



Press release

@metttazzine & #metttafestival: Exploring digital identities and transnational experiences

July 2022

Who are we on social media? Following the idea that identities are being created through narrating them, the Goethe-Institut in East Asia explores this question until the end of 2022. Instagram magazine metttazzine features interviews with digital natives, while metttafestival combines scientific and artistic explorations of this topic.

@metttazzine



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How do young people on transnational life paths narrate their identity in social media? How do they use digital technology and the platforms to do so? What are the positive and negative impacts of a performance in the digital realm on identity developments?

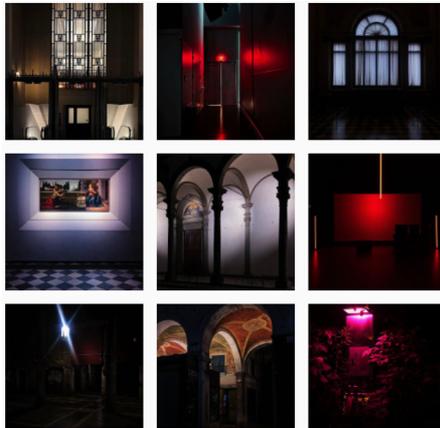
The Instagram magazine @metttazzine seeks answers to these questions by combining interviews and multimedia fragments into a colourful kaleidoscope of digital, transnational biographies. These are posted weekly from July to October 2022.

metttazzine features digital natives from the fields of art, activism, and media who live between Asia and Germany and who use social media in innovative and creative ways. Their networks are connected through the project and they will carry the topics of metttazzine back into their own communities. The magazine also aims to put the great added value of transnational experiences between cultures into the spotlight.

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“I have joined Instagram to visualize my poetics. My focus lays on loneliness, the loneliness of a refugee child – my Tamil family fled genocide in Sri Lanka in the 1980s.

What happens when you turn this language into photography? I take pictures at night, of abandoned, lonely places.”

Senthuran Varatharajah
Novelist, Berlin



#mettafestival

The hybrid festival as a reflexive counterpart of metttazzine will take place on October 1&2 at BUoY in Tokyo's Kitasenju district. It will bring together academic and artistic positions. Large parts of the symposium will be broadcast with the support of other Goethe-Instituts in Asia to enable cross-regional participation.

Partner Tokyo College, the interdisciplinary think tank of the University of Tokyo, will present current research on identity topics in dense, entertaining formats and relate these to the interviews from metttazzine as well as to around ten artistic contributions on site. The opening talk "Narrating Identities" will set the framework for the festival by illuminating how identities are created through narrative processes on digital platforms.

The artistic contributions under the curatorial direction of aliwen muñoz enrich the reflection of digital identities and transnational experiences with further facets. The whole programme and the list of participating scholars and artists will be published on Sep 1.

Ticket sale starts Sep 1: www.goethe-tokyo.peatix.com

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About the project

Website: www.goethe.de/metttazzine

metttazzine and metttafestival are transregional projects under the lead of the Goethe-Institut Tokyo in cooperation with nine other Goethe-Instituts in East Asia and South East Asia. Our partner is Tokyo College, the interdisciplinary think tank of the University of Tokyo.

Press contact

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About the Goethe-Institut



The Goethe-Institut is the cultural institute of the Federal Republic of Germany with a global reach.

We promote knowledge of the German language abroad and foster international cultural cooperation. We convey a comprehensive image of Germany by providing information about cultural, social and political life in our nation. Our cultural and educational programmes encourage intercultural dialogue and enable cultural involvement. They strengthen the development of structures in civil society and foster worldwide mobility.

Our long-lasting partnerships with leading institutions and individuals in over ninety countries create enduring trust in Germany. We are partners for all who actively engage with Germany and its culture, working independently and without political ties.

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About our partner Tokyo College



Tokyo College was founded in 2019 to serve as an interface between the University of Tokyo and overseas researchers and research institutions. Our core philosophy centers around the “Joy of Discovery and Power of Knowledge.” We are committed to the advancement of critical research questions related to “The Earth and Human Society in 2050”.

Researchers at Tokyo College take a central role in forming cross-disciplinary research groups to conduct collaborative research. Though Tokyo College is an independent academic unit, by deepening its relationship with the many researchers and sections of the broader University, the College both promotes cutting-edge, cross-disciplinary research and contributes to the internationalization of research activities at the University of Tokyo as a whole.

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