

The Art of Resistance: Myanmar Artists under Siege

This talk brings together four Myanmar artists known for their creative resistance to the military dictatorship that seized control of the state in February 2021. Here they share their work as well as their experiences of surviving after the coup, the difficulties they face as artists under conditions of repression and the role of art in resistance to military rule.

About the Speakers:

Ma Ei (born in 1978 in Myanmar) is a visual artist from Myanmar. She graduated with a degree in Physics from Yangon University. She is a multi-media artist known in particular for confronting and questioning social and cultural norms imposed on women in Myanmar society. She has participated in over 45 exhibitions both domestically and internationally and has been an artist-in-residence in Japan, Korea, India and the Netherlands. She was actively involved in the revolution after the military coup in Myanmar in 2021. She now lives in Melbourne, Australia as a refugee and using her art as a weapon to support the revolution.

Nge Lay (born in 1979 in Myanmar) is a graduate of the National University of Arts and Culture, Yangon, Myanmar. She is a multidisciplinary artist whose works includes performance, installation, sculpture, and photography. Her art reflects socio-political issues in Myanmar society, particularly regarding gender, education, history and memory. She has exhibited her work in France, Indonesia, Singapore, and the United States. She is currently doing a Master of Arts at Beaux-Arts Paris, France.

Zoncy Heavenly (born in 1987 in Myanmar) graduated with a bachelor's degree in Computer Sciences in 2008. She uses a range of media in her work, including painting, photography, installation and performance. She also has a strong passion for poetry and creative writing. Many of her works explore womanhood and sexual violence in Myanmar, as well as depicting ethnic groups' struggles against the military. She is currently pursuing a residency fellowship in Germany.

Anon (resident in Myanmar) I was forced to destroy my art for fear of punishment. I will talk about what it is like living in Myanmar today. Our country is under siege, and we all are in prison. We have lost our future. Our lives and those of our children are in darkness. We have lost our homes and we are hungry. Our health, education, economy and society have all been buried in this nationwide dungeon. We wish to be free and see the sky again.

Moderator: **Tina Burrett**, Associate Professor of Political Science, Sophia University

Sophia University Institute of Comparative Culture: <https://www.icc-sophia.com/>

June 15, 2023,
Zoom only
Time: 18:00-20:00
(JST)



Registration essential:
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(Registration closes on June 14, noon, JST)



Flying in the Fragmentary