

PRESS RELEASE



Redefining the Diasporic Experience at the “Dealing in Distance” Festival

DENPASAR – Goethe-Institut Indonesien will be holding a mini festival titled “Dealing in Distance” that presents the works of Southeast Asian and diasporic artists based in Germany and Southeast Asia, as part of the regional programme. The festival will be held at several venues across Denpasar, Bali, from 22nd to 25th January 2026, following Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City in the first and second week of January 2026. Exploring different notions of diaspora, migration, and identity in distance from diverse perspectives and personal experiences, the “Dealing in Distance” festival has been ongoing since 2023, including networking meeting and residencies programme.

In total, there will be more than fifteen artists from various disciplines whose works will be featured in the festival. Among these artists are Indonesian, Malaysian, Vietnamese, and Laotian artists alongside diasporic Southeast Asian artists in Germany. These artists are a combination of those who underwent the “Dealing in Distance” residency programme in Germany and those who fulfilled an open call and were selected by a team of jury, alongside local artists selected by the local curator.

The mini festival proposes a cross cultural dialogues between artists and local communities, through a series of exhibitions, performances, workshops, film screenings, and other collaboratively curated satellite programs.

“The festival attempts to open an invitation to different communities to push our conceptual understanding of the diasporic identity with care, and the need to listen beyond the visible,” stated Marguerite Rumpf, the Head of Cultural Programme of Goethe-Institut Indonesien. She added, “It also encourages public participation in the practice of collective home-making, to reclaim home and create new meaning for home and belonging.”

The regional curator, Nguyen Hai Yen (Red) uses Deleuze and Guattari’s philosophy on rhizomes as a basis to deconstruct ‘diaspora’. It argues that “all things” in the world are rhizomes, or rhizomatically interconnected. They are multiplicities connecting to other multiplicities; collections of fibers connecting to other collections of fibers. The rhizome is not limited to a certain space; it is constantly growing, adapting, and forming new connections with a variety of different multiplicities.

Furthermore, the Vietnamese curator noted, “From the same framework, distance can then be conceived not as a geographical, measurable element of displacement, but as ‘a place’, ‘a place in progress’, ‘a place in-between’. This framework suggests engaging with distance not as a challenge that needs to be resolved, but as a method to move between things. Derived from this context, ‘Dealing in Distance’ then holds space for the memories and imaginaries of the featured artists.”

To follow further information about the “Dealing in Distance” festival including venues and registration for the sessions, visit www.instagram.com/goetheinstitut_indonesien.

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About Goethe-Institut

The Goethe-Institut is the Federal Republic of Germany’s cultural institute, active worldwide. We promote the study of German abroad and encourage international cultural exchange. We also provide a comprehensive image of

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| Germany through information on German political, social and cultural life. Our various cultural and educational programmes support intercultural dialogue and enable cultural participation. These various programmes strengthen the structures of civil society and support global mobility.



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