

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Bussaraporn Thongchai

BORN 1985 NAKHONPHANOM, THAILAND

Bussaraporn Thongchai is a Thai contemporary artist who works primarily in drawing and painting. She was born as the youngest of four daughters in a small town in the Nakhonphanom Province in 1985, and was raised in Isarn, the north-eastern region of Thailand bordered by the Mekong River. She studied a Bachelor and Master of Fine Arts at Silpakorn University in Bangkok (2004-2013). During the final year of her Bachelor's degree in 2009, she was selected for *Brand New*, an annual exhibition and forum for young artists and art critics curated by Gridthiya Gaweewong at Bangkok University Gallery. One year later Bussaraporn had her first solo exhibition *All About Her* at Ardel Gallery of Modern Art in Bangkok. In this exhibition she criticized the patriarchy through the observation of her father's power and violence, and the consequences for other family members as well as the moral paradox in her family. Two years after the death of her father, her solo exhibition *The Man Number 10* explored the complicated relationship between herself, her father and all of her ex-boyfriends. Shortly after, her third solo exhibition *SORRY! Life in Progress!* was held at Gallery N, Bangkok. Bussaraporn literally moved into the exhibition space, living and working in the venue for one month while visitors to the gallery were welcomed to observe her life in progress. Two years later, in 2015, her fourth solo exhibition *I'm Not Your Holy Mother* was set up as an ironic symbol of the struggle during her latest relationship with a guy who enthroned an anonymous woman as his sacred Mother.

In 2015 Bussaraporn relocated from Bangkok to Berlin and began working in the Ban Ying shelter, a refuge for women from Africa, southeast Asia and Eastern Europe who were victims of human trafficking. In March 2018 she held her fifth exhibition, *Pieces from Berlin*, at Ardel Third Place Gallery Bangkok, inspired by the lives and experiences of the women.

Bussaraporn has exhibited in group exhibitions such as *Art in the Ninth Reign: Thai Trends from Localism to Internationalism* at Bangkok Art and Culture Centre and *Thai Transience by 25 Thai artists* at Singapore Art Museum. In 2014 she was a finalist in Sovereign Asian Art Prize in Hong Kong. In 2015, along with 24 Thai artists, she was selected for the *Thailand Eye* exhibition at Saatchi Gallery, London.