

Mats and Pillows and Vessels **Pinaree Sanpitak**

Tyler Rollins Fine Art
April 13 – May 20, 2017

One of the four basic necessities of life is a place to live, to sleep. The installation *The Mats and The Pillows* takes off from a Thai expression, “one mat one pillow,” referring to immigrants, mainly Chinese, coming to the country with nothing and hoping to pursue a new life. My ancestors also came to Thailand this way.

These common, local reed mats are made during the off rice-planting season as a source of extra income and in some areas have been developed and promoted as a sustainable product of the village. They are used in the fields, in the garden, on the floors in the house, as a table, as a bed, as a way of welcoming, greeting. They are versatile. The installation gathers local Thai mats from different regions, an antique Chinese bamboo mat, and a rattan mat from my own home. I lay them out as a site to share, to pause, to stay, to exchange. There should always be space for all, for hope and opportunities.

The Mats and The Pillows was conceived together with *The Roof*, an installation to be exhibited concurrently in New York City at The Winter Garden, Brookfield Place. There, instead of a space to lie upon, there will be translucent canopies collaged up among the palm trees, inserting a “roof over the head.” Fragile, temporary, warm. It may not be a secured cover but perhaps can create a sense of comfort and solace. A shared “roof.”

The works on paper of *The Vessels* are selections of new drawings from the series *In the Jars* (2016-17), along with earlier works on paper reflecting the range of my works based on the body and the vessel. They have journeyed through as “bodies” of the tangible and intangible. Physical and mental. The container and the void. At times grounded, at times emotional. Laying your “bodies” on the mats and pillows, the body dialogues continue.

Pinaree Sanpitak
February 2017

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The Roof

Brookfield Place Winter Garden, New York City
April 19 – July 5, 2017

The Roof, 2017, raw silk, glass fiber, spunbond non-woven fabric, wires, hooks, chains, steel tubes.

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When I first visited the Winter Garden two years ago, I was so intrigued with the palm trees. They have become more than just a decorative element of the building. As tropical vegetation thriving in the midst of a northern hemispheric, concrete-and-steel environment, they embody the processes of exchange, intersection, and coexistence. An example for us all. Instead of just placing objects in the atrium, I wanted to “collaborate” with the palms, the people, and the space as a whole.

Being above or under or viewed from afar, I hope *The Roof* creates a living movement performance of “bodies.” A shared “roof.”

The Roof was conceived along with *Mats and Pillows* (2017), at Tyler Rollins Fine Art, where I place reed mats and local pillows on the floor, occupying almost half the gallery space. The project takes off from a Thai expression, “one mat one pillow,” referring to immigrants, mainly Chinese, coming to the country with nothing and hoping to pursue a new life. My ancestors also settled in Thailand this way. I lay them out as a site to share, to pause, to stay, to exchange. There should always be space for all, for hope and opportunities.

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