

June 14, 2013

## 2013 Guest Curators : Shahidul Alam & Jean-François Leroy

Both well-known and influential names in the industry, **Shahidul Alam** and **Jean-François Leroy** have accepted the festival's invitation to guest curate an evening of slideshows during the week-long international photography festival.

Possessing decades of experience in the photography world, both guest curators also head two of the most popular photography festivals in the world. Bangladeshi photographer, writer and activist Shahidul Alam is the founder and director of Chobi Mela, a biennial international photography festival held in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Since 1989, Jean-François Leroy has been the director of Visa pour l'Image, a major photojournalism festival held annually in Perpignan, France.

Created in 2005, the Angkor Photo Festival is a week-long international photography festival held annually in Siem Reap, Cambodia. Each year, the festival dedicates two evenings of its slideshow programme to two well known figures in photography. The festival's Guest Curators are invited to present a showcase of work and photographers as selected by them.

**\*Biographies available on next page**

### WORDS FROM 2013 GUEST CURATORS



#### SHAHIDUL ALAM, BANGLADESH

*"The Angkor Photo Festival has long been on my radar. One of the most significant festivals in the region, it has been a turning point for far too many young photographers to be just another festival. This is my chance to find out why."*

#### JEAN-FRANÇOIS LEROY, FRANCE

*"I went to visit Angkor Photo Festival out of curiosity. I had heard many good things about that festival. There, I was struck by the enthusiasm of the young Asian photographers present, and I loved the educational role of the workshops for young Asian photographers. I liked the free nature of it all, and the whole team's generosity. And so, I wanted to return and to be a part of all of it again!"*



## BIOGRAPHIES

### Shahidul Alam, Bangladesh

A photographer, writer, curator and activist, Shahidul Alam obtained a PhD in chemistry at London University before taking up photography. He returned to his hometown Dhaka in 1984, where he photographed the democratic struggle to remove General Ershad. After three terms as president of the Bangladesh Photographic Society, Alam stepped down to concentrate on setting up the award winning Drik agency and Pathshala, the South Asian Media Institute, considered one of the finest schools of photography in the world, the Chobi Mela festival and the Majority World agency. Alam's work has been exhibited in MOMA in New York, the Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris, the Royal Albert Hall in London and The Museum of Contemporary Arts in Tehran. An acclaimed public speaker, Alam has presented at the Tate Modern and the Pop Tech conference alongside presidents and Nobel laureates. Winner of numerous international awards, Alam has also chaired the World Press Photo international jury. An Honorary Fellow of the Royal Photographic Society, Alam is a visiting professor of Sunderland University in the UK. His recent book "My journey as a witness" has been described by John Morris, the former picture editor of Life Magazine as "the most important book ever written by a photographer".

### Jean-François Leroy, France

As a journalist and passionate enthusiast of photography, Jean-François Leroy worked for Photo-Reporter, Le Photographe, Photo-Revue and Photo Magazine. At the same time, he made reportages for the agency Sipa-Press. In 1988, he became Dominique Issermann's agent. In collaboration with Yann Arthus-Bertrand, he realised "3 days in France" in 1989, a project creating a portrait of France in 1989, 150 years after the invention of photography. Since September 1989 he has been running Visa pour l'Image, the international photojournalism festival in Perpignan, France. From 1997 to 2009, he partnered with Hachette-Filipacchi through Images Evidence, a company he bought in July 2009 and of which he is now the chairman.

## ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

The 9th Angkor Photo Festival will be held from 23rd to 30th November, 2013, in Siem Reap, Cambodia. Created in 2005, it is the first international photography festival to be held annually in Southeast Asia. The week-long festival features a series of exhibitions and outdoor slideshow projections, along with other activities. Our mission is to be an accessible and inclusive platform for professional media practitioners in Southeast Asia to meet, interact, and celebrate the best of photography from all around the world. All activities and events are open to the public and free-of-charge.

THE **9th**  
**Angkor  
Photo  
Festival**  
**23-30 NOVEMBER 2013**  
SIEM REAP • CAMBODIA

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