

Chiang Mai 2016

« Car le vrai rôle d'un festival est d'aider les artistes à oser, à entreprendre des projets... »  
Bernard Faivre d'Arcier

## Atelier for Young Festival Managers 1 - 7 December 2016

Closing words by

**Virkein Dhar**

Participant of the Atelier Chiang Mai 2016

Closing Ceremony of the Atelier for Young Festival Managers Chiang Mai 2016

07 December 2016, Chiang Mai, Thailand

Firstly, I would like to thank each member of the hosting team who have been extremely gracious and most welcoming, the atelier for bringing together a diverse group colleagues from around the world.

I wanted to share Kim Emerson's Jar of life ... which has always given me a process of clearing my mind when it's most complicated to take decisions and find logical reasons for its basis. I couldn't find everything for it while at the closing ceremony, but here is a [link](#). Even in all the work we do, one just needs to identify what the golf balls, pebbles or the sand are.

Each of us have had moments of reassurance that made us realise that we are not alone, we've experienced immense gratitude for all that each of us have and learnt not be crushed under the stress of what we don't have! We've been inspired by the stories of others and learnt through strategies that our peers have employed.

We have also shared in much detail the things that make each of us and our contexts different. But I find this to be a space to leave aside the differences and identify all that we share. As many of us echoed, A focus on what is similar within our contexts, within our processes of work, how we feel and our belief, gives us the valuable opportunity to open our minds, leave behind stereotypes and biases we have collected unconsciously over the years, to identify multiple reference points to read and listen to each other and find ourselves in a position to transform through generosity.

I've decided to embed this into a physical memory, and I urge you to do the same so that we don't think twice before reaching out to each other.

If you feel the need for another mind, one that has the ability to be encouraging yet critical, do remember to just find a moment to pause, remind yourself of the atelier and fix a Skype call with your peers to brainstorm and maybe the end of that call gives you a solution.

We share fundamental human emotions and that's what keeps us going and connects us through powerful experiences. Essentially, the arts go beyond language and context and have the ability to

touch every heart. History is evident of the power of collective human spirit overcoming the unimaginable. Many of us have echoed this through the week, and it feels most relevant.

There is a long list of people who have Embraced conflict despite standing for peace. The Dalai Lama chose to live in exile rather than submit to his belief living in Tibet, Mahatma Gandhi and Nelson Mandela had the courage to stand up against repression through unique ways.

As artists and arts managers, it is our duty to engage in conflict against regimes that suppress knowledge that crosses physical borders and contexts, because conflict is a necessary ingredient for creativity. Creativity is what makes space for us to grow and collective knowledge can be destructive.