

2022 FELLOWS – PROFILES

Contemporary Nights - Sarah Abdu Bushra & Dawit Seto Gobeze (Ethiopia)

Contemporary Nights (CN) is a curatorial forum directing, showcasing, and documenting post-disciplinary artistic productions. Our work resides at the intersection of community, collaboration, convergence and manifests into a multi-pronged programming including a hybrid artists residency, GOJO residency, a research and discussion forum for artists identifying as women, Women in Arts, and a performing-arts showcase, SOLO SOLO SOLO. CN generates spaces for experimentation and facilitates research based and process-driven praxis to redefine real and imagined boundaries. We are a Co(l)laboratory, a space to deconstruct the abstraction in art collaborations and collective processes to forge meaningful connections among art practitioners in Addis Ababa and beyond.

Sarah Abdu Bushra

Sarah Abdu Bushra is a curator of visual and performing arts exhibitions. Her research interest lies in sensing the lived experiences of artists in East African locality and documenting their underlying ties towards building alliances that emerge as rooted arts ecosystems. She works to sharpen the East African gaze centering its archives as well as contemporary practices of art making, contributing to the plurality of existing narratives concerning exhibition making and curatorial praxis. She works at a family-run bookstore and publishing house, Ankeboot Publishing, that explores books as repository and mutating site of knowledge production. She's a 2020 curatorial fellow at ARAK collection, a recipient of 2021 residency in collaboration with Versant Sud, and currently completing her curatorial research in Villa Waldberta, Munich.

Dawit Seto Gobeze

Dawit Seto Gobeze is an Ethiopian contemporary dancer and choreographer. He completed an artists' residency in choreography at Cite des Arts, France and hold a diploma in dance from Ecole des Sables, Senegal. Dawit's work pioneers the study of movement language within Ethiopia's extensive traditional dance archive. In his ongoing creative research practice, he developed: Movement Vocab, a methodology that looks at imprints of embodied gestures, as fractals in the language of traditional dances in Ethiopia. Through his performances and choreographies, he creates an inventory of somatic language from the collective memory of Ethiopian bodies and make it available to the contemporary audience. He has performed and presented his pieces in stages across Ethiopia and internationally.

Diwan of Culture, Design & Innovation (DCDI) represented by Jana Aridi, Ali AbuAwad & Aya Saïdi

Jana Aridi (Lebanon-Netherlands)

Cofounder, Creative Manager

Jana Aridi is an independent architect, artist and multidisciplinary designer, passionate about learning, crafting and translating ideas and concepts into reality, whether through physical artwork and objects or curated visions and programs. As co-founder and Creative Manager at Diwan of Culture, Design & Innovation (DCDI), Jana has extensive experience in research, management and curation in the architecture, art and design sector, with the participants and designers always being at the center of everything DCDI does.

Ali Abu Awad (Lebanon-Istanbul)

Cofounder, Grants Manager

Ali AbuAwad is an audio-visual arts producer with extensive experience in project management, design and production coordination. Co-founder & Grants Manager at Diwan of Culture, Design & Innovation (DCDI), Ali's experience and skills reach out to different ends of the creative and cultural industries utilizing traditional craftsmanship with high end technologies such as 3D printing and hydroponic agrotech. Ali is pursuing sustainable design throughout his work in the fields of event management, cultural development & green technology.

Aya Saïdi (Lebanon)

Operations Coordinator

Aya Saïdi is an event and project specialist, with expansive knowledge in operations, communication, planning and coordination. Aya is an instructor of event planning & management courses at several Lebanese universities. Her current interest is to apply her expertise in supporting the cultural and design sector in Lebanon. She joined the Diwan of Culture, Design & Innovation (DCDI) at the beginning of 2022 as an Operations Coordinator and is working on facilitating its several projects locally and regionally.

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Emmanuel Hove Mhike (Zimbabwe)

Emmanuel Hove Mhike is an award-winning journalist and filmmaker from Zimbabwe. Emmanuel is an experienced arts, culture, media and development practitioner, whose work revolves around supporting grassroots development initiatives at the margins. At Muonde Trust (an organization that seeks to foment locally driven creativity and innovations), Emmanuel is responsible for initiating and coordinating community-based development seminars, workshops, research as well as arts and culture festivals. Emmanuel has attended a number of local and international

endogenous development *indabas*¹, workshops and festivals organized by the African Learning Institute (ALI) and Campus Africa Network. Emmanuel is a filmmaker whose creative documentaries are available on his own YouTube channel [Kumusha Kwedu TV](#) as well as on the YouTube channel of the [Muonde Trust](#). His work also includes spearheading advocacy initiatives that use creative and expressive arts in the protection of indigenous communities' territories and resources. He is one of the few proponents of a novel approach to community development called 'endogenous development' (that is, community-led development or development from within communities).

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Marcellina Dwi Kencana Putri* (Indonesia)

*Would like to be called *Cella*

Marcellina Dwi Kencana Putri is the General Manager of Gudskul Ecosystem since March 2019, where she manages communication, planning, financial management, human resources, production, educational modules and organisational matters, including liaison with potential partners and collaborators from across government to international funding bodies. Gudskul is a collective study and contemporary art ecosystem and public learning space formed by three art collectives in Jakarta: ruangrupa, Serrum and Grafis Huru Hara (GHH). Since early 2000s, these three collectives are active in the field of contemporary art by exercising collective and collaborative work. In 2015, these collectives agreed to form a joint ecosystem adapting values emerging from the collective process: equity, sharing, solidarity, friendship and togetherness. The objective of this learning space is to spread the knowledge of art and cultural work to individuals in order to spark initiative among the public.

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second practice - Fatima Hussain, Ayesha Kamal Khan & Abeerah Zahid (Pakistan)

second practice is a collaborative research practice by Fatima Hussain, Ayesha Kamal Khan & Abeerah Zahid, unpacking knowledge production and dissemination within postcolonial geographies. Exploring trans-disciplinary methodologies in artistic practice, critical inquiry of how the local is often flattened in the global art world, second practice draws out considered positions in formats predisposed to sharing and circulation.

In the recent past, they did a year-long research project 'Access Audience / Audience Access' supported by LBF-AAN. Apart from other publications, they are currently working on 'The Artist as

¹ The term "Indaba" comes from the Zulu and Xhosa languages. - it means "business" or "matter" and among Bantu peoples of southern Africa, refers to a meeting to discuss a serious topic.

Translator' with 15 contributors from the global south forming loops of translations of local materials attempting to stretch visual vocabularies and examine the incapacity of translation while insisting on its necessity.

second practice have collaborated on various projects previously that have been shown at Richmix UK, Zahoor-ul-Akhlq Lahore and SAVAC, Toronto. All three have taught at National College of Arts, Pakistan and have participated in various artists' residencies. They been working together in various capacities for a decade, and formally came together as second practice in 2018 as an extension to their individual practices.

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Tanya Dutt (India)

Tanya Dutt solves socio-economic issues of remote communities through research and multivalent use of hyper-local heritage resources via her initiative [Cultureclan](#). As an arts and culture manager and researcher, she has lived and worked in Japan, Italy, Cambodia, Australia, the UK and remote parts of India. She focuses on sustainable arts regeneration and Cultural and Creative Industry (CCI) management that transgresses conventional strategy and transforms challenges into meaningful outcomes. This earned her the ARThink South Asia Fellowship. Mapping and ecosystem research of the culture sector & arts management in south Asia and beyond aids her in knowledge production and exchange for fellow professionals, which in turn advocate holistic policymaking. She is also a part of the collective [Translocal Solidarity Networks](#). In her free time and to sustain her socially engaged art practice, Tanya loves to write and to give personal expression to art that creates change within. Recently, Tanya has taken on a role as editorial consultant for [TAKE on art magazine](#).