

Crossworld Puzzle

Curated by Kerrine Goh & Andy Chan

Crossword puzzles were derived from the idea that arranging a random group of letters in grids, forming words or phrases either horizontally or vertically, can serve as an exciting word play of intelligibility.

Crossworld Puzzle adopts these word puzzle games as its reference, endeavouring to survey the presence of an 'ASEAN identity' beyond its geopolitical characteristics by means of random images. Much like the popular pastime, in place of incomplete letters are snippets of photographs; each one can only tell a fragment of the whole story. Will completing the pieces form the much anticipated big picture?

In fact, the notion of an ASEAN identity seems detached and improbable for ASEAN citizens. Apart from being bonded by geography, are there any other characteristics, attitudes, and interests that we actually share in common? Perhaps in order to explore this sense of identity that is 'ASEAN-ness', we need to welcome the differences and similarities from one another.

Unfolding as a series of crossword puzzles by assembling a collection of images (instead of words and/or phrases), *Crossworld Puzzle* asks thinkers and viewers to consider the parallels and disparities within the various ASEAN countries. This interactive curatorial project attempts to resemble the ASEAN way of ordering and structuring of things and topics out of an incoherent regional identity. Perhaps there are ways to generate yet another alternative facet of the much touted 'ASEAN identity.'