

Media Kit

16albermarle Project Space,
Delmar Gallery and
Faculty of Fine and Applied Art, Chulalongkorn University present

OTHER POSSIBLE WORLDS Contemporary art from Thailand

25 June – 31 July 2022
16albermarle Project Space, Sydney

26 June – 1 August 2022
Delmar Gallery, Sydney



Thidarat Chantuachua (Mariem) *Dimensions of faith 2* 2017, embroidery and acrylic on fabric, 117 x 160 cm

Media Contacts

Sydney

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DELMAR GALLERY



Sompote Ang
Untitled 2022
oil on board
45 x 35 cm

Bussaraporn Thongchai (b 1985)

Busui Ajaw (b 1986)

Imhathai Suwatthanasilp (b 1981)

Kasarin Himacharoen (b 1989)

Kusofiyah Nibuesa (b 1992)

Piyarat Piyapongwiwat (b 1977)

Sompote Ang (b 1961)

Suebsang Sangwachirapiban (b 1980)

Surajate Tongchua (b 1986)

Som Supaparinya (b 1973)

Tada Hengsapkul (b 1987)

Thidarat Chantachua (b 1991)

Media Release

Other Possible Worlds: Contemporary art from Thailand will showcase work by artists from Thailand, one of our region's most vibrant contemporary art scenes.

Sydney, Australia: Including work by 12 younger and mid-career artists, *Other Possible Worlds* presents contemporary art from Thailand to Australian audiences. Reflecting Thai art, the exhibition includes works in many media – painting, sculpture, photography, installation, neon, video, prints and works on paper – and from many parts of Thailand.

While Thailand is a major destination for Australian tourists, few Australians engage with Thai culture. But as exhibition co-curator John Cruthers reports, “Thai art, becoming more established on the world stage, is a fantastic entry point to the country and its diverse cultures. It is creative, sophisticated and often socially or politically engaged. While it has not been easy to see, learn about or collect Thai art outside Thailand, *Other Possible Worlds* brings a range of work by leading younger artists to Australia.”

Home to 70 million people, Thailand is the third most populous country in southeast Asia, and one of the most successful. Thailand is home to ethnic Thais, Malays and other minorities such as the Karen and Hmong, as well as large numbers of well assimilated migrants, especially from China. Over 90 per cent of the population is Buddhist and Buddhism has been a powerful influence on the country's society and culture.

Another powerful influence has been the history of Thailand's experience with colonial powers. Thais are very conscious that, unlike its neighbours, Thailand was never formally colonized. Equally, though, they are conscious of the impact of imported ideas on traditional values and institutions, including in politics.

In recent decades, Thais have experienced elections, military coups, several constitutions, and a range of elected, unelected, and semi-elected governments. The monarchy holds a special place in Thai society. The present king, Rama X, ascended to the throne in 2016 on the death of his father, who ruled for 70 years.

Historically, Thai art has been used to promote Thailand's rich heritage and traditions. At the same time, contemporary artists have enthusiastically engaged in contemporary debates. The works in *Other Possible Worlds* are connected by the artists' collective investigation of key issues facing Thai society – urbanization, environmental issues, inequality and the resulting high levels of disadvantage, and the political rights and duties of Thai people. As the title suggests, artists have the capacity to imagine other possible futures for Thailand.

Other Possible Worlds provides a platform to discuss broader topics - both where these artists and works sit within Thai society and culture, and in terms of current trends in contemporary art. The exhibition will be accompanied by public programs allowing Australians and others to engage with Thai contemporary artists and curators. It is hoped the wider community of curators, artists, collectors, academics and researchers will participate in this discussion – bringing all voices and experiences together.



Exhibition Personnel

Haisang Javanalikhikara - curator

Haisang is one of a new generation of young Thai curators. An artist's daughter, she studied media arts, contemporary art and curatorial practice in the UK. Returning to Bangkok she worked at Bangkok Art and Culture Centre from 2012-2018, while studying for her DFA from Chulalongkorn University. In 2019 she was appointed a lecturer at Chulalongkorn, where she's a director of her faculty's gallery and co-learning space CUArt4C, founder and editor-in-chief of the multimedia e-magazine Teleaesthetics (teleaesthetics.net) and currently launching the first Master of Arts in Curatorial Practice degree offered in Thailand.

"For nearly a decade I've worked in the Thai art scene. I've seen great developments - maturing in curators, experimental spaces and artists making works in more challenging ways. So when I was approached by John Cruthers to work on an exhibition of contemporary Thai art to be shown in Sydney, I was excited and agreed straight away.

"I'm pleased to work with John as I acknowledge his commitment to southeast Asian art, which is pure and passionate. Also, I've found it thrilling to curate a Thai exhibition for a different audience. There are many Thai immigrants in Sydney, but this exhibition opens another perception of Thailand. It aims to help Australian audiences comprehend Thailand better.

"To prepare, John and I did a research trip through Thailand to meet each artist we're interested in. The exhibition comes from this work and our efforts to get the fullest understanding possible. We've gone back and forth on each artist and artwork; on how we're showing them, how they interconnect, how they represent Thailand. I'd say we're a great team as we have similar views on artworks which speak to us. A curatorial framework came naturally from our selections.

"*Other Possible Worlds* should be a revealing introduction to Thai contemporary art as well as the current situation and how it has arisen from historical events. This two-part exhibition isn't presenting one aspect of Thailand, but many, balancing both admirable and critical views. It reflects local events, but I also believe international audiences can relate it to global happenings as well."

John Cruthers – co-curator

John Cruthers is one of Australia's most respected art advisers, and since 2019 director of 16albermarle Project Space in Sydney. Working from 1974 with his mother Sheila Cruthers, he assembled the Cruthers Collection of Women's Art. It was gifted to the University of Western Australia in 2007 and is Australia's largest stand-alone collection of women's art. In 1985 he began working with Australian private collectors. His enthusiasm for southeast Asian art was kindled in 2013. He's travelled widely in the region learning about its art and artists. He opened 16albermarle Project Space to share his passion for southeast Asian art with Australian audiences.

"In 2013 I began exploring southeast Asian art, after three decades working with Australian and Indigenous art. The work was a revelation, and I've spent eight years travelling and learning about each country's art and art scene.

"My several months in Thailand have been in Bangkok and Chiang Mai. I've visited museums—public and private—university galleries, art centres and commercial galleries. But mostly I've met artists. It's enriching to hear first-hand the impetus for their work and its contribution to national debates about key issues in culture and society.

"I began collecting Thai art in 2015, with a focus on art by women. For me it's a fascinating contrast to the Australian art I grew up with. It also represents the challenge of learning about a new country and its culture. From my first purchase I've been confident other Australians would share my enthusiasm if I could find a way to introduce them to the work. Meeting Haisang has helped make this possible."



Curators Haisang Javanalikhikara and John Cruthers with Thidarat Chantachua (Mariem) outside her studio in Bangkok in early 2020.

Opposite

Suebsang Sangwachirapiban

#Smile State_2 2016

brass sheet metal on plywood and submersible neon

61 x 240 x 10 cm

Exhibition Partners

Faculty of Fine and Applied Art, Chulalongkorn

The exhibition *Other Possible Worlds* is a partnership between 16albermarle Project Space and the Faculty of Fine and Applied Art, Chulalongkorn University. Founded in 1899 to train royal pages and civil servants, Chulalongkorn was established as a national university in 1917, making it the oldest institute of higher education in Thailand. It is a comprehensive and autonomous research university that has been voted Thailand's top university in many surveys. The new Master of Arts in Curatorial Practice is a significant commitment by the university to the contemporary art sector in Thailand, and an important stage in its professionalization.

16albermarle Project Space

16albermarle is a Project Space in inner-city Sydney founded to present new art from southeast Asia to Australian audiences. Director John Cruthers has travelled widely in the region learning about contemporary art.. His first exhibition *Termasuk: Contemporary art from Indonesia*, featured 12 artists and ran successfully at Darren Knight Gallery, Sydney in early 2019. Since opening in October 2019, 16albermarle has presented six exhibitions of new contemporary art from countries including Indonesia, Thailand and Myanmar.

Delmar Gallery

Delmar Gallery was established in 1969 and is one of Sydney's longest-running contemporary art galleries. It is part of Trinity Grammar School, an independent Anglican school for boys from Pre-Kindergarten to Year 12. The gallery serves the local community with free admission to exhibitions and associated events. Its ambitious program ranges across the spectrum of the visual arts, with curated exhibitions that engage, inspire and challenge audiences. It aims to provide rich educational experiences for students and teachers, firing imaginations and stimulating critical enquiry. It also seeks to introduce students to artists' ways of working and lay the foundation for a lifelong appreciation of the arts.



Kusofiyah Nibuesa
Cultural assimilation 04 2019
paper assemblies on print
155 x 280 cm

Selected Images



Tada Hengsapkul
They said they didn't use live rounds 2014
four digital C-Prints
84 x 59.4 cm
edition of 3 + 2AP

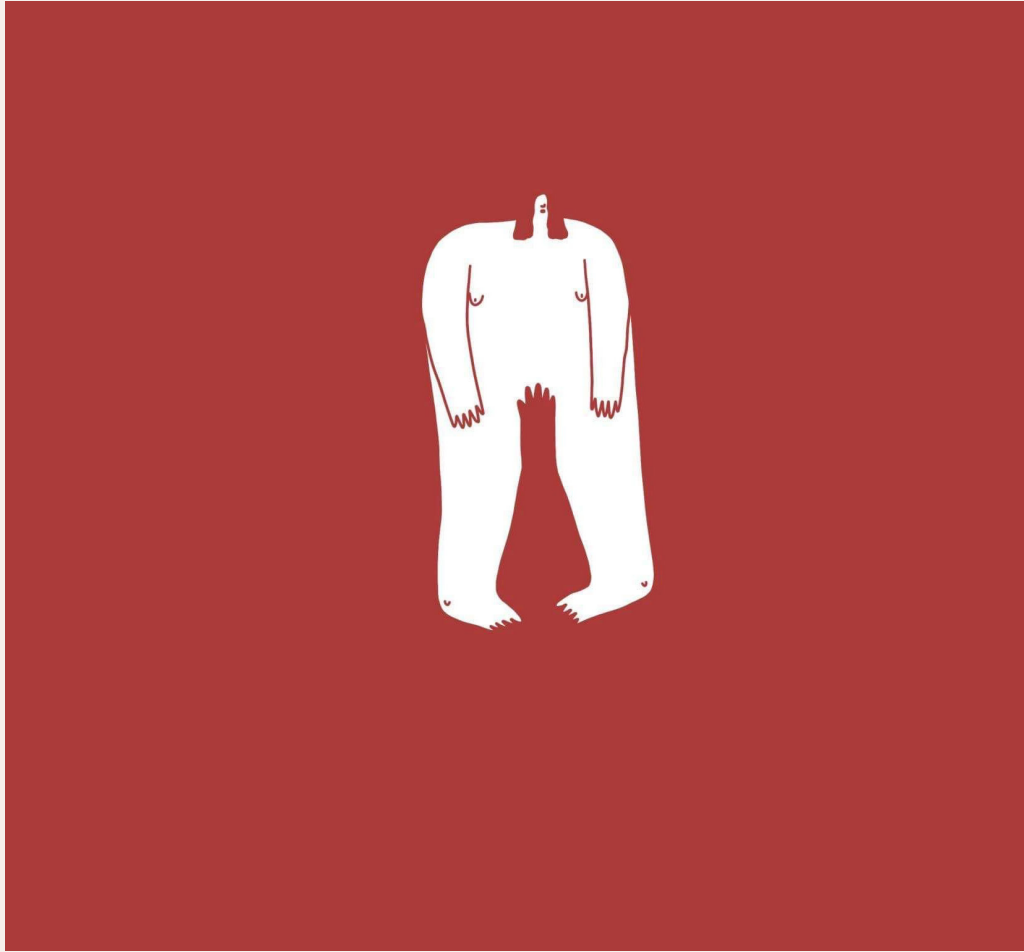




Opposite Above
Piyarat Piyawongwiwat
Can you sing the national anthem? 2015
neon tubes
20 x 245 x 10 cm
edition of 3 + 1 AP

Opposite Below
Surajate Tongchua
Untitled 2021
paper mâché from recycled
government documents
123 x 60 x 34 cm

Above
Busui Ajaw
Atinna Tana Veramane
(Do not steal) 2022
acrylic on canvas
120 x 100 cm



OTHER POSSIBLE WORLDS

Contemporary art from Thailand

16albermarle Project Space
16 Albermarle Street
Newtown NSW 2042
Thu - Sat, 11am - 5pm,
or by appointment

Delmar Gallery
144 Victoria Street
Ashfield NSW 2131
Wed - Sun, 12 - 5pm



DELMAR GALLERY

Above:
Kasarin Himacharoen
Sexual harassment 2022
silk screen on paper
30 x 40 cm

www.16albermarle.com