



From the outset in the refugee camps, Krousar Thmey set up cultural exhibitions for the general public - such as the first exhibition *Rice fields : two cultures to discover* displayed in all the camps on the border in 1992 - and initiated art courses for children: music, traditional dances and shadow theater were to continue to live beyond their old masters. Today, the program is divided into two parts: a school of Khmer arts and culture open all year, and teachings for all children welcomed in the structures of the association.

## OBJECTIVE

**To enable children to take ownership of their cultural heritage and to grow by (re) discovering their traditions and arts.  
Use art as therapy for children with trauma or disability.**



students in painting



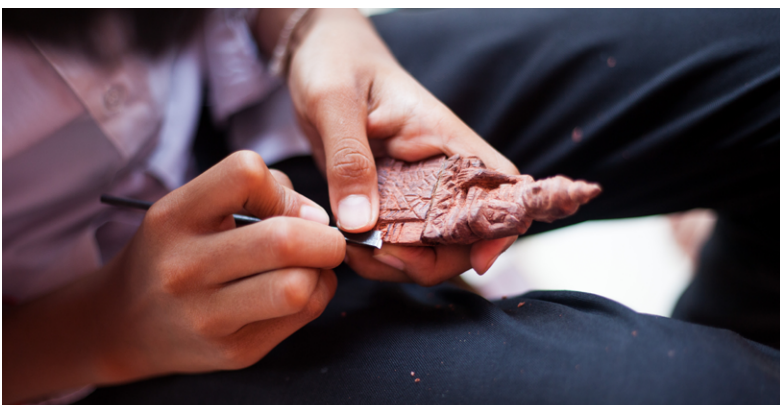
students in dance



students in sculpture



students in music



## SCHOOL OF KHMER ARTS AND CULTURE IN SEREY SOPHON

Opened in 1996 and located in the heart of a region heavily influenced by Thai culture, the school is entirely dedicated to traditional Khmer arts.

- Activities: music, dance, sculpture, painting, traditional theater Yikè, photography and circus - thanks to local partnerships
- Only school in the province of Banteay Meanchey to offer an artistic program to young students from the 2 public schools nearby from grade 7 to grade 9
- Open to all children in the region who are also interested in the program during school holidays - August to October

## DANCE AND MUSIC FOR DEAF, BLIND OR DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN

From an early age, deaf or blind children have the opportunity to participate in dance and music classes in all our schools, as well as children in protection centers.

For disadvantaged, blind or deaf children, art represents a tremendous therapy, a mean of expression and a chance to develop creativity and self-confidence.

### HIGHLIGHT

For the school year 2015-2016, all the students of the Serey Sophon school of arts, from all disciplines, passed their year-end exam.







## RAISING AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

Each summer, a campaign is organized to raise awareness on the issue of disability and access to education for deaf and blind children. A group of young people criss-cross the country and, by demonstrating their talents, are gradually changing mentalities about disability.

Other artistic events are organized throughout the year, so our students have the chance to perform for numerous events of regional, national or international scope. These shows allow children to get a great appreciation for their efforts. They thus gain many advantages which will be useful to them in their adult life.

The students of Siem Reap School perform every Wednesday evening in a partner restaurant in the city, mobilizing the tourist community on the causes defended by Krousar Thmey.



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**THEARITH Ties, 22, music teacher in Kampong Cham school**



*Even though I'm not completely blind, I was having a hard time getting into public school when I was little. I was 8 when Krousar Thmey's teams came to my village during an awareness campaign.*

*Today, I know what I am capable of and I am proud of my skills, especially in music. At Krousar Thmey, I also had the chance to live with other children who had a disability other than mine. I followed all my schooling and I have always enjoyed music lessons. In 2011, I was offered to become a music teacher myself, first on my free time. Then I got my bachelor's degree in 2014 and at the beginning of September 2015, I became a full-time music teacher at the school. Later, I would like to open my own music school to teach children with or without disabilities. “*

