

From 2010 to 2014 Jean-Pierre Dovat in collaboration with Rik Gadella organized in Project Space • Luang Prabang over 16 thematic exhibitions showcasing arts, crafts and contemporary artists from Southeast Asia. Photography from young local talent, ceremonial paintings from the Yao Mien ethnic minority group, contemporary art, vintage textiles and traditional arts from Laos all found their place in a beautiful three-story building in the historical heart of the UNESCO heritage town of Luang Prabang.

Project Space will now find a new home in the serene Pha Tad Ke Botanical Garden that opened to the public in November 2016. Since 2008 a team of 50 dedicated Lao under the direction of Rik Gadella worked to create the first and only botanical garden of Laos. Focusing on the flora of Laos, Pha Tad Ke reserves a special place for the ethno-botany of Laos, biodiversity conservation through in and ex-situ conservation projects, permaculture and alley cropping demonstration and research facilities.

In 2019 combined synergies will engage a new and exciting phase to create Project Space • Pha Tad Ke in collaboration with curator and textile expert Linda McIntosh. Three beautifully restored wooden houses will host exhibitions, workshops and cultural events in the heart of Pha Tad Ke Botanical Garden. Exhibitions with contemporary art, antique textiles, photography, tribal sculpture, architectural projects, poetry and philosophy will open new crossroads for stimulating and creative discoveries. A small study room will house a research library and one of the buildings will showcase thematic exhibitions based on international collections to acknowledge the wealth, knowledge and treasures of these singularly dedicated personalities who support the arts and crafts of the world yesterday, today and tomorrow. A fourth house will accommodate residencies for contemporary artists, designers and writers to open new pathways for research and creation. And finally, an exciting series of tailor-made workshops and lectures from local and international artists, researchers and designers will engage international visitors to open and stimulate creative paths for young talents from Laos and worldwide.

Jean-Pierre Dovat

A regular visitor to China and Southeast Asia since 1976, Jean-Pierre Dovat has developed a keen interest in Asian culture. In 2004, a trip down the Mekong River took him to Luang Prabang. He immediately fell under the spell of this ancient town and with his associate Khamphanh Inthavong, he created Mekong Estate with the aim of building a collection of long-term rental houses in a style that respected the town's UNESCO protected colonial Lao architecture.

Rik Gadella

Established in the art world in Amsterdam, Paris and New York as a publisher, gallerist and curator for over 25 years Rik Gadella is the creator of world-renowned events such as Paris Photo and Parcours des Mondes and published over 100 books of Art, Philosophy, Poetry, Essays and Artist Books as well as four magazines. In 2008 he visited Luang Prabang for a short holiday and fell in love with the town and its natural surroundings. He decided to move here to create the first botanical garden of Laos.

Linda S. McIntosh

Curator and textile expert Linda S. McIntosh has researched the cultures of Southeast Asia since 1996. Receiving her doctorate from Simon Fraser University on textiles of South Laos, she has published extensively on textiles and cultures of the region and curated and consulted for museums in the USA, Laos, Singapore and Thailand. Her publications include *Art of Southeast Asian Textiles: The Tilleke & Gibbins Collection*; *Carving a Community: The Katu People*; and forthcoming *Thread and Fire: Textiles and Jewellery from the Isles of Indonesia and Timor*.