



Ho Tzu Nyen

Yoshizaki Kazuhiko

Born in Singapore in 1976, artist Ho Tzu Nyen engages in a wide spectrum of creative activities including film and video, installation, theatrical performance, lecture and exhibition curating. While the medium may vary, many of Ho's works bring together images and text to unravel the officially told histories of Southeast Asia premised upon historical figures and their anecdotes, and expose the fabrications and contradictions that comprise Southeast Asia's complexity.

Symbolic of Ho's practice is the work, *The Critical Dictionary of Southeast Asia* (ongoing since 2012), which he has launched on the Internet. An algorithm generates in real-time a moving image comprised of voices in multiple variations reciting words related to Southeast Asia starting with each letter of the alphabet (for example, A for "Archipelago," Z for "Zomia," etc.) and found footage from the Internet. The work creates an endless narrative that reveals both the ambiguity of the term "Southeast Asia" and its mixed and everchanging state.



Portrait of Ho Tzu Nyen

Photo: Matthew Teo, Courtesy of *ArtReview Asia*

Related Links

- Ho Tzu Nyen, *The Critical Dictionary of Southeast Asia* (2012-)
<https://cdosea.org>

Related Keywords

Zomia, Overcoming Modernity