



# Temporary Insanity

## Pinaree Sanpitak



**April 20 – June 30, 2013**  
**The Jones Center: Second Floor Gallery**

Pinaree Sanpitak (b. 1961) is one of the most prolific artists working in Southeast Asia and has been a powerful voice in Thai art since the 1980s. Her art merges traditions of East and West, yet resists such limiting categorization. She adapts a set of recognizable organic symbols for room-sized installations, monochromatic paintings, sculptures that fit the hand, and ceramic molds for cooking community meals. Her language of abstract rounded forms brings to mind eggs, pears, breasts, clouds, and stupas—mound-like architecture that house Buddhist relics—and prompts reflection on spiritual and physical sustenance. With her references to the female body, Sanpitak has become a champion for the equality and dignity of women in Southeast Asia. However, her diverse artistic practice is rooted in universal subject matter and open to multiple interpretations.

One hundred brightly colored, interactive, soft sculptures from the series *Temporary Insanity* (2003–2004) will populate the second floor of the Jones Center and engage the senses. A field of red, orange, and yellow silk-covered forms transforms the gallery into a meditative installation. Their shimmering surfaces are made from renowned Thai silk. The round and pear-shaped sculptures detect viewers' footsteps and respond by rocking to their own rhythm. Like a crowd, the distinct individual sculptures collectively comprise a dynamic installation. For Sanpitak the meaning beyond the movement connects the individual with the collective, the spiritual with a sense of community and the world around us.

This exhibition is organized by AMOA-Arthouse and curated by Andrea Mellard, curator of exhibitions and public programs.

Pinaree Sanpitak lives and works in Bangkok. From 1991–1995 she ran an alternative art space for regional artists creating challenging work, a rare opportunity in a country with little government arts funding. She has participated in major biennials in Australia, Italy, Japan, and Korea; most recently the 18th Biennale of Sydney with an installation at the Museum of Contemporary Art Australia. The installation *Temporary Insanity* will be exhibited for the first time in the United States at the Chrysler Museum of Art, Norfolk, Virginia and AMOA-Arthouse. This is her first exhibition in Texas.

**IMAGE:** Pinaree Sanpitak, *Temporary Insanity*, 2004, (installation detail taken at Jim Thompson Art Center, Bangkok, 2004), Silk, synthetic fiber, battery, motor, propeller, sound device, Photo by Aroon Permpoonsopol, Courtesy of the artist and Tyler Rollins Fine Art, New York.