

NOVA | CONTEMPORARY

YOU LEAD ME DOWN, TO THE OCEAN

Tada Hengsapkul

Curated by Thanavi Chotpradit

6 June - 21 July 2019



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NOVA CONTEMPORARY presents YOU LEAD ME DOWN, TO THE OCEAN by Tada Hengsapkul, curated by Thanavi Chotpradit. This is the Second Edition developed from the First Edition shown at the 9th Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art (APT9) at the Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, Australia (2018-2019).

Born and raised in Nakhon Ratchasima (commonly known as Korat) where the Royal Thai Air Force and the United States Air Force were based during the Vietnam war and where the war's cultural and political legacies remain visible, Hengsapkul has an interest in investigating Cold War history and its memories as a part of his artistic creativity. Together with field research, the artist has conducted archival research in a search for official records, images and various types of publications in both the

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National Archives of Thailand and the private sector. Hengsapkul's discovery of information and historical narratives led to artworks that have revealed previously unfamiliar dimensions of the Vietnam War, its memories and its consequences: some imperceptible stories, and some unheard voices. YOU LEAD ME DOWN, TO THE OCEAN presents fragments of memories of the Vietnam War and its consequences, military power, traces of individuals' relationships and glimpses of perspectives from the "little people" as seen in their writings.

YOU LEAD ME DOWN, TO THE OCEAN also presents a series of public programmes and workshops as follows.

Saturday, June 8, 2019, 14.00-16.00 hrs.

Dear Love: From the Great War to the Vietnam War

A public lecture by Dr. Tul Israngura Na Ayudhya, Department of History, Faculty of Arts, Chulalongkorn University (in Thai)

A lecture entitled "Dear Love: From the Great War to the Vietnam War" by Dr. Tul Israngura Na Ayudhya, a historian who specialises in medieval and early modern European history, particularly the history of the Great War and the Second World War, deals with letters written during war time. This lecture considers the connection between various letters written during the Vietnam War which have been exhibited as art objects. It will reveal the meaning and implication of feelings, thoughts and the impact of war on individuals: the soldiers, their lovers and families.

Sunday, June 9, 2019, 14.00-16.00 hrs.

Dear Writing: Love Letters

A reading group and writing workshop (closed-door activity, in Thai)

A reading group and writing workshop "Dear Writing: Love Letters" led by Tada Hengsapkul and Thanavi Chotpradit (No more than six participants) will consist of a reading of letters written by the soldiers and their families during the Vietnam War and a writing activity. The participants will be invited to write a letter as a reflection on the past and the exhibition.

* The letters written by the participants will be published in an exhibition catalogue.

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Saturday, July 6, 2019, 16.00-22.00 hrs.

A Thousand Pieces

A collage workshop + Catalogue Launch + DJ TADA, DJ ELAHEH, DJ AHIVAR & DJ JIRUS

A collage workshop entitled "A Thousand Pieces" led by Tada Hengsapkul and Thanavi Chotpradit (No more than six participants) will experiment with ways of playing with images for the purpose of storytelling. Superimposition, inappositeness, disorder, disarrangement and arbitrary juxtaposition of images and text will push the boundaries of individuals' expression.

** The participants will have a chance to see an art book which is part of the First Edition of YOU LEAD ME DOWN, TO THE OCEAN shown at the 9th Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art (APT9) at Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, Australia (2018-2019).

*** As positions in the workshops are very limited and in Thai, please submit a letter of intention of not more than 1 page with a short CV to info@novacontemporary.com by June, 25. Selected submissions will be notified by June, 30.

The collage workshop will be followed by a catalogue launch (in Thai with an English summary) at 18.00 hrs. and music by DJ TADA, DJ ELAHE, DJ AHIVAR & DJ JIRUS.

The exhibition will showcase from June 6 – July 21, 2019 (free of charge). Gallery hours are Tuesday – Sunday 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and by appointment at Nova contemporary, Rajdamri Rd. (near BTS Rajdamri station). For additional information, please call +66 90 910 6863, Email: Press@novacontemporary.com

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TADA HENGSAKUL

b. 1987, Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand

Live and work in Bangkok, Thailand

Education

B.A. of Photography Pohchang Academy of Arts, Bangkok, Thailand.

Solo Exhibitions

2017 "The Shard would shatter at touch" at Cartel Artspace, Bangkok, Thailand

2014 "Ying Chod Chai Chua" at Toot Yung Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand

2013 "PARADE" at H Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand 2011 "NO SUPEREGO" at Toot Yung Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand

2010 "OXYTOSIN" at Sorrapong, Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand 2009 "ILLU-STATION" at Bo{ok}hemian, Phuket, Thailand

"Miss Arree" art residency program at Bo{ok}hemian, Phuket, Thailand

Group Exhibitions

2018 "The 9th Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art", Queensland Art Gallery, Gallery of Modern Art in Brisbane, Brisbane, Australia

2016 "Under the Same Sky" (Duo exhibition with Chai Siris, Nova Contemporary, Bangkok Thailand

2015 "LUCIDA" at Speedy Grandma Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand "Rates of Exchange, Un-Compared" at Sa Sa Bassac, Phnom Pen, Cambodia

2014 "Hound Are You?" at Greyhound, Bangkok, Thailand "Threshold" at Bridge art space, Bangkok, Thailand

"Rates of Exchange, Un-Compared" at H Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand

"RADIATION" at The Art Center-Chula, Bangkok, Thailand 2013

"Anthropos" at Sudaram Tagore Gallery, Singapore

"Among Strangers" at Gallery Jireh, Seoul, Korea "Anthropos" at Numthong Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand

"HOMECOMING" at Fehily Contemporary, Melbourne, Australia 2012

"RADIATION" at Department of Avant-Garde Cliches, Manila, Philippines

"0" at Speedy Grandma Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand "KID TUNG SUMMER PARTY", at Commune Gallery, Tokyo, Japan "INTIMATELY", at H Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand

"A Part of You, A Part of Me", WTF Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand

THANAVI CHOTPRADIT

b. 1981, Saraburi, Thailand
Live and work in Bangkok, Thailand

Lecturer, Department of Art History, Faculty of Archaeology, Silpakorn University, Bangkok, Thailand and **Curator**

Education

- 2011-2016 **PhD in History of Art**, Birkbeck, University of London, UK
2007-2009 **MPhil in Western and Asian Art History in Comparative Perspective**, Leiden University, The Netherlands
1999-2002 **BA in Art History (2nd Hon)**, Silpakorn University, Thailand

Grants

- 2019-2021 **Prism of Photography: Dispersion of Knowledge and Memories of the 6th October Massacre**, Thailand Research Fund (TRF)

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Chapters in Books

'Re-Establishing the Kingdom: Anti-Communist Monuments in the Thai Highlands' in Stephen H. Whiteman, Serena Abdullah, Yvonne Low and Phoebe Scott (eds) *Ambitious Alignments: New Histories of Southeast Asian Art, 1945-1990*, (Power Publications and National Gallery Singapore, Sydney and Singapore, 2018)

Journal articles

Thanavi Chotpradit, J. Pilapil Jacobo, Eileen Legaspi-Ramirez, Roger Nelson, Nguyen Nhu Huy, Chairat Polmuk, San Lin Tun, Phoebe Scott, Simon Soon and Jim Supangkat, 'Terminologies of "Modern" and "Contemporary" "Art" in Southeast Asia's Vernacular Languages: Indonesia, Javanese, Khmer, Lao, Malay, Myanmar/Burmese, Tagalog/Filipino, Thai and Vietnamese' *Southeast of Now: Directions in Contemporary and Modern Art in Asia*, 2: 2 (October, 2018), pp. 65-195

Essays in exhibition catalogues

'This page is 'intentionally' left blank', essay in exhibition catalogue, *'This page is intentionally left blank'*. An exhibition by Pratchaya Phinthong. Curated by Thanavi Chotpradit at BANGKOK CITYCITY GALLERY, Bangkok, Thailand, 2 December 2018-27 January 2019

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Curatorial Projects

- 2018-2019 **Curator**, *This page is intentionally left blank*, an exhibition by Pratchaya Phinthong at BANGKOK CITYCITY GALLERY, Bangkok, Thailand, 2 December 2018-27 January 2019
- 2010 **Curator**, *Living Room*, a group exhibition by Jiradej and Prinda Setabundhu, Anothai Nitibhon and Kata Sangkae at 100 Tonson Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand, 21 January-28 February 2010
- Curator**, *Prism*, a duo exhibition by Pichet Klunchun and Kornkrit Jianpinidnan at 100 Tonson Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand, 25 March-25 April 2010
- 2004 **Curator Assistant** to Nathalie Boutin, *Here & Now*, a group exhibition by Angkrit Ajchariyasophon, Azzorro Group, Fernando Bryce, Daniel Buren, Serge Comte, Felix Gonzales-Torres, Saksin Kasemsan Na Ayudhaya, Surasri Kusolwong + Invisible Academy, Gordon Matta-Clark, Matthieu Laurette, Oliver Musovik, Nuts Society, Dominique Petitgand, Kamol Phaosavasdi, Pratchaya Phinthong, Navin Rawanchaikul with Helen Michaelsen + Makhampom Group, Porntaweesak Rimsakul, Arin Rungjang, Kata Sangkae, Bojan Sarcevic, Bruno Serralongue, Rirkrit Tirvanija, Jakapan Vilasineekul and Lawrence Weiner at Blue Building, Photography Bar, About Studio/About Café, 22 July Hotel, The Nation (printed media site), Private shop houses around 22 July community and Public area linking all sites. The project is organised by AARA (About Art Related Activities), Bangkok, Thailand, 9 July-8 September 2004.