HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY MUSEUM

Past Traditions/New Voices in Asian Art

September 2-December 10, 2014

Emily Lowe Gallery

Presented in association with the
Hofstra Cultural Center international conference
Asia Transforming: Old Values and New Presences
(September 18-20, 2014).

Araya Rasdjarmrearnsook
(Thai, born 1957)
Renoir's Ball at the Moulin de la Galetter and Thai Villagers
from *The Two Planets* series, 2008
Video
Courtesy of the artist and Tyler Rollins Fine Art, New York
Plate 13

Recognized as one of the leading video artists in Southeast Asia, Araya Rasdjarmrearnsook's work often deals with issues of communication between disparate entities. *The Two Planets* series presents framed reproductions of 19th-century Western paintings to audiences in rural villages, markets and Buddhist temples in Thailand. From the perspective of a viewer, she films the group's discussion about the work of art, revealing class and cultural differences often with humor and laughter. In the video *Renoir's Ball at the Moulin de la Galetter and Thai Villagers*, the villagers display a sense of curiosity, particularly about the people in the painting, and appear to enjoy the conversation. The subtitled dialogue was selected and translated by the artist. The encounter between the rural villagers and the Renoir painting reveals how much or how little cultural information a viewer innately carries and uses to understand a visual image.