

**MA-LAI**



**PINAREE SANPITAK**

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# FOREWORD

TYLER ROLLINS

We are pleased to present *Ma-lai*, Pinaree Sanpitak's third solo exhibition with Tyler Rollins Fine Art, taking place from September 10 through October 24, 2015. Pinaree is one of the most compelling and respected Thai artists of her generation, and her work can be counted among the most powerful explorations of women's experience in all of Southeast Asia. Her primary inspiration over the past twenty-five years has been the female body, distilled to its most basic forms and imbued with an ethereal spirituality. Her work in a wide variety of media – painting, drawing, sculpture, textiles, ceramics, performance, and culinary arts, to name but a few – is informed by a quiet minimalism that owes something to her training in Japan and sets it apart from the colorful intensity of much Thai art. Often called a feminist or Buddhist artist, she resists such easy categorizations, preferring to let her work speak to each viewer directly, to the heart and soul, with the most basic language of form, color, and texture.

The exhibition centers on a hanging fabric installation, alongside a related series of paintings and sculptures, all taking inspiration from *ma-lai* floral garlands, which play a symbolic role in Thai ceremonial occasions from birth to death, from exuberant celebrations to quiet personal contemplation. It is an art form originally taught to women in the Thai royal court, who created intricate designs of great refinement. Pinaree's installation, with its large-scale garlands that are at once delicate and monumental, evokes the female body, intimately linked to a sense of the enduring bonds of cultural traditions, family, and spirituality. "*Ma-lai* is a subtle comment on the conditions of life, not only to cherish the wonders but also to pay respect to the struggles and losses," Pinaree explains. "I started working with *ma-lai* over a year ago, finding a way to transform small fabric pieces into petal patterns, and it finally evolved into three different elements, starting with the geometrical construction of *ma-lai* in toile, then the organic paintings in acrylic with pencil and dried flowers, and the cast metal sculptures of my *breast cloud* forms connected with garlands of actual flowers. The 'body' of *ma-lai* transforms, portraying certain mindsets and emotions."

Pinaree's work has been featured in numerous museum exhibitions in Asia and Europe over the past twenty years, and she has participated in major biennials in Australia, Italy, Japan, and Korea. A selection of her works from 1995-2013 was recently seen in a solo exhibition at the Sherman Contemporary Art Foundation in Sydney, Australia (2014). In 2013, she presented two solo exhibitions at US museums: at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, featuring her large-scale installation, *Hanging By a Thread*; and at the Contemporary Austin, with another large-scale installation, *Temporary Insanity*, which was also exhibited in the artist's solo exhibition at the Chrysler Museum in Norfolk, Virginia (2012). At the 18th Biennale of Sydney (2012) she showed a large-scale installation, *Anything Can Break*, at the Museum of Contemporary Art Australia. Subsequently on view at the Toledo Museum of Art in Toledo, Ohio (2014-15), the installation comprises thousands of origami "flying cubes" and breast-shaped glass clouds suspended from the ceiling, with musical motifs triggered by motion sensors in response to the audience's movements. Stainless steel sculptures from her *Breast Stupa Topiary* series were featured in the group exhibition, *Female Power*, at the Museum voor Moderne Kunst Arnhem, The Netherlands (2013) and are currently on view in front of ILHAM art gallery in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

## ARTIST STATEMENT

*Ma-lai* is a Thai word referring to flower garlands of various designs and intricate patterns. They play a symbolic role in all occasions from birth to death, from anxious times to comforting moods, from exuberant celebrations to quiet personal contemplation. It is an art form originating in the royal court, which “proper” Thai women used to be taught along with skills in reading, writing, cooking and such. Nowadays, we mostly get them from the flower markets or specialized florists.

I have gradually been working on outdoor pieces, such as *Breast Stupa Topiary* and *The Hammock*, in recent years and wanted to incorporate the garden, flowers, and scent in a very simple form. *Ma-lai* is a subtle comment on the conditions of life, not only to cherish the wonders but also to pay respect to the struggles and losses. In the past week, *Breast Stupa Topiary* has made another journey to a lawn in the center of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; a quiet pilgrimage. Two days later, in the aftermath of the bombing at a shrine in Bangkok, I am placing a *ma-lai* for comfort and peace. Such is the precariousness.

I started working with *ma-lai* over a year ago, finding a way to transform small fabric pieces into petal patterns, and it finally evolved into three different elements, starting with the geometrical construction of *ma-lai* in toile, then the organic paintings in acrylic with pencil and dried flowers, and the cast metal sculptures of my breast cloud forms connected with garlands of actual flowers. The “body” of *ma-lai* transforms, portraying certain mindsets and emotions.

A gesture of respect. A memory. There is struggle but hope.

Pinaree Sanpitak  
August 2015



VIEW OF THE EXHIBITION AT TYLER ROLLINS FINE ART





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Ma-lai: mentally secured  
2014-15  
toile  
15 pieces  
dimensions variable



**Ma-lai Connected**

2014-2015

cast aluminum, stainless steel wire, flowers

two pieces: 10 x 21 ½ x 9 ¾ in. (25.5 x 55 x 25 cm); 10 ½ x 24 ½ x 11 in. (27 x 62 x 28 cm)

Edition 3 of 8, 2 AP



**Ma-lai Connected**

2014-2015

cast aluminum, stainless steel wire, flowers

two pieces: 10 x 21 ½ x 9 ¾ in. (25.5 x 55 x 25 cm); 10 ½ x 24 ½ x 11 in. (27 x 62 x 28 cm)

Edition 4 of 8, 2 AP



**Ma-lai Connected**

2014-2015

cast aluminum, stainless steel wire, flowers

two pieces: 10 x 21 ½ x 9 ¾ in. (25.5 x 55 x 25 cm); 10 ½ x 24 ½ x 11 in. (27 x 62 x 28 cm)

Edition 5 of 8, 2 AP





**Ma-lai Connected**

2014-2015

cast aluminum, stainless steel wire, flowers

two pieces: 10 x 21 ½ x 9 ¾ in. (25.5 x 55 x 25 cm); 10 ½ x 24 ½ x 11 in. (27 x 62 x 28 cm)

Edition 6 of 8, 2 AP





**Ma-lai Connected**

2014-2015

cast aluminum, stainless steel wire, flowers

two pieces: 10 x 21 ½ x 9 ¾ in. (25.5 x 55 x 25 cm); 10 ½ x 24 ½ x 11 in. (27 x 62 x 28 cm)

Edition 7 of 8, 2 AP



Ma-lai 1

2015

acrylic, pencil, dried flowers on canvas

51 x 51 in. (130 x 130 cm)



Ma-lai 2

2015

acrylic, pencil, dried flowers on canvas

51 x 51 in. (130 x 130 cm)



Ma-lai 3

2015

acrylic, pencil, dried flowers on canvas

51 x 51 in. (130 x 130 cm)





Ma-lai 4

2015

acrylic, pencil, dried flowers on canvas

51 x 51 in. (130 x 130 cm)



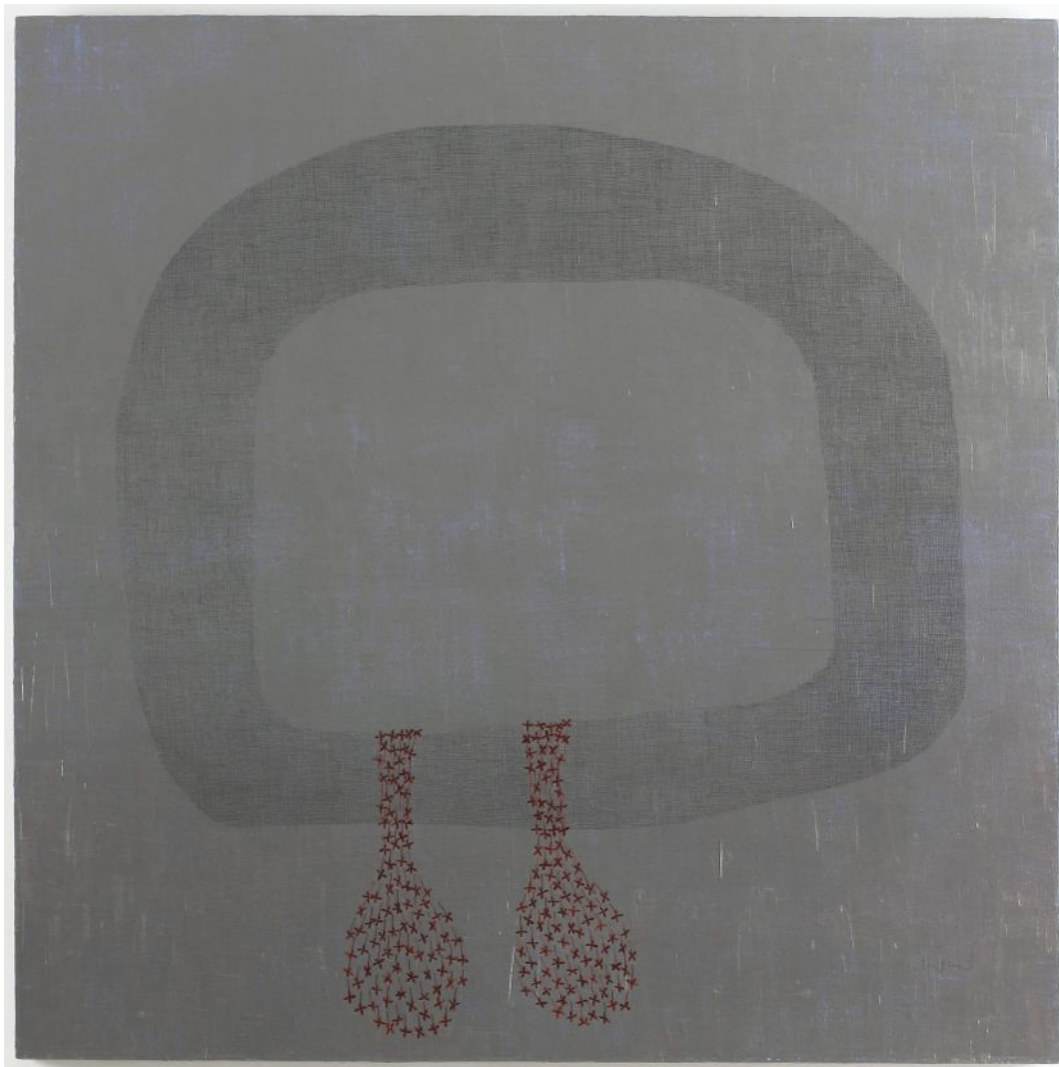


Ma-lai 5

2015

acrylic, pencil, dried flowers on canvas

51 x 51 in. (130 x 130 cm)



Ma-lai 6

2015

acrylic, pencil, dried flowers on canvas

51 x 51 in. (130 x 130 cm)



Ma-lai 7

2015

acrylic, pencil, dried flowers on canvas

51 x 51 in. (130 x 130 cm)



Ma-lai 8

2015

acrylic, pencil, dried flowers on canvas

51 x 51 in. (130 x 130 cm)



# PINAREE SANPITAK

## SELECTED BIOGRAPHY

Born 1961 in Bangkok, Thailand. Lives and works in Bangkok.

### EDUCATION

1986 BFA in Visual Arts and Communication Design, School of Fine Arts and Design, University of Tsukuba, Ibaraki, Japan.

### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2015 *Ma-lai*, Tyler Rollins Fine Art, New York, NY.  
*Anything Can Break*, Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, OH.

2014 *Collection+ Pinaree Sanpitak*, curated by Jasmin Stephens, Sherman Contemporary Art Foundation, Sydney, Australia.

2013 *Hanging by a Thread*, Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), Los Angeles, CA.  
*Temporary Insanity*, AMOA-Arthouse (now known as The Contemporary Austin), Austin, TX.  
*Temporary Insanity*, Goyang Aram Nuri Arts Center, Korea.

2012 *Temporary Insanity*, The Chrysler Museum, Norfolk, VA.  
*Hanging by a Thread*, Tyler Rollins Fine Art, New York, NY.

2011 *Body Borders*, The Art Center at Chulalongkorn University, H Gallery, and 100 Tonson Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand.

2010 *Paper Traces and Flying Cubes*, Art-U Room, Tokyo, Japan.  
*Quietly Floating*, Tyler Rollins Fine Art, New York, NY.  
*Solid*, Thavibu Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand.

2009 *Breasts, Clouds and Vessels*, Galerie Alain le Gaillard, Paris, France.

2007 *Breasts and Clouds*, 100 Tonson Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand.

2005 *Jedis Vessels and Cooking*, The Borderline Event - The Castle; Breast Stupa Cookery collaborations with local patisseries and Aula Gastronomica de l'Emporda, La Bisbal d'Emporda, Girona, Spain.

2004 *Temporary Insanity*, The Art Center at Jim Thompson House, Bangkok, Thailand.  
*And Everything In Between*, Art U - Room, Tokyo, Japan.

2003 *Breasts and Vessels and Mounds*, Jendela Gallery, The Esplanade, Singapore.  
*Metamorphosis*, Gallery Art U, Osaka, Japan.  
*Noon-Nom*, Discovery Center, Bangkok, Thailand.  
*Noon-Nom & Vessels*, Babilonia 1808, Berkeley, CA.

2002 *Offering Vessels*, Salina Art Center, Salina, KS.  
*Breast and Beyond*, Bangkok University Art Gallery, Chulalongkorn University Art Gallery, Open Arts Space, Bangkok, Thailand.  
*Growth & Void*, Atelier Frank & Lee, Singapore.

2001 *Vessels and Mounds*, The National Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand.  
*"Shibui" - Breast Stupas*, Seinan Gakuin University Library, Fukuoka, Japan (on view annually).

2000 *Womanly Bodies - Prints*, Art2, Substation, Singapore.  
*Continued - Compelled - Comforted*, Atelier Frank & Lee, Singapore.  
*Womanly Bodies in Print*, Numthong Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand.

1999 *Womanly Abstract*, About Studio/About Cafe, Bangkok, Thailand.

1997 *Eggs, Breasts, Bodies, I, Etcetera*, The Art Center, Centers of Academic Resources, Chulalongkorn University.

1994 *Breast Works*, Silom Art Space, Bangkok, Thailand.

1993 *Mother & Child: A Dialogue*, Silom Art Space, Bangkok, Thailand.

1991 *The Cross The Egg The Cow & The Squash*, Silom Art Space, Bangkok, Thailand.

1988 *Pinaree Sanpitak: an Exhibition of Photographs, Paintings, and Collages*, Central Plaza Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand.

1987 *An Exhibition of Photographs and Collages by Pinaree Sanpitak*, Books & Beer, Bangkok, Thailand.

### GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2015 *First Look: Collecting Contemporary at the Asian*, The Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, CA.  
*Open Sea*, Musée d'art contemporain de Lyon, Lyon, France.

2014 *InSight: Contemporary Sensory Works, Anything Can Break*, Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, OH.  
*Sensorium 360°*, Singapore Art Museum, Singapore.  
*Rates of Exchange, Uncompared: Contemporary art in Bangkok and Phnom Penh* - Breast Stupa Cookery Project: Psar Kap Ko Restaurant, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

2013 *Female Power*, Museum voor Moderne Kunst Arnhem, Arnhem, The Netherlands.

2012 18th Biennale of Sydney, Sydney, Australia.

2011 *Here / Not Here: Buddha Presence in Eight Recent Works*, Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA.  
*roundabout*, City Gallery Wellington, Wellington, New Zealand, and the Tel Aviv Museum of Art, Tel Aviv, Israel.  
*Negotiating Home, History, and Nation: Two Decades of Contemporary Art in Southeast Asia, 1991- 2011*, Singapore Art Museum, Singapore.  
*Stealing the Senses*, Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth, New Zealand.

2010 *Artists Scarecrows Rice Paddy*, Chiang Mai, Thailand.  
*roundabout*, City Gallery Wellington, Wellington, New Zealand.  
*THAI-YO*, Bangkok Art and Culture Center, Bangkok, Thailand.

2009 *Emotional Drawings*, SOMA Museum of Art, Seoul, Korea.  
*Breast Stupa Cookery* with Bo.Lan Restaurant, Bangkok, Thailand- March 26-27-28, 2009.  
Incheon Women Artists' Biennale, Incheon Art Platform, Incheon, Korea.  
*Virtues of the Kingdom*, Bangkok Art and Culture Center, Bangkok, Thailand.

2008 *From Surface to Origin*, Gallery Soul Flower, Bangkok, Thailand.  
*Ethics of Encounters*, Gallery Soul Flower, Bangkok, Thailand.  
*Emotional Drawings*, Museum of Modern Art Tokyo, Museum of Modern Art Kyoto, Japan.  
*"Expenditure"* Busan Biennale 2008, Museum of Modern Art Busan, South Korea.  
*Traces of Siamese Smile: Art+Faith+Politics+Love*, Bangkok Art and Culture Center, Bangkok, Thailand.



	<i>Breast Stupa Cookery</i> with Higashiya and Le Bain, Le Bain, Tokyo, Japan.		<i>"Beyond the Future"</i> The Third Asia-Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art, Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, Australia.
2006	<i>Artery</i> , The Gallery and Concourse, Singapore Management University, Singapore. <i>Breast Stupa Cookery / Artery Exhibition Opening</i> , SMU Singapore Management University, Singapore. <i>Tout à Fait Thai : Thai Art Festival Paris 2006</i> , Mairie du 6 e, St. Sulpice, Paris, France. <i>Breast Stupa Cookery / Soi Project / Thai Art Festival Paris</i> , Mairie du 6 e, St. Sulpice and Restaurant Le Trois, Paris, France. <i>Little More Sweet Not Too Sour</i> , 100 Tonson Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand. <i>Pink Bras Alert! / Breast Stupa Cookery</i> , Charity in an A-B-C Cup - Fund raising campaign for The Queen's Sirikit Centre for Breast Cancer, Bangkok, Thailand, The Sukhothai Hotel Ballroom, Bangkok, Thailand.	1999	<i>Women Imaging Women: Home, Body, Memory</i> , Main Gallery, Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP), Manila, The Philippines. <i>Alter Ego - Thai - EU Contemporary Art Project</i> , Art Gallery of the Faculty of Painting, Sculpture and Graphic Arts, Silpakorn University, Bangkok, Thailand. <i>Womanifesto 2</i> , Saranrom Park, Bangkok, Thailand. <i>Festival der Geister / Asian Spirit and Ghost Festival</i> , Kunsthaus Tacheles, Berlin, Germany. <i>"Beyond the Future"</i> The Third Asia-Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art, Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, Australia.
2005	<i>Thai Festival</i> , Auditorium Parco Della Musica, Rome, Italy. <i>600 Images / 60 Artists / 6 Curators / 6 Cities</i> , Bangkok / Berlin / London / Los Angeles / Manila / Saigon. <i>Breast Stupa Cookery / SOI PROJECT-YOKOHAMA TRIENNALE</i> , Press Conference, Jim Thompson House, Bangkok, Thailand. <i>Soi Project / Yokohama Triennale 2005</i> , Yokohama, Japan. <i>Pic-Nic in the Room</i> , Collaboration with Dutch designers : Anthony, Kleinepier & TTTVO, Art-U Room, Tokyo, Japan. <i>Breast Stupa Cookery / Pic-Nic in the Room</i> , Jardin de Bagatelle, Kawazu / Urasenke Tea Ceremony / Art-U Room, Tokyo, Japan. <i>Breast Stupa Cookery / Lotus Arts de Vivre - WPO Offsite Event</i> , Oriental Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand.	1998	<i>Bangkok Art Project 1998</i> , Ratanakosin Island, Bangkok, Thailand.
		1997	<i>Womanifesto</i> , Baan Chao Phraya & Concrete House, Bangkok, Thailand. <i>Glimpses into the Future: Art in Southeast Asia 1997</i> , Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo, Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art, Japan.
		1996	<i>The Spiritual and the Social</i> , Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, Australia. <i>Doris Hinzen-Roehrig, Pinaree Sanpitak, Judy Watson: Paintings</i> , The National Gallery, Chao Fa Rd., Bangkok, Thailand. <i>Huay Khwang Maga-City Project</i> , Demolition site, Rachadaphisek Rd., Bangkok, Thailand.
		1995	<i>Kradaad : Contemporary Thai Works on Paper</i> , Texas Tech University, Department of Art, Texas, USA Touring Exhibition. <i>Weather Report</i> , A touring group project initiated by Rienke Enghardt.
2003	<i>Next Move - Contemporary Art from Thailand</i> , Earl Lu Gallery, La Salle-Sia College of the Arts, Singapore. <i>The Spirit of Asian Contemporary Art</i> , University Library Gallery, California State University, Sacramento, CA.	1994	<i>Herstories</i> , Dialogue Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand.
2002	<i>36 Ideas from Asia - Contemporary South-East Asian Art</i> , Singapore Art Museum European Touring Exhibition. The 2nd Fukuoka Asian Art Triennale 2002, Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, Fukuoka, Japan. <i>The 2nd Women's Art Festival, East Asian Women and Herstories</i> , Women's History Exhibition Hall, Seoul Women's Community Center, Seoul, South Korea.	1993	<i>Confess and Conceal</i> , 11 insights from contemporary Australia and Southeast Asia, AGWA Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth and toured in Southeast Asia. <i>Shutter Talk</i> , Dialogue Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand.
		1992	<i>Small Works by 56 Thai Artists</i> , Silom Art Space, Bangkok, Thailand. <i>Through Her Eyes: An Exhibition by 6 Women Artists</i> , Dialogue Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand.
2001	<i>A Shriek from an Invisible Box</i> , The Meguro Museum, Tokyo, Japan. <i>AsiaArt 2001/Labyrinths - Asian Contemporary Art - Biennale d'Arte Contemporanea</i> , Contemporary Art Museum of Genoa, Italy.	1991	<i>Art and Environment</i> , The Gallery of the Faculty of Painting, Sculpture and Graphic Arts, Silpakorn University, Bangkok, Thailand. <i>Recent Works by Chatchai Puipia &amp; Pinaree Sanpitak</i> , The National Gallery, Chao Fa Rd., Bangkok, Thailand.
2000	<i>Glocal Scents of Thailand</i> , Edsvik Konst & Kultur, Solentuna, Sweden. <i>Euro Visions</i> , Art Gallery of the Faculty of Painting, Sculpture and Graphic Arts, Silpakorn University, Bangkok, Thailand. <i>Les Semiophores</i> , Collaboration project on the facade of The Town Hall, Lyon, France, 7 - 10, December, 2000. A proposal by Philippe Moulion of LABORATOIRE, Grenoble, France.	1990	<i>Artists for AIDS: Artists for People with AIDS</i> , Lumpini Park, Bangkok, Thailand.
		1989	<i>Metro Mania: ARX 1989 Australia and Regions Artists' Exchange</i> , PICA, Perth, Western Australia.
		1986	<i>Via Tsukuba [3]</i> , AXIS Gallery, Roppongi, Tokyo, Japan.
1999	<i>Women Imaging Women: Home, Body, Memory</i> , Main Gallery, Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP), Manila, The Philippines. <i>Alter Ego - Thai - EU Contemporary Art Project</i> , Art Gallery of the Faculty of Painting, Sculpture and Graphic Arts, Silpakorn University, Bangkok, Thailand. <i>Womanifesto 2</i> , Saranrom Park, Bangkok, Thailand. <i>Festival der Geister / Asian Spirit and Ghost Festival</i> , Kunsthaus Tacheles, Berlin, Germany.	AWARDS	
		2007	Silpatorn Awards 2007
		RESIDENCY PROGRAMS	
		2014	Guest Artist Pavilion Project (GAPP), Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, OH.
		2009	Lenzi-Morisot Foundation, Chateau de la Roche Jacquelin, Daumeray, France.

- 2008 Lucas Artists Programs, Montalvo Arts Center, Saratoga, CA.
- 2003 Pacific Bridge Residency Program, Oakland, CA.
- 2001 Headlands Center for the Arts, Sausalito, CA.
- 2000 AFAA: Association Francaise d 'Action Artistique, Artist-in-Residence at Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris, France.  
IASPIS : International Artists' Studio Program in Sweden, Stockholm, Sweden.
- 1999 Printmaking Workshop - Northern Editions, Northern Territory University (NTU) Darwin, Australia.

#### PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Nasher Museum of Art, Durham, NC, USA.  
 Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Seattle, WA, USA.  
 Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, Australia.  
 Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo, Japan.  
 Seinan Gakuin University, Fukuoka, Japan.  
 Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, Fukuoka, Japan.  
 Earl Lu Gallery, La Salle – SIA College of the Arts, Singapore.  
 Singapore Art Museum, Singapore.  
 Lenzi-Morisot Foundation, Singapore – France.  
 Bangkok University, Bangkok, Thailand.  
 Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand.  
 Misiem Yipintsoi Sculpture Garden, Thailand.  
 Ministry of Culture, Thailand.  
 The Queen's Sirikit Centre for Breast Cancer, Bangkok, Thailand.  
 Vehbi Koc Foundation, Istanbul, Turkey  
 The Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, CA.  
 ILHAM Art Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

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MA-LAI

PINAREE SANPITAK

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