

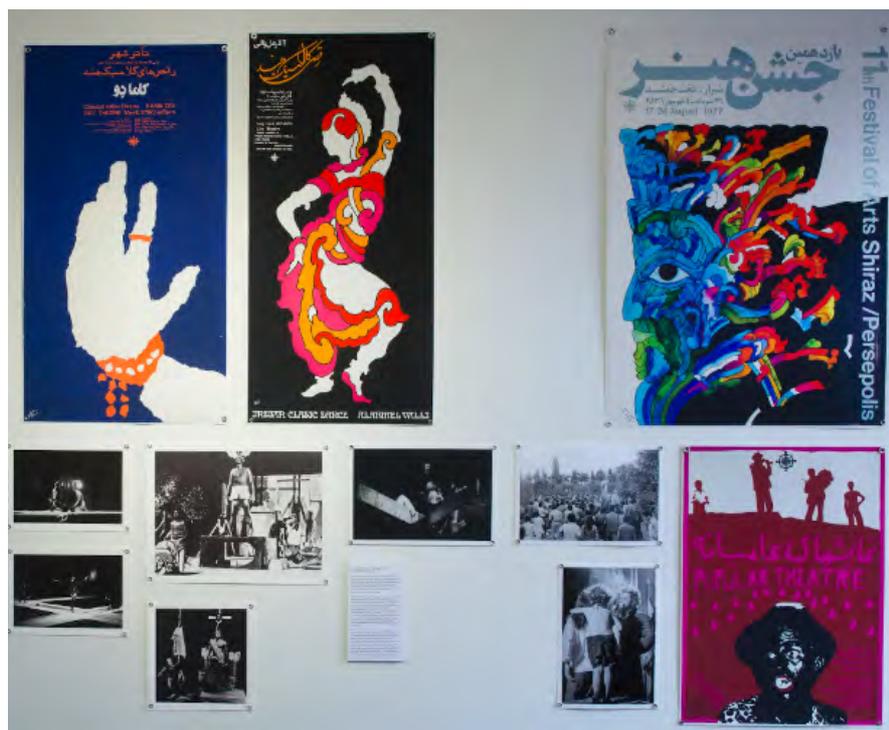
archæology of ████████ ████████ the final decade

A Utopian Stage
at Dhaka Art Summit
2-10 February 2018

[Archaeology of the Final Decade](#) will be launching its most ambitious and expansive exhibition to date at [Dhaka Art Summit 2018](#) in the form of *A Utopian Stage* - a project comprising of the excavated archives of the Festival of Arts, Shiraz-Persepolis (1967-1977); an historical timeline; a live performance programme; and an eclectic film programme presented throughout the summit.



Taking the Festival of Arts, Shiraz-Persepolis (1967-77) as a case study and point of departure, *A Utopian Stage* explores the reverberations of 20th century modernist universalisms. The project engages in restating the original Festival's process of global 'reorientation', through which a nexus of international cultures can be understood and embraced. *A Utopian Stage* seeks to subvert the single 'reading' from West to East into a more cyclical model, engaging in negotiations from East to East, East to West, South to East, South to South, and constructing a panoramic exchange of global artistic discourse.



Exhibition - *thrust open the heavens and start anew*

Excavated Archives of the Festival of Arts, Shiraz-Persepolis (1967-77)

AOTFD has unearthed archival materials, audio recordings and film footage which document the revolutionary spirit of the Festival, displayed now for the first time in Asia. *A Utopian Stage* reveals a kaleidoscopic range of performances in music, drama and dance presented and commissioned by the Festival, with a focus on Asian and African contributions, alongside the significant presence of the international avant-garde.

The Festival set out to perform as a temporary autonomous zone in creating a radical crucible of intercreativity to disseminate cultures, ideas and art across geographic, temporal and spatial divides. *A Utopian Stage* wields the transcendental possibilities of open space to shift the gaze from horizontal to a vertical, or cyclical axis.



Performance Programme
below the levels where differences appear

At DAS 2018, AOTFD presents a brand new performance installation, and the first iteration of an ongoing, transnationally roving amphitheatre as part of *A Utopian Stage*. Artists, performers and filmmakers are inclusively incorporated within a collective arena of experimentation echoing the progressive pitch of the Festival of Arts, Shiraz-Persepolis, and the highs and lows of universalist utopian ideals. *below the levels...* will draw upon the music, theatre, dance and politics that informed the utopian aspirations and contradictions of the Festival of Arts, with original contributions by **Hassan Khan, Goshka Macuga & Vali Mahlouji, Silas Riener (Merce Cunningham Trust), Reetu Sattar, Yasmin Jahan Nupur with Santal performers, and Lalou Baul singers.**



Film Programme
to be free is to lose sight of the shore

AOTFD curates an eclectic selection of films, echoing and reflecting themes at the heart of *A Utopian Stage*, both aesthetically and politically, from the revolutionary to the existential. The programme conflates artist and feature films, video documentations of live performances and historical documentaries to realise an ambivalent, universal stage where ideas and impulses can flourish. Artists and filmmakers include **Reza Abdoh, Larry Achiampong & David Blandy, Ashish Avikunthak, Shezad Dawood, Rose English, Rose Finn-Kelcey, William Greaves, Mikhail Kalatozov, Lindsay Kemp, William Klein, Lala Rukh, Goshka Macuga, Simon Moretti, Sergei Parajanov, Gillo Pontecorvo, Ousmane Sembène, Shuji Terayama, Stan VanDerBeek.**