



Memories For The Future

A solo exhibition by Nyein Chan Su

Memories For The Future

Nyein Chan Su

April 4 to April 10 2013
Institut Français de Birmanie
340, Pyay Road
Yangon, Myanmar

April 25 to May 19 2013
SOCIETE GENERALE Gallery
Alliance française, Level 2
1 Sarkies Road, Singapore, 258130



Intersections

Cover: PORTRAIT IN BLACK, 2012, mixed media, 137cm X 168cm



Nyein Chan Su in Studio Square, Yangon, Myanmar

NCS: Memories For The Future

"I feel that works of art are an opportunity for people to construct meaning, so I don't usually tell what they mean. It conveys to people that they have to participate."

Jasper Johns

Memories for the Future extends Past Journeys: 1970s, a series started in 2012, and invites the viewer to a journey through Myanmar history.

Inspired by black and white family photos, the artist creates large prints in vinyl, crafted like movie posters, on which he writes and draws with red acrylic painting giving a conceptual dimension to the work. Like in previous series, the red text, both in English and in Burmese, is used to create multiple layers of meaning and to link the past to the present and the future.

Starting with joyful images of the family of the artist in the 1960s, we are invited to learn about the history of the Burmese people during the dark days of the 1970s until today.

Among the family portraits, the ones representing his aunt, Daw Toe Toe Lwin, play a major role. Daw Toe Toe Lwin was a singer and a movie actress who starred in five films. During the socialist regime instituted in 1966, she had to perform for free and her marriage to a military officer eventually put an end to her career. NCS often accompanied his aunt to movie shows and kept precious memories of these moments that are intimately associated with his childhood's dreams.

"Portrait in Black" is a beautiful black and white family portrait of his beloved aunt. It is also a social memory of one of the most famous actresses of the 1970s which alludes to the black years of the country under the military junta.

NCS: Memories For The Future

“Morning Show Today”, a recent portrait of Aung San Suu Kyi aims to be a testimony of hope for a brighter future.

Between these 2 images, the viewer is invited to explore a multiple layering of time and meanings. Images of historical events, like the last speech of Aung San, the iconic father of the Nation, and images of monks, alluding to the Saffron Revolution, mingle with family photos representing social and political events, like early students demonstrations, in which the mother of the artist participated.

Challenging the Western concept of a linear evolution from the past to the present, the images of the past question the present in order to express the hope of the nation to be eventually empowered for building its future.

The video performance called “The Shambles” was made and filmed in the streets of Yangon in 2012. It immerses ourselves in today’s reality of the city.

At a time when Myanmar negotiates the opening of the country and the reforming of its political governance, the work of NCS is like a silent scream. Subtle but extremely powerful his paintings express the protest and the expectations of a muted people that has learnt to speak out without words.

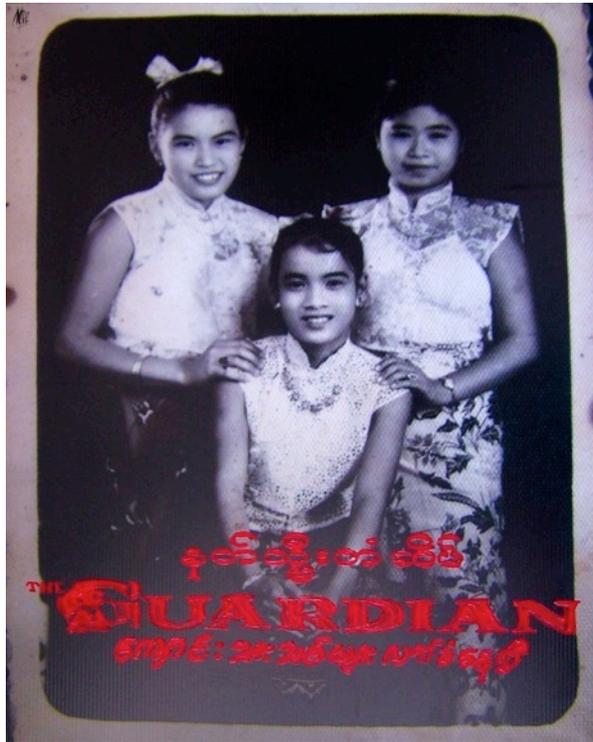
THE WARRIOR

2012, mixed media, 122cm X 92cm



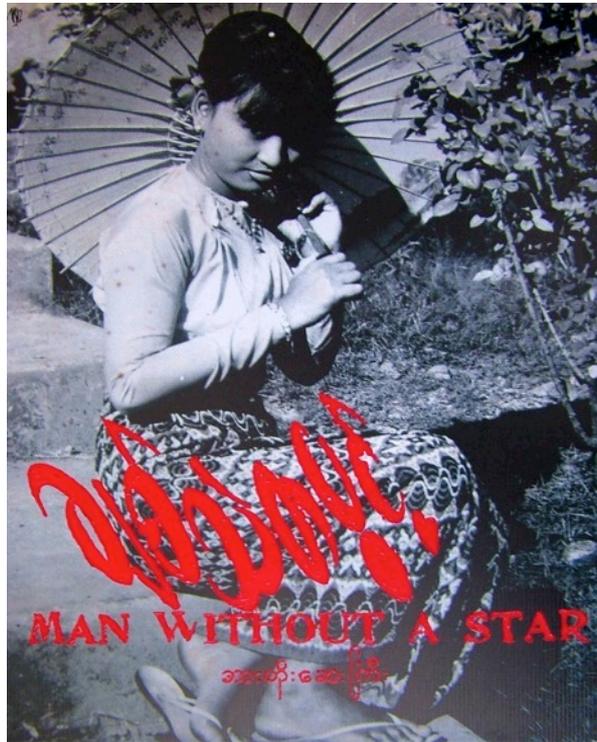
GUARDIAN

2012, mixed media, 122cm X 92cm



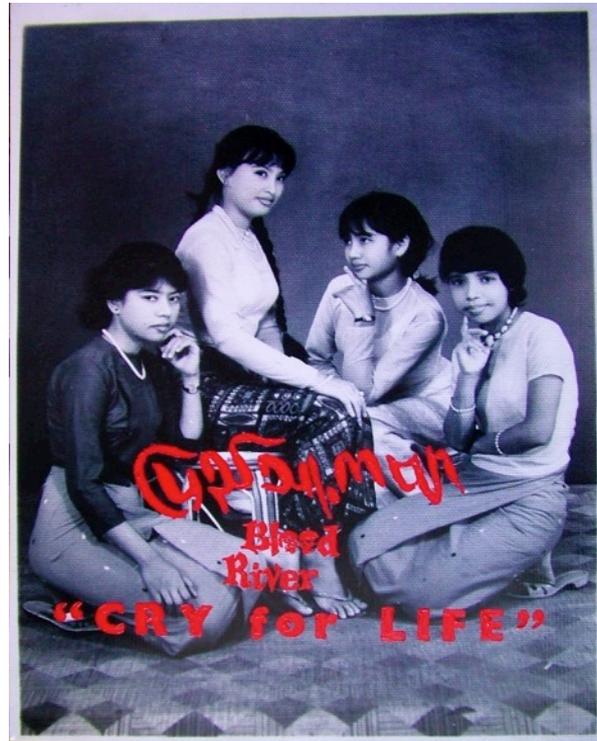
MAN WITHOUT A STAR

2012, mixed media, 122cm X 92cm



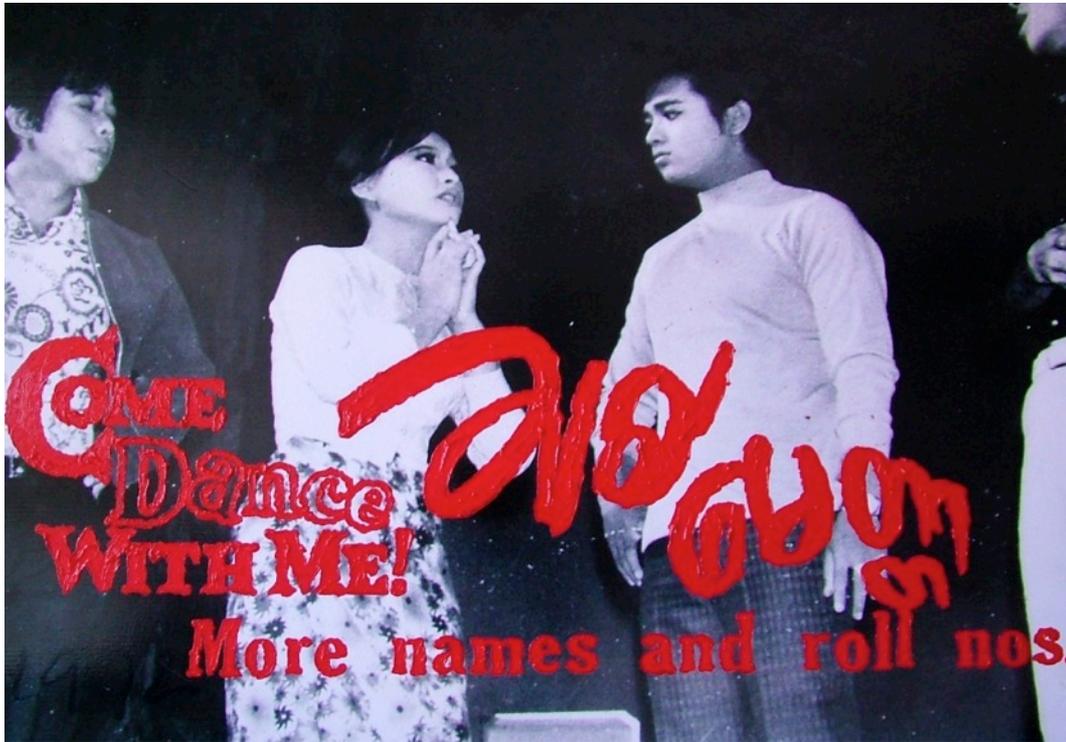
CRY for LIFE

2012, mixed media, 122cm X 92cm



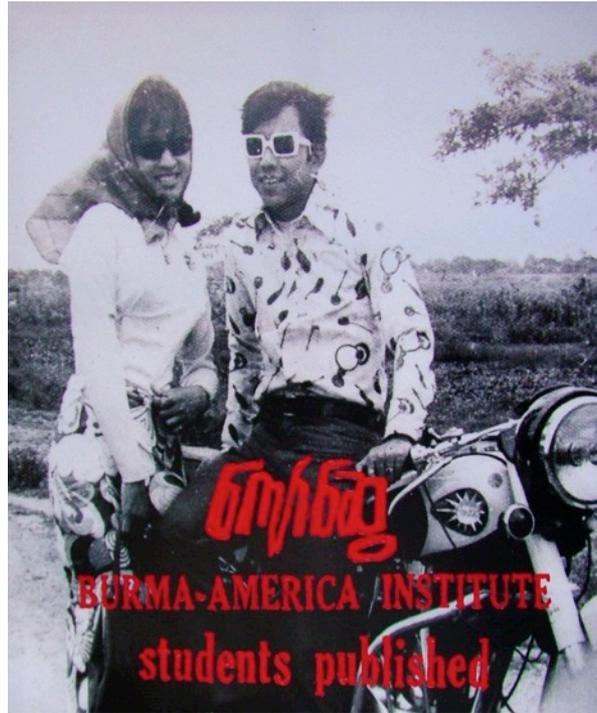
COME DANCE WITH ME

2012, mixed media, 92cm X 122 cm



BURMA-AMERICA INSTITUTE

2012, mixed media, 122cm X 92cm



Ice Cream AND Lollipops
2012, mixed media, 122cm X 92cm



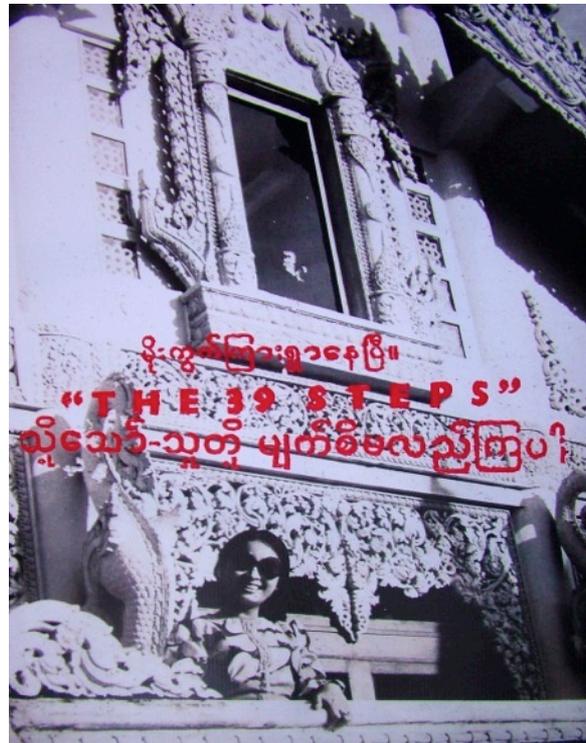
DIARY OF EVENTS

2012, mixed media, 137cm X 168cm



THE 39 STEPS

2012, mixed media, 122cm X 92cm



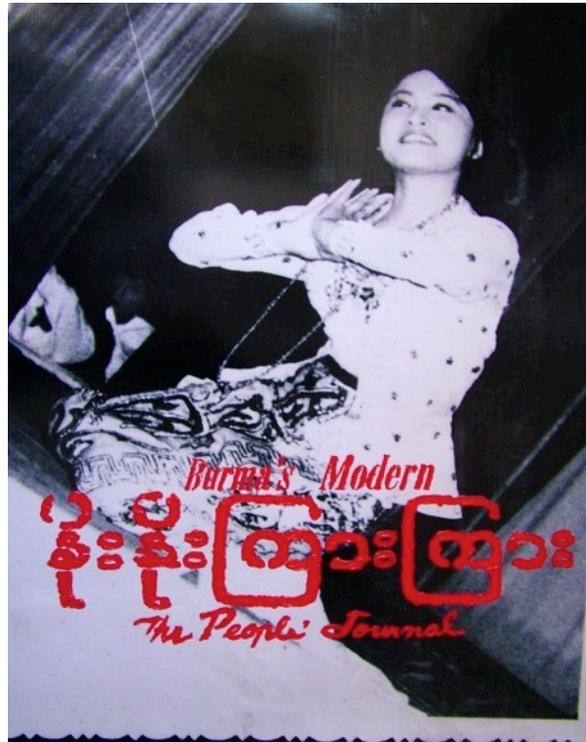
Burma Khit

2012, mixed media, 137cm X 168cm

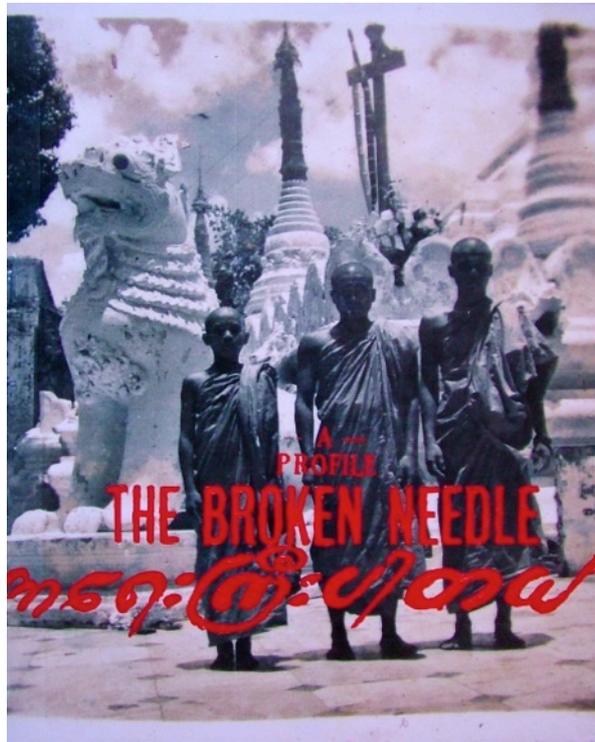


Burma's Modern

2012, mixed media, 122cm X 92cm

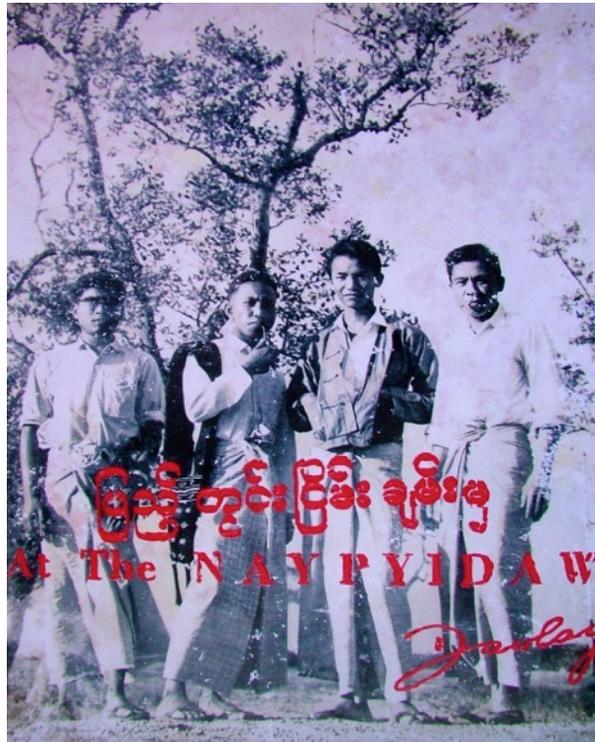


THE BROKEN NEEDLE
2012, mixed media, 122cm X 92cm



At The NAYPYIDAW

2012, mixed media, 122cm X 92cm



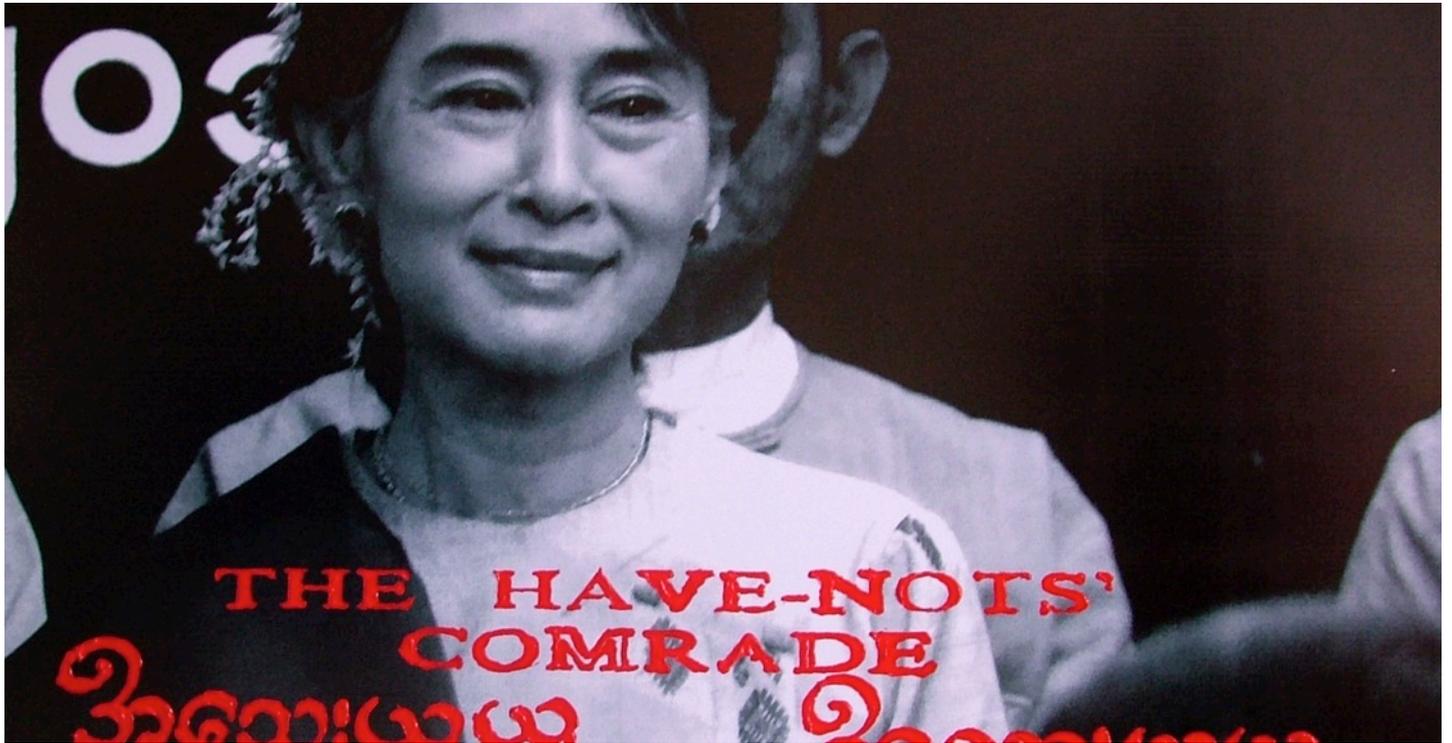
The People' Journal

2012, mixed media, 92cm X 122cm



THE HAVE-NOT' COMRADE

2013, mixed media, 92cm X 122cm



The Shambles

2012, video performance, 3 minutes 9 seconds



Nyein Chan Su: Biography

Born in 1973 in Yangon, Nyein Chan Su had a traditional training in painting and graduated from the State School of Fine Arts (Yangon) in 1994.

Though trained as a painter, NCS has adapted his artistic practice to the most cutting edge artistic language and he is equally renowned as a conceptual and performance artist.

He had his first solo exhibition at Yangon's famed Lokanat Gallery in 1997. He has since participated in numerous exhibitions both in Myanmar and abroad. He was a participant in the Fukuoka Asian Art Triennial in Japan.

In 2001 he received a Certificate of Recognition from the ASEAN Arts Awards and won second prize at the Myanmar Art Awards in 2004. NCS was nominated for the prestigious APB Signature Art Prize 2011 organized by the Singapore Art Museum.

Nyein Chan Su's artworks are in the permanent collections of the Singapore Art Museum, the Fukuoka Art Museum as well as in private collections in Europe and Asia.

Nyein Chan Su: Biography continued

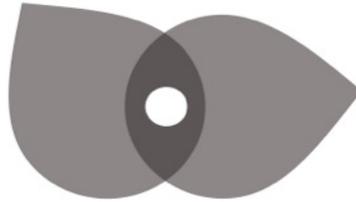
Selected Exhibitions:

- 2012 Nov: “Beyond Burma” Group Show, Thavibu Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand
 Oct: “Past Journey: 1970”, Solo show. Studio Square, Yangon, Myanmar
- 2010 Oct: “Deep Dreams 2010”, Solo show. Studio Square, Yangon, Myanmar
 May: “Play 2010, Art from Myanmar Today”, Osage Gallery, Singapore
 Jan: “My Favorite Collection”, River City Art & Antique Centre, Bangkok, Thailand
- 2009 Feb: “Scream”, Thavibu Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand
 Jan: “The Real & The Mythical Vol: 2” , Solo show. New Zero Art Space, Yangon, Myanmar
- 2008 July: “The Real & The Mythical”, Karin Weber Gallery, Hong Kong
 Feb: Group Show”, Thavibu Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand
- 2007 June: “Group Show”, Karin Weber Gallery, Hong Kong
- 2006 Sept: “Identity”, Blue Space Contemporary Arts Centre, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
 Sept: “Contemporary Art from Myanmar”, The Dhara Dhevi Gallery at Kad Dhara,
 Mandarin Oriental Dhara Dhevi, Chiang Mai, Thailand
 Feb: “Nat+06”, Solo show. Studio Square, Yangon, Myanmar

Nyein Chan Su: Biography continued

Selected Performances:

- 2012 Jan: "The Freedom of Life", 11th Anniversary of FFSS, Yangon, Myanmar
- 2011 Dec: "Body Temporary", Institut Français de Birmanie, Yangon, Myanmar
- 2010 July: "I issue 2010", Bangkok art Culture, Bangkok, Thailand
Feb: "International Festival of Contemporary Theater", Yangon, Myanmar
"Story Teller", Lokanat Gallery, Yangon, Myanmar
Jan: "Bo Aung Din", Bangkok, Thailand
- 2009 Feb: "Speaking Alone", Thavibu Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand
"Body Temporary", Group Performance, Alliance Française, Yangon, Myanmar
- 2008 Oct: "Shadow on Modernity" Group Performance, Alliance Française, Yangon, Myanmar
Sept: "I issue" Group Performance, Alliance Française, Yangon, Myanmar
Feb: "New Zero Art Show", Beikthano Art Gallery, Yangon, Myanmar
"Spiritual Spaces", Solo Performance, Thavibu The Silom Galleria, Bangkok, Thailand
Festival on Contemporary Theater and Performance Art, Alliance Française, Yangon, Myanmar



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