

NOVA | CONTEMPORARY

Press Release

“Nova Contemporary” introduces “Under the Same Sky”, the duo art exhibition by renowned Thai artists Chai Siris and Tada Hengsapkul

Bangkok, September 30, 2016: **Sutima Sucharitakul**, Director and founder of Nova Contemporary, an international contemporary art gallery which aims to support art education and to encourage the better understanding of contemporary art among public, presents **“Under the Same Sky”** the duo art exhibition by **Chai Siris** and **Tada Hengsapkul** to bring audience back to his personal interim memories and explore ourselves to the connection of memory, time and existence. The exhibition is opened to public free of charge from September 30 – December 15, 2016 (Tuesday - Sunday) at Nova Contemporary, Ratchadamri Rd.

The event is started with the casual talk *"Heavenly for a night: an in-between realm"* with **Chai Siris** and **Tada Hengsapkul** to reveal their memories of childhood and its existence stay hidden under the border of historical contexts and times such as the American Army base in Northeastern region and the escape from Myanmar along Salawin River.

Sutima says “Nova Contemporary strongly intends to support and raise up the contemporary art education in Thailand to international stage and to encourage the better understanding of contemporary art among public. This exhibition will be another step to show the knowledge, talent and potential of Thai artists and to announce the success of Thai artist on international stage. Under the Same Sky is more than an interesting exhibition, it is all about the meaning that we need to experience and interpret ourselves.”

Chai Siris is the renowned artist and filmmaker. His works were shown by renowned events including Venice International Film Festival and Documenta 13 His current project, *The Man Who Waits 500,000 Years for this Song*, is a portrait of an archeology site at northern Thailand. It will be presented at the Dhaka Biennale 2016 in Venice, Italy. While, **Tada Hengsapkul** is one of five Thais are included on Forbes’ inaugural “30 under 30 Asia” list featuring 300 young innovators, entrepreneurs and leaders across Asia who are under 30 years of age and who are transforming business, technology, industry, media, culture and more.

To mark the opening of exhibition, Uthis Haemamool, recipient of a SEA Write prize in 2009, honorably describes the two artists in an article called “Love Tied Down At the End of Memory Lane” that they are able to portray historical moments through the eye of their past experiences.

Using mixed media art, artists were able to present their work in an interesting manner during the era of self-observation and individualistic culture.

For Chai siris's collection, he incorporates his past with important historical events exploring the vague memory of his mother on the night of the escape from Myanmar to Thailand by crossing the Salaween river. Connecting the borders physically and chronically with reality and imagination, the work portrays the artist's search for the wound hidden in time.

1. L'amore est Mort: The installation inspired by love letters and the golden phase using the first time for king Charles VI's dead. Chai depicts the transitional time both his personal history and Thai society.

2. Banana Ghost: The installation to challenge us what is a true form of art? Should it last forever or just bloomed and die? Is the meaning live inside the body of works like spirit? Here is Chai's question also narratives we created or read from materialistic culture.

3. Reena: The photo printed from special Japanese paper to convey about Reena, a lovely ghost who love having conversation with lovely man. She travels through times and histories. Chai's invited his mother unreal dreams into his works. Reena was her Burmese name before it was changed to Phonsiri once residing in Thailand.

4. Salaween River Script: The photo printed from special Japanese paper to narrate an evening journey in Salaween river of Aun and Reena. They enjoyed the sceneries both of the river and from memory.

5. Mae Ram Waterfall Script The photo printed from special Japanese paper to show the evening conversation between Reena and Uncle. Reena told her love story to a man in the village.

6. Day for Night The single channel video installation to show Chai investigated his mother's faded memory about the night she crossed Salaween river when she was young.

Tada's collection reflects some odd memories of childhood in historical contexts and events that remain as the ruined wonder in his life.

1. Invisible Colours: The photo recorded when he was investigating the historical area around Nakornratchasima province. To convey hidden meanings of truth which is hidden that area and information received from local people, this photo is destroyed the pictures by chemical substance.

2. No Answers in the Wind: The installation made from the repletion arrangement of broken coin until it changes to another context itself. Tada doesn't want to know what it is, just making something reveals itself.

3. Bliss The series of the last US mortar shell which is produced during the war in 1972 – 1974, was left behind, without any uses in Vietnam, Lao and Cambodia. They were stored

in Thai armories throughout country for years. Currently, these weapon has deteriorated and been eliminated every day as the garbage. It doesn't leave any meaning of existence

4. Future Loops Foundation The artist doesn't want to express his idea or feeling regarding to this video. He would like guests to come, feel and experience the expectation of others and surrounding.

5. Hidden Love: The video "Hidden Love" is about a photograph of a beautiful middle-aged woman placed on the Buddha shelf which Tada has seen since she was a little girl. Growing up intrigued and curious, the beauty of this woman drives Tada to look into the history of this photo and the woman's past. However, her findings were shocking as they are filled with shameful truth that is hidden until today.

6 . The Quality of Mercy is not Strained: The installation that has been portrayed through the simulation globe which is made by melting all the bomb shells and weapons used in the war between Vietnam and the United States, that are still left in Thailand. On those there were scripts quoted from the Zippo lighter belonged to American soldiers. Such quotes are parts of the story scripts of 'The Merchant of Venice' by William Shakespeare. The artist sent the mentioned quotes to his dad, so that his dad could carve the quotes by using laser and pins on the simulation globe

“This exhibition will open the visitors' new experience and perceivedness of contemporary art. It show that the beauty is not explored only our senses but it can be perceived from our 'self' and spirit. I would like to invite art fans, students and others to visit this exhibition to support the Thai artists and enhance Thailand to become an art destination in Asia.” Sutima adds

The exhibition will showcase from September 30 – December 15, 2016 (free of charge). Gallery hours are Tuesday – Sunday 11:00 am to 8:00pm, and by appointment at Nova contemporary, Ratchadamri Rd. (near BTS Ratchadamri station). For additional information, please call 090 910 6863, Email: napassa@novacontemporary.com