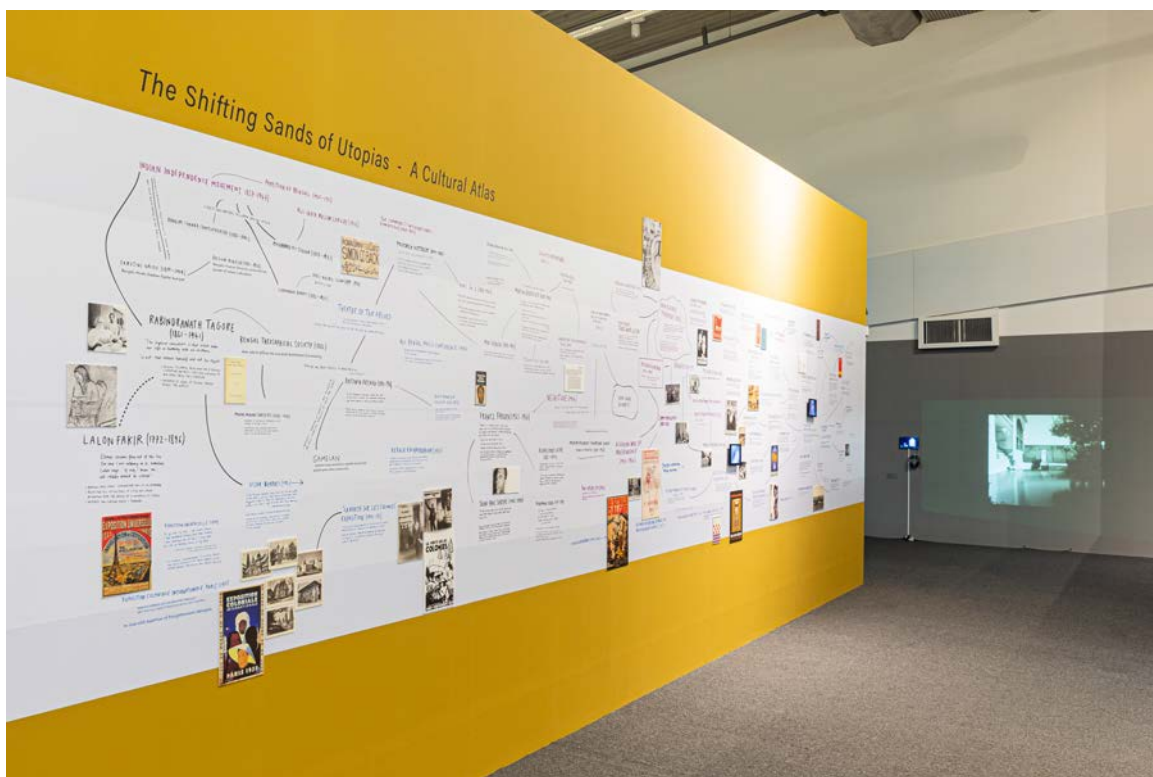


# A Cultural Atlas: The Shifting Sands of Utopias

Asia Culture Center, Gwangju

13 May – 25 October 2020



Installation view, Asia Culture Center, Gwangju, South Korea 2020 © Asia Culture Center

The Cultural Atlas traces a complex space of international modernity through which knowledge was exchanged across alternative (often non-European) plateaus. This process of global “reorientation” takes us through a reconstruction of the gaze – subverting the single “reading” of West to East into a more cyclical model, engaging in cultural, philosophical and political negotiations from East to East, East to West, South to East, South to South – constructing a panoramic exchange of global philosophical and artistic discourse.

The interactive and ongoing Cultural Atlas conjures a fragmented history of the long twentieth century through the ambitions and contradictions of countless utopian universalist episodes and ideals: transcendental internationalisms; radical liberations; emancipating solidarities. By the middle of the last century, the demise of the old European empires revealed a new horizon of opportunities and encounters for people and cultures across the world. The Atlas serves as an evocation of the constantly evolving dreams and possibilities that emerged and dissolved during the period.

Intending to be a living object the Cultural Atlas mutates with each re-installment. It remains a deliberately unfixed, unfinished and unstable process – like the ideas and connections it conjures – intending to be animated by the spaces that it arrives in. To that effect, the Cultural Atlas is a live object. Audiences are encouraged to interrupt, intercept and shape the colour and tone of its evolution, and to expand its cosmos by proposing new links and initiating new constellations, unearthing the shifting sites of utopias across the twentieth century, based on their local context and experience.

The artwork highlights various exchanges of utopian thought and action across space and time during the twentieth century. It remains an unfinished and ongoing process that expands and morphs as it occupies new territories. By the end of its time in Gwangju, it intends to have developed connections with pre- and post-partition Korean ideas and practices that borrowed and contributed to the universal pool of transcendental and emancipatory impulses that marked the twentieth century.

Artist: Vali Mahlouji

Curated by Vali Mahlouji / Archaeology of the Final Decade

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***A Cultural Atlas: The Shifting Sands of Utopias*, can be seen from  
13 May – 25 October 2020**

**Open daily 10:00 – 18:00. Closed on Mondays.**

**ACC Space 3 / 4**



### 2020 ACC CONTEXT < Solidarity Spores >

*A Cultural Atlas: The Shifting Sands of Utopias* is curated as part of the *Solidarity Spores* exhibition, co-curated by Bojana Piškur; Vali Mahlouji / Archaeology of the Final Decade; Seonghee Kim; Sulki and Min / Tetsuya Goto; Dongjin Seo; and Sungwon Kim.

The Asia Culture Center (ACC) has been presenting a new vision for the future by examining Asia's histories and cultures through artistic practices within the global context. With growing interest in ASEAN countries and their expanding role in the global arena alongside Korea, China and Japan, new definitions of community and new hopes of solidarity are possible for Asia in the 21st century. In this context, the Asia Culture Center presents a special international exhibition *Solidarity Spores*, which explores dynamic traces left by artistic practices by touching on the themes of the "Non-Aligned Movement," "community" and "solidarity."

The exhibition sheds new light on the history of the Non-Aligned Movement and the accompanying cultural and artistic practices; in doing so, it asks how the spirit of solidarity can liberate us from division and conflict resulting from neoliberal globalization. Through visual manifestations of historical time and space that younger generations have not experienced before, artistic practices featured in the exhibition instil hopes and possibilities for a new world order, equality and communal history.

# archæology of the final decade

## Installation photographs

