

HANGING BY A THREAD



PINAREE SANPITAK

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FOREWORD

TYLER ROLLINS

We are pleased to present Pinaree Sanpitak's second solo exhibition with Tyler Rollins Fine Art, taking place from April 19 through June 1, 2012. 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. For well over twenty years, her primary inspiration has been the female body, distilled to its most basic forms and imbued with an ethereal spirituality.

Entitled *Hanging by a Thread*, the exhibition centers on a installation of the same title that is the artist's response to the recent flooding in Bangkok, where she lives and works. Using traditional Thai printed cotton Paa-Lai fabrics of the type that were included in the royal sponsored relief bags, Pinaree has constructed a group of woven hammocks that will be suspended in the gallery from slender threads. These quite, cocoon-like forms evoke a sense of nurturing, refuge, and contemplation, as well as the precariousness of life. Pinaree explains that "the Paa-Lai hammocks represent the situation of precarious times balancing traditional and modern values. The hammocks are presence of the body, bare and contemplating. The body waiting to slow down. The body floating. The body just hanging by a thread. Thus a situation I believe we all share." Also included in the exhibition is *Bare Silhouettes*, a new series of embroidered works on silk panels that reference Pinaree's 1998-99 *Womanly Abstract* series through the bare female form of these simple patterns.

The Chrysler Museum of Art in Norfolk, Virginia, will present a solo exhibition of Pinaree's work from October 10 to December 30, 2012, featuring her large-scale installation, *Temporary Insanity*. Also this year, she will participate in the 18th Biennale of Sydney (June 27 – September 16, 2012), with a major installation at the new wing of the Museum of Contemporary Art Australia. The biennale announcement explains: "An expansive new double-height space will be dedicated to a work by Pinaree Sanpitak, one of Thailand's few internationally recognized female artists. Sanpitak presents *Anything Can Break* (2011), an installation of hundreds of origami cubes and breast-shaped glass clouds suspended from the ceiling. Illuminated by fibre optics, the cubes and clouds are lined with motion sensors that trigger music in response to the audience's movement."

Pinaree's work has been featured in numerous museum exhibitions in Asia and Europe during the past twenty years, and she has participated in major biennials in Australia, Italy, Japan, and Korea. She presented her first New York solo exhibition, *Quietly Floating*, at Tyler Rollins Fine Art in March 2010. In 2011, she participated in a number of group exhibitions at museums around the world, including: *Here / Not Here* at the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco; *Roundabout* at City Gallery Wellington, New Zealand, and traveling to the Tel Aviv Museum of Art; and *Negotiating Home, History, and Nation: Two Decades of Contemporary Art in Southeast Asia, 1991-2011* at the Singapore Art Museum. Her work was also featured in a solo exhibition, *Body Borders*, at the Art Center at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok.

-April 2012

HANGING BY A THREAD & BARE SILHOUETTES

PINAREE SANPITAK

I was developing a few ideas for this second exhibition at Tyler Rollins Fine Art while organizing a three-venue solo exhibition in Bangkok, entitled *Body Borders*, comprised of a set of rattan sculptures, a sound interactive hanging installation, and paintings on canvas. But then right after came the massive floods in Thailand in 2011; I had to wrap up the studio and level my works as best as I could to keep sane and be functional amidst the calamity, damage, and despair. There was much to complain and criticize, but also the floods left impressions of compassion, sacrifice, and tolerance. I was much impressed by the content of the royal sponsored relief bag, which included *Paa-Lai* and *Paa Kao-Maa*, simple all-purpose cotton cloth for women and men. So very Thai, practical, useful, and comforting.

Working with the colorful, flower-patterned fabric proved soothing and brought back a sense of nostalgia and rediscovering something overlooked. The ordinary. The local. The *Paa-Lai* hammocks represent the situation of precarious times balancing traditional and modern values. Intense conflicts increase, but Thais' colorful nature, humor, and easy-going spirit are always present.

The hammocks are presence of the body, bare and contemplating. The body waiting to slow down. The body floating. The body just hanging by a thread. Thus a situation I believe we all share.

During the floods, I was traveling in and out of the city and had to work with practical methods and materials. Working by hand with fabric was the perfect choice.

In the new series, *Bare Silhouettes*, I am again exploring and re-structuring "the Body" through these simple patterns, creating a dialogue with *Womanly Abstract*, a series of paintings, sculptures and drawings from 1998-99.

I wrote the following statement in relation to the works in *Body Borders*. And the concept continues with *Hanging by a Thread* and *Bare Silhouettes*.

"The body, which has been a continuing focus in my work for the past 20 years - explores sensory experience and perception. Recently, my son's interest to pursue his studies in fashion design leads me to look at the body in another aspect. How the body is adorned. How the body is epitomized or minimized. What matters for me is how the body becomes a site for transiting, contemplation and understanding. The body - part or whole - ponders, wonders and challenges."

-April 2012



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VIEW OF THE EXHIBITION AT TYLER ROLLINS FINE ART



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HANGING BY A THREAD

2012

INSTALLATION OF HAMMOCKS MADE FROM TRADITIONAL "PAA-LAI" PRINTED COTTON FABRIC
DIMENSIONS VARIABLE



BARE SILHOUETTE

2012

SILK, PRINTED POLYESTER DRESS, EMBROIDERY

76 ½ X 48 ½ IN. (195 X 123 CM)



CONNECTING

2012

POLYESTER, PRINTED COTTON DRESS, EMBROIDERY

78 ¾ X 55 INCHES (200 X 140 CM)



FEATHER FLOW

2012

SILK, POLYESTER, SILK DRESS, FEATHERS, EMBROIDERY

63 X 56 ¼ INCHES (160 X 143 CM)



FLYING CUBE

2012

SILK, LINEN DRESS

74 X 49 ½ INCHES (188 X 126 CM)



KAW GRA-SHAO - BLUE

2012

PRINTED COTTON, THAI KAW GRA-SHAO BLOUSE, EMBROIDERY

39 ½ X 29 INCHES (100 1/2 X 74 CM)



KAW GRA-SHAO - PURPLE

2012

CHENILLE, THAI KAW GRA-SHAO BLOUSE, EMBROIDERY

57 ½ X 56 INCHES (146 X 142 CM)



KAW GRA-SHAO - GREEN

SILK, THAI KAW GRA-SHAO BLOUSE, EMBROIDERY
26 ¾ X 28 ¾ INCHES (68 X 73 CM)

PINAREE SANPITAK

SELECTED BIOGRAPHY

EDUCATION

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

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2013
Temporary Insanity, AMOA-Arthouse, Austin, TX.

2012
Temporary Insanity, The Chrysler Museum, Norfolk,
VA.

Anything Can Break, The 18th Biennale of Sydney,
Australia.

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

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.

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.

2010

Artists Scarecrows Rice Paddy, Chiang Mai, Thailand.

roundabout, City Gallery Wellington, Wellington, New Zealand.

THAI-YO, Bangkok Art and Culture Center, Bangkok, Thailand.

Breast Stupa Cookery with Bo.Lan Restaurant, Bangkok, Thailand-March 26-27-28, 2009.

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.

2009

Emotional Drawings, SOMA Museum of Art, Seoul, Korea.

Traces of Siamese Smile: Art+Faith+Politics+Love, Bangkok Art and Culture Center, Bangkok, Thailand.

Breast Stupa Cookery with Higashiya and Le Bain, Le Bain, Tokyo, Japan.

2006

Artery, The Gallery and Concourse, Singapore Management University, Singapore.

Breast Stupa Cookery / Artery Exhibition Opening, SMU Singapore Management University, Singapore.

Tout à Fait Thai: Thai Art Festival Paris 2006, Mairie du 6^e, St. Sulpice, Paris, France.

Breast Stupa Cookery/Soi Project/Thai Art Festival Paris, Mairie du 6^e, St. Sulpice and Restaurant Le Trois, Paris, France.

Little More Sweet Not Too Sour, 100 Tonson Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand.

Pink Bras Alert! / Breast Stupa Cookery, 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.

2005

Thai Festival, Auditorium Parco Della Musica, Rome, Italy.

600 Images / 60 Artists / 6 Curators / 6 Cities, Bangkok / Berlin / London / Los Angeles / Manila / Saigon.

Breast Stupa Cookery / Soi Project-Yokohama Triennale, Press Conference, Jim Thompson House, Bangkok, Thailand.

Soi Project / Yokohama Triennale 2005, Yokohama, Japan.

Pic-Nic in the Room, Collaboration with Dutch designers : Anthony, Kleinepier & TTTVO, Art-U Room, Tokyo, Japan.

Breast Stupa Cookery / Pic-Nic in the Room, Jardin de Bagatelle, Kawazu / Urasenke Tea Ceremony / Art-U Room, Tokyo, Japan.

Breast Stupa Cookery / Lotus Arts de Vivre - WPO Offsite Event, Oriental Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand.

2003

Next Move - Contemporary Art from Thailand, Earl Lu Gallery, La Salle-Sia College of the Arts, Singapore.

The Spirit of Asian Contemporary Art, University Library Gallery, California State University, Sacramento, CA.

2002

36 Ideas from Asia - Contemporary South-East Asian Art, Singapore Art Museum European Touring Exhibition.

The 2nd Women's Art Festival, East Asian Women and Herstories, Women's History Exhibition Hall, Seoul Women's Community Center, Seoul, South Korea.

The 2nd Fukuoka Asian Art Triennale 2002, Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, Fukuoka, Japan.

2001

A Shriek from an Invisible Box, The Meguro Museum, Tokyo, Japan.

AsiaArt 2001/Labyrinths - Asian Contemporary Art - Biennale d'Arte Contemporanea, Contemporary Art Museum of Genoa, Italy.

2000

Glocal Scents of Thailand, Edsvik Konst & Kultur, Solentuna, Sweden.

Euro Visions, Art Gallery of the Faculty of Painting, Sculpture and Graphic Arts, Silpakorn University, Bangkok, Thailand.

Les Semiophores, Collaboration project on the facade of The Town Hall, Lyon, France, 7 - 10, December, 2000. A proposal by Philippe Moullion of Laboratoire, Grenoble, France.

1999

Women Imaging Women: Home, Body, Memory, Main Gallery, Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP), Manila, The Philippines.

Alter Ego - Thai - EU Contemporary Art Project, Art Gallery of the Faculty of Painting, Sculpture and Graphic Arts, Silpakorn University, Bangkok, Thailand.

Womanifesto 2, Saranrom Park, Bangkok, Thailand.

Festival der Geister / Asian Spirit and Ghost Festival, Kunsthaus Tacheles, Berlin, Germany.

"Beyond the Future" The Third Asia-Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art, Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, Australia.

1998

Bangkok Art Project 1998, Ratanakosin Island, Bangkok, Thailand.

1997

Womanifesto, Baan Chao Phraya & Concrete House, Bangkok, Thailand.

Glimpses into the Future: Art in Southeast Asia 1997, Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo, Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art, Japan.

1996

The Spiritual and the Social, Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, Australia.

Huay Khwang Maga-City Project, Demolition site, Rachadaphisek Rd., Bangkok, Thailand.

1995

Kradaad : Contemporary Thai Works on Paper, Texas Tech University, Department of Art, Texas, USA Touring Exhibition.

Weather Report, A touring group project initiated by RienkeEnghardt.

1994

Herstories, Dialogue Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand.

1993

Confess and Conceal, 11 Insights from Contemporary Australia and Southeast Asia, AGWA Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth and toured in Southeast Asia.

Shutter Talk, Dialogue Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand.

1992

Small Works by 56 Thai Artists, Silom Art Space, Bangkok, Thailand.

Through Her Eyes: An Exhibition by 6 Women Artists, Dialogue Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand.

1991

Art and Environment, The Gallery of the Faculty of Painting, Sculpture and Graphic Arts, Silpakorn University, Bangkok, Thailand.

Recent Works by Chatchai Puipia & Pinaree Sanpitak, The National Gallery, Chao Fa Rd., Bangkok, Thailand.

1990

Artists for AIDS: Artists for People with AIDS, Lumpini Park, Bangkok, Thailand.

1989

Metro Mania: ARX 1989 Australia and Regions Artists' Exchange, PICA, Perth, Western Australia.

1986

Via Tsukuba (3), AXIS Gallery, Roppongi, Tokyo, Japan

AWARDS

2007

Silpatorn Awards

RESIDENCIES

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.

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AT TYLER ROLLINS FINE ART
529 WEST 20 STREET, 10W
NEW YORK, NY 10011
TEL. + 1 212 229 9100
FAX. +1 212 229 9104
INFO@TRFINEART.COM
WWW.TRFINEART.COM

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