas-reliefs, poussant ainsi plus avant les questions soulevées dans l'article de Siyonn Sophearith. Les reliefs étudiés sont de Bantéay Srei, monument du 10^{ème} siècle célèbre pour ses sculptures narratives d'un grand raffinement, les toutes premières de l'art khmer. L'auteur soutient que le caractère non-linéaire de l'art narratif chez les sculpteurs khmers n'est pas le résultat d'un quelconque choix arbitraire de tel ou tel épisode. En termes de « programme narratif », il dit avoir décelé le mécanisme d'ordonnancement consistant à présenter les épisodes par « paires ».

Le volume se termine avec « Psychologie de l'artisan khmer : une petite pièce à verser dans le grand dossier », courte note d'Ang Chouléan qui propose de jeter un bref coup d'œil sur les devatâ de deux temples mitoyens, à Angkor, et qui souligne que ces femmes du palais sont montrées dans la diversité de leurs physiques et de leurs personnalités, comme on pourrait l'imaginer dans la réalité. « Diversité » autorise par conséquent « marge de manœuvre » du sculpteur qui, dans le cas de ces deux temples, n'hésite pas à exprimer sa vision personnelle de la gamme de femmes, du moins en ce qui concerne la physique.

Mis à part ses travaux d'historienne de l'art et de promotrice des arts cambodgiens, Ingrid Muan était aussi peintre. L'image sur la couverture du présent numéro est signée d'elle. C'est l'un de ces carrés enfermant chacun un œil, reproduit à partir des peintures européennes, qu'elle accrochait à une certaine hauteur de sorte que le visiteur, levant la tête pour les regarder, sente progressivement que c'est lui-même qui était scruté par ces yeux. Comme le dit son amie Debra Diamond, qui nous a aimablement communiqué cette image : la réserve d'Ingrid et son fin humour y sont présents.

Nos remerciements vont aussi à tous ceux et celles qui nous ont aidés à identifier et à nous procurer les travaux d'Ingrid ici publiés : Hildegard Muan, Michael Muan, Penny Edwards, Greg Muller, Ly Daravuth, Preap Chanmara, Van Sovanny, Jelena Stojnavic, Anna Botta, John Clark, Anne Hansen, Kate Frieson, Nora Taylor et Joel Montague.