

SOPHEAP PICH

Sopheap Pich is widely considered to be Cambodia's most internationally prominent contemporary artist. He was recently featured in the Venice Biennale, in the main exhibition, *Viva Arte Viva*, where a new body of his works on paper, along with a floor-standing sculpture, were exhibited in an alcove in the Arsenale.

Born in Battambang, Cambodia, in 1971, Pich moved with his family to the United States in 1984. After receiving his BFA (University of Massachusetts at Amherst, 1995) and MFA (The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, 1999), he returned to Cambodia in 2002, where he began working with local materials – bamboo, rattan, burlap from rice bags, beeswax and earth pigments gathered from around Cambodia – to make sculptures inspired by bodily organs, vegetal forms, and abstract geometric structures. Pich's childhood experiences during the genocidal conditions of late 1970s Cambodia had a lasting impact on his work, informing its themes of time, memory, and the body. His sculptures stand out for their subtlety and power, combining refinement of form with a visceral, emotive force.

Pich's 2015 exhibition, *Structures*, at Tyler Rollins Fine Art introduced two new series shown in New York for the first time: *Wall Structures*, imposing geometric compositions of raw bamboo and rattan, with complex grid patterns; and *Bare Reliefs*, more ethereal works in which thinner strands of bamboo and rattan create a rhythm of light and shadow, solid and void, accentuated by fire-darkened areas. Also for the first time, Pich incorporated a new material, stone found in local quarries – roughly carved or smoothly polished in the studio – which complements the organic materials. The exhibition included new biomorphic sculptures, an important component of his work that had not been shown here in the gallery since his 2011 *Morning Glory* exhibition. He continues to be inspired by organic structures, whether of flora (vines, flowers, seeds) or fauna (deer antlers). His large scale *Rang Phnom Flower* sculpture, around 25 feet in length and one of his most ambitious single-form sculptures to date, is currently on view in a solo exhibition at the Crow Collection, Dallas, TX (June 24, 2017 - January 7, 2018).

Pich's work has been featured in numerous international museum exhibitions and biennials in Asia, Europe, Australia, and the United States. His works were recently on view in the group exhibitions: *For the Love of Things: Still Life*, at the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY (2016); *Drawn from Nature*, at the Asia Society Texas Center, Houston, TX (2015); *The Art of Our Time: Masterpieces from the Guggenheim Collections*, at the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao (2015); and *Medium at Large*, at the Singapore Art Museum (2015). In 2013, Pich presented a highly acclaimed solo exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, entitled *Cambodian Rattan: The Sculptures of Sopheap Pich*. The museum's first solo show given to a contemporary Southeast Asian artist, the exhibition "can be regarded as a cameo retrospective, since its 10 works accurately reflect the range of the artist's motifs from 2005 to late 2012," according to *Art in America*. It included several large bio-morphic rattan sculptures which were featured in the artist's two previous solo exhibitions at Tyler Rollins Fine Art, *The Pulse Within* (2009) and *Morning Glory* (2011). Also featured were works from Pich's geometric series, *Wall Reliefs*, which were debuted in a room sized installation at Documenta (13) in Kassel, Germany (2012), and subsequently featured in *Reliefs*, his third exhibition at Tyler Rollins Fine Art (2013). While using the same locally sourced materials seen in his earlier, more free-flowing works, Pich's grid-based *Wall Reliefs* reflect the artist's increasing interest in abstraction and conceptualization. The works consist of bamboo grids covered with strips of burlap taken from used rice bags patched with old fabrics and colorful bits of plastic twine, with added layers of encaustic, often colored with mineral pigments and charcoal. Pich explains: "These grid works, reduced to their bare materials and shapes, represent for me a kind of distillation of emotion, of remembrance, of reflections on what has influenced me, or the places I have been."

In addition to Documenta, Pich has participated in the Moscow Biennale (2013); the Dojima River Biennial (2013); the Singapore Biennale (2011); the Asian Art Biennial (2011); the Fukuoka Asian Art Triennale (2009); and the Asia-Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art (2009). Additional museum solo exhibitions include: *A Room*, Indianapolis Museum of Art (2014); *Collection+ Sopheap Pich*, Sherman Contemporary Art Foundation, Sydney, Australia (2013); *Sopheap Pich: Compound*, Henry Art Gallery, Seattle, Washington (2012). Additional museum group shows include: *No Country: Contemporary Art For South and Southeast Asia*, Centre for Contemporary Art, Singapore (2014); *Invisible Cities*, Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art (2012-13); *Collecting Art of Asia*, Smith College Museum of Art, Northampton, Massachusetts (2012); *Encounter: The Royal Academy in Asia*, Asia Institute of Contemporary Art, Lasalle College of the Arts, Singapore (2012); *Here/Not Here*, Asian Art Museum of San Francisco (2011); *Classic Contemporary: Contemporary Southeast Asian Art from the Singapore Art Museum Collection* (2010).

Pich's work is included in such major collections as: Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris; M+, Museum for Visual Culture, Hong Kong; Singapore Art Museum; Queensland Art Gallery; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo; Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Seattle. Reviews and feature articles about Pich have appeared in such publications as *Artforum*, *Art in America*, *ArtNews*, *Art Newspaper*, *Asian Art News*, *Flash Art*, *New York Times*, *Orientations*, *Wall Street Journal*. In 2014, *Art Asia Pacific* called Pich "the Southeast Asian artist to watch at the moment."

SOPHEAP PICH

Born 1971 in Battambang, Cambodia. Lives and works in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

EDUCATION

- 1999 MFA in painting: The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, IL.
1995 BFA in painting: The University of Massachusetts at Amherst, MA.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2015 *Structures*, Tyler Rollins Fine Art, New York, NY.
2014 *Sopheap Pich: A Room*, Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis, IN.
2013 *Cambodian Rattan: The Sculptures of Sopheap Pich*, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY.
Reliefs, Tyler Rollins Fine Art, New York, NY,
Collection+ Sopheap Pich, Sherman Contemporary Art Foundation, Sydney, Australia.
2012 *In Spite of Order*, H Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand.
2011 *Morning Glory*, Tyler Rollins Fine Art, New York, NY.
Compound, Henry Art Gallery, Seattle, WA.
2010 *Fragile*, French Cultural Center, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
2009 *The Pulse Within*, Tyler Rollins Fine Art, New York.
2008 *Strands*, The Esplanade, Singapore.
2007 *Recent Works From Kunming*, TCG/Nordica, Kunming, China.
2007 *Tidal*, H Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand.
2007 *Flow*, Sala Artspace, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
2006 *Moha Saen Anett*, Gallery Dong Xi, Vestfossen, Norway.
2005 *Chomlak, sculptures and drawings*, The Arts Lounge of Hotel de la Paix, Siem Reap, Cambodia.
Sculptures and Drawings, Amansara Resort, Siem Reap, Cambodia.
Pdao, French Cultural Center Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
2004 *Excavating the Vessels*, Java Café and Gallery, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
2003 *Recent Works*, The Brewery Studio, Boston, MA.
2002 *Empty Wooden Cigarette Boxes From Cambodia*, the Augusta Savage Gallery, Amherst, MA.

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2016 *For the Love of Things: Still Life*, Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY.
2015 *Drawn from Nature*, Asia Society Texas Center, Houston, TX.
Renaissance, Lille3000, Lille, France.
First Look: Collecting Contemporary at the Asian, The Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, CA.
"I Want Justice," United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, DC.
Selected works on exhibition, Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minneapolis, MN.
2014 *The Art of Our Time: Masterpieces from the Guggenheim Collections*, Guggenheim Museum Bilbao, Bilbao, Spain.
No Country: Contemporary Art for South and Southeast Asia, Centre for Contemporary Art, Singapore.
Re: Collection, Museum of Arts and Design, New York, NY.
Medium at Large, Singapore Art Museum, Singapore.
TRANSMISSION, Jim Thompson Art Center, Bangkok, Thailand.
2013 Moscow Biennale, Moscow, Russia.
Dojima River Biennale, Dojima River Forum, Osaka, Japan.
Gentle Matter, Richard Koh Fine Art, Singapore.
Collecting Art of Asia, Smith College Museum of Art, Northampton, MA.
Connect: Phnom Penh: Rescue Archaeology – Contemporary Art and Urban Development in Cambodia, IFA-Galerie, Berlin, Germany.
2012 *Encounter: The Royal Academy in Asia*, Asia Institute of Contemporary Art, Lasalle College of the Arts, Singapore.
Invisible Cities, MASS MoCA, North Adams, MA.
dOCUMENTA 13, Kassel, Germany.
2011 Asian Art Biennial, Taipei, Taiwan.
Singapore Biennale, Singapore.
Here / Not Here: Buddha Presence in Eight Recent Works, Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA.
2010 *Classic Contemporary: Contemporary Southeast Asian Art from the Singapore Art Museum Collection*, Singapore Art Museum.
2009 Asia-Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art, Brisbane, Australia.
Fukuoka Asian Art Triennale, Fukuoka, Japan.
Truly Truthful, Art Asia, Miami, FL.
Forever Until Now: Contemporary Art from Cambodia, 10 Chancery Lane Gallery, Hong Kong.
2008 Sh Contemporary: *Best of Discovery*, Shanghai, China.
Strategies from Within, Ke Center for the Contemporary Arts, Shanghai, China.
The Mekong Project, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos.
The Drawing Room, Rubies, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
2006 *Paint Around the Dog*, with Jack Bauer, Lake Studio, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
2+3+4 Cambodian/Vietnamese Exchange, Java Cafe and Gallery, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
2005 *Visual Arts Open*, Elsewhere and New Art Gallery, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
Transit, with Michèle Vanvlasselaer, Java Café & Gallery, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
Première Vue, Passage de Retz, Paris, France.
Je/Jeu, French Cultural Center, Yangon, Myanmar.
2004 *Guide*, French Cultural Center Siem Reap, Cambodia.
Continuity, Shinta Mani, Siem Reap, Cambodia.
Guide, French Cultural Center, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
Meik Sratum, Silapak Khmer Amatak, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
2001 *Subject Picture*, The Optimistic, Chicago, IL.
2000 *Just Good Art 2000*, Hyde Park Arts Center, Chicago, IL.
Memory: Personal and Social Testimonies, the Augusta Savage Gallery, University of Massachusetts, Amherst.
1999 *Altered Object*, Hyde Park Arts Center, Chicago, IL.
Young Talents II, Contemporary Arts Workshop, Chicago, IL.
MFA Thesis Exhibition, G2, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago.
Yellow/Face, Gallery Pilsen East, Chicago, IL.
Cows on Parade, a collaborative project with J. Zakin and S. Biggers for The Chicago Park District, The Field Museum Campus, Chicago, IL.

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

- M+ Museum of Visual Culture, Hong Kong
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY.
Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY.
Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France.
Museum of Arts and Design, New York, NY.
Singapore Art Museum, Singapore.
Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, Australia.
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA.
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Seattle, WA.
Sherman Contemporary Art Foundation, Sydney, Australia.
Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY.
Smith College Museum of Art, Northampton, MA.
The Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, CA.