



## Collecting

### Sale of the week

## South-eastern promise

**Sale:** Temple Fair - works by Jakkai Siributr

**Location:** Tyler Rollins Fine Art, 529 West 20th Street, New York NY 10011. Tel: +1 212-229 9100

**Date:** October 30-December 6. Open Tuesday-Saturday, 10am-6pm. [www.trfineart.com](http://www.trfineart.com)

**Need to know:** This might not be the best moment to open a brand new art gallery specialising in an emerging collecting field, but with the results from last week's major auction houses showing a definite dip in the value of established contemporary works, perhaps now is the time to look to new horizons. Former Christie's private sales specialist and art adviser Tyler Rollins certainly believes it is and hopes the inaugural show at his 3,000 sq ft New York gallery will put the overlooked artworks of south-east Asia well and truly on the map.

Thai, Burmese and Indonesian painters have long been the poor relations of their Chinese counterparts, largely due to an absence of knowledge and interest among western collectors, meaning the genre might well be worth investing in now before it becomes "the next big thing".

**Highlights:** In terms of provenance, south-east Asian artists don't come much better than Jakkai Siributr: born in Bangkok, he is a direct descendant of King Mongkut of Siam (now Thailand), the monarch made famous by the writings of Anna Leonowens, on which the film

The King and I was based. Siributr, a Buddhist, describes himself as a large-scale "textile painter"; he creates vibrant wall hangings and installations using brightly coloured cloth fragments ranging from monks' robes to mass-produced modern fabrics, often layered with delicately embroidered panels.

This exhibition will showcase 15 works priced from \$10,000 to \$20,000, all variously relating the history, troubles and traditions of his native Thailand. "Suffrage" depicts a series of high-society women, known as khunying, who are instantly recognisable by their elaborate, jet-black hairstyles.

"Heel" (below) makes reference to the undermining of the Thai monarchy. A triptych of patchwork quilts called "Hopes and Dreams" is inspired by the traditional practice of tenants in Thai homes dedicating a wall to the honour of the king, and "Ruam Mitr" (Family Reunion) represents a journey through the artist's life.

Compiled by  
Simon de Burton

