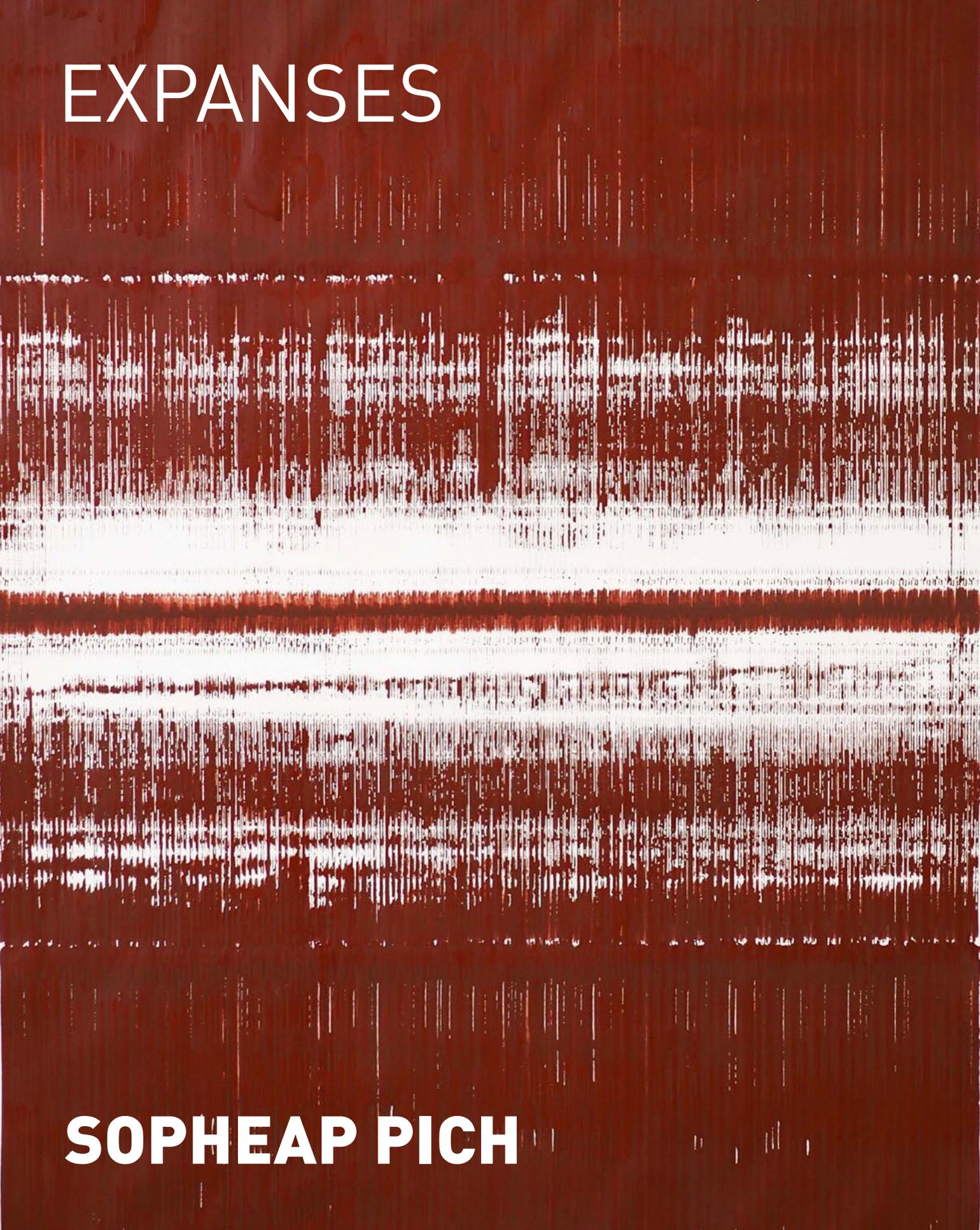


# EXPANSES



**SOPHEAP PICH**

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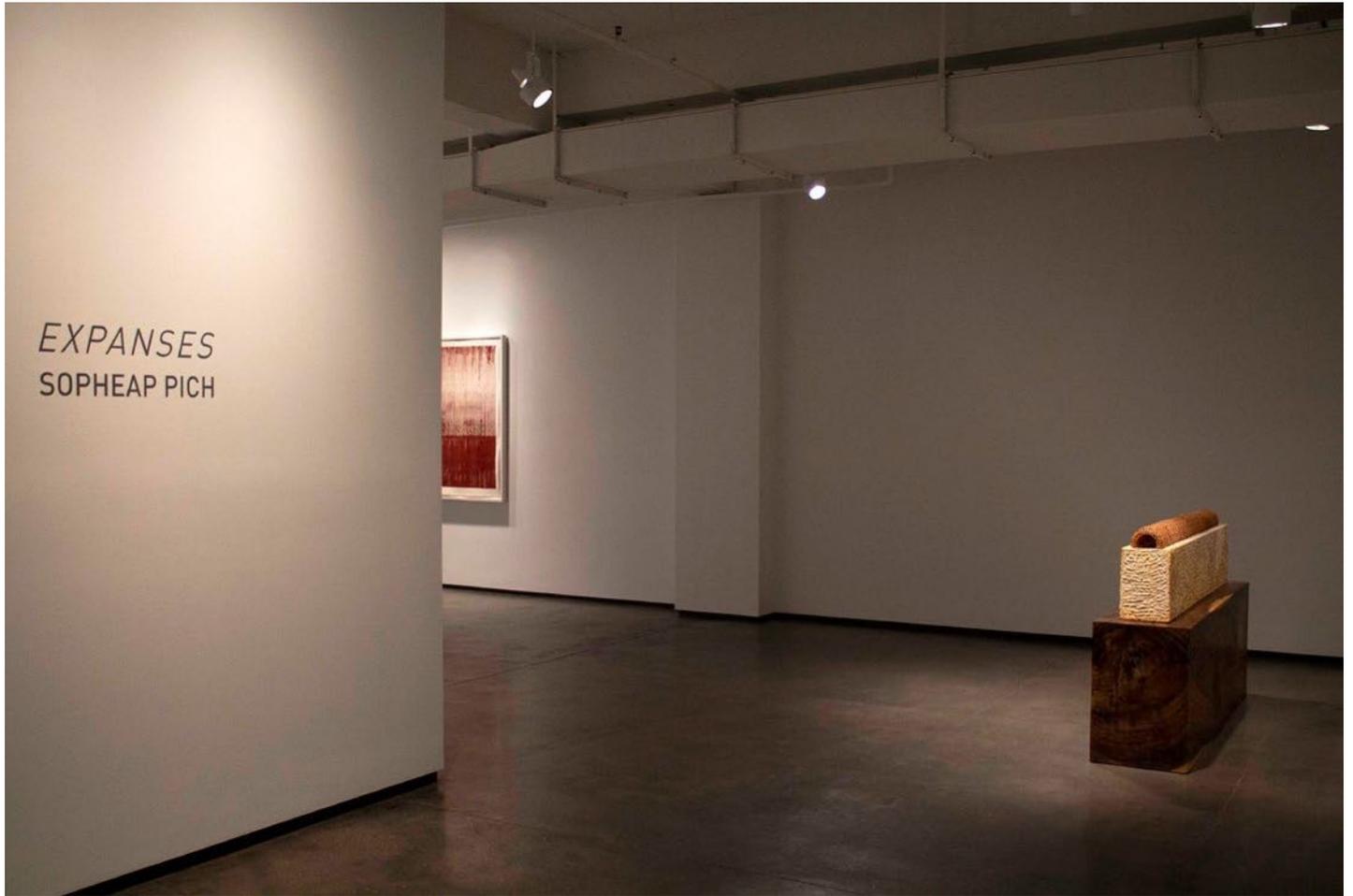
# FOREWORD

TYLER ROLLINS

*Expanses*, Sopheap Pich's sixth solo exhibition with the gallery, features floor-standing sculptures and works on paper that embody a sense of lightness and expansiveness, which contrasts with their monumentality of form. The largest sculpture, *Ordeal* (2018), which had its debut earlier this year at Singapore's Asian Civilisations Museum, was inspired by the seed pods of the Ordeal tree (*Erythrophleum guineense*), which was imported to Southeast Asia from tropical Africa. Powder made from its bark can be used as medicine but is poisonous in high doses. In the past it was used as part of a "trial by ordeal" in which the accused was given a potion made by soaking the bark in water; if he died after drinking it, he was considered guilty, but if he survived, he was acquitted. With the open pod of *Ordeal*, Pich explores the fluidity of line and the free expansion of volume, all delimited by the basic forms of typical natural structures. These themes are also at the core of his more geometric works, such as *Monument 1 & 2*, which consist of large slabs of stone and wood, out of which delicate rattan coils emerge. *Monument 2* was included in Pich's installation of new works in the 2017 Venice Biennale's main exhibition, *Viva Arte Viva*, where it was exhibited alongside a series of print-like drawings created by dipping a stick of bamboo in a mixture of earth pigments and gum arabic, then repeatedly pressing it on watercolor paper. For *Expanses*, Pich has created a new group of works on paper that continues the trajectory set out by the Venice drawings, developing greater complexities of composition and monumentality of scale. With the making of each work, the passage of time is recorded as the ink slowly fades from the sticks after repeated pressings. A subtle tension exists between the precise linearity of the impressions of the sticks and the irregularities caused by the natural texture of the bamboo, variations in the surface of the work table, and changes in pressure of the artist's hand.

Pich is widely considered to be Cambodia's most internationally prominent contemporary artist. Born in Battambang, Cambodia, in 1971, he moved with his family to the United States in 1984. After receiving his BFA (University of Massachusetts at Amherst, 1995) and MFA (The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, 1999), he returned to Cambodia in 2002, where he began working with local materials – bamboo, rattan, burlap, beeswax and earth pigments gathered from around Cambodia – to make sculptures inspired by bodily organs, vegetal forms, and abstract geometric structures. Pich's childhood experiences during the genocidal conditions of late 1970s Cambodia had a lasting impact on his work, informing its themes of time, memory, and the body. His sculptures stand out for their subtlety and power, combining refinement of form with a visceral, emotive force.

In 2013, Pich presented a highly acclaimed solo exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, entitled *Cambodian Rattan: The Sculptures of Sopheap Pich*. The museum's first solo show given to a contemporary Southeast Asian artist, the exhibition "can be regarded as a cameo retrospective, since its 10 works accurately reflect the range of the artist's motifs from 2005 to late 2012," according to Art in America. It included several large bio-morphic rattan sculptures alongside works from Pich's *Wall Reliefs* series, which debuted in a room sized installation at Documenta (13) in 2012. While using the same locally sourced materials seen in his earlier, more free-flowing works, the grid-based *Wall Reliefs* reflect the artist's increasing interest in abstraction and conceptualization. Pich's works can be found in numerous museum collections around the world, including the Centre Pompidou, Paris; Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Cleveland Museum of Art; Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo; M+, Hong Kong; Singapore Art Museum; Mori Art Museum, Tokyo; and Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, Australia.



VIEW OF THE EXHIBITION AT TYLER ROLLINS FINE ART



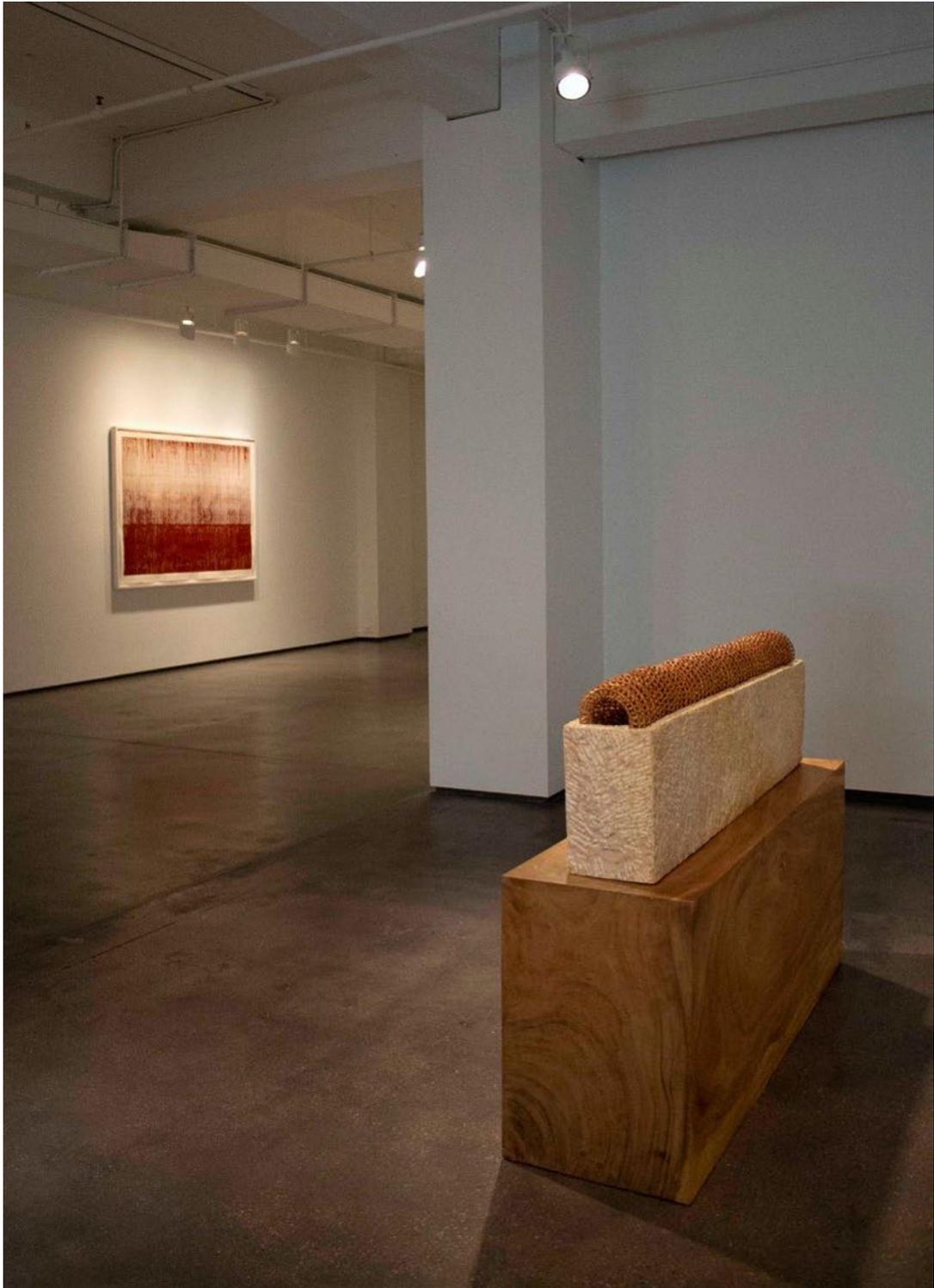
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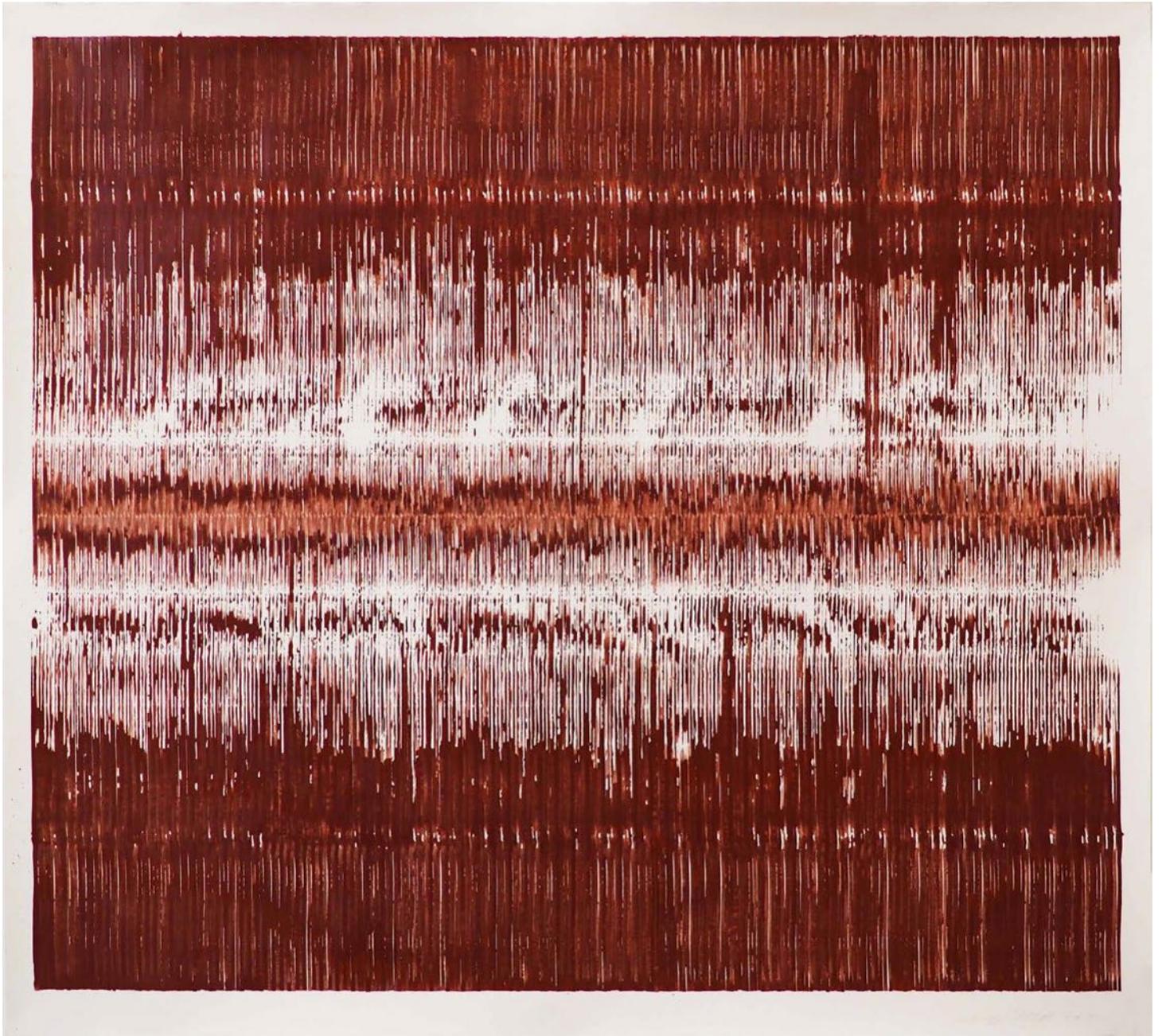


**ORDEAL**

2018

bamboo, wood, metal, oil-based paint, India ink

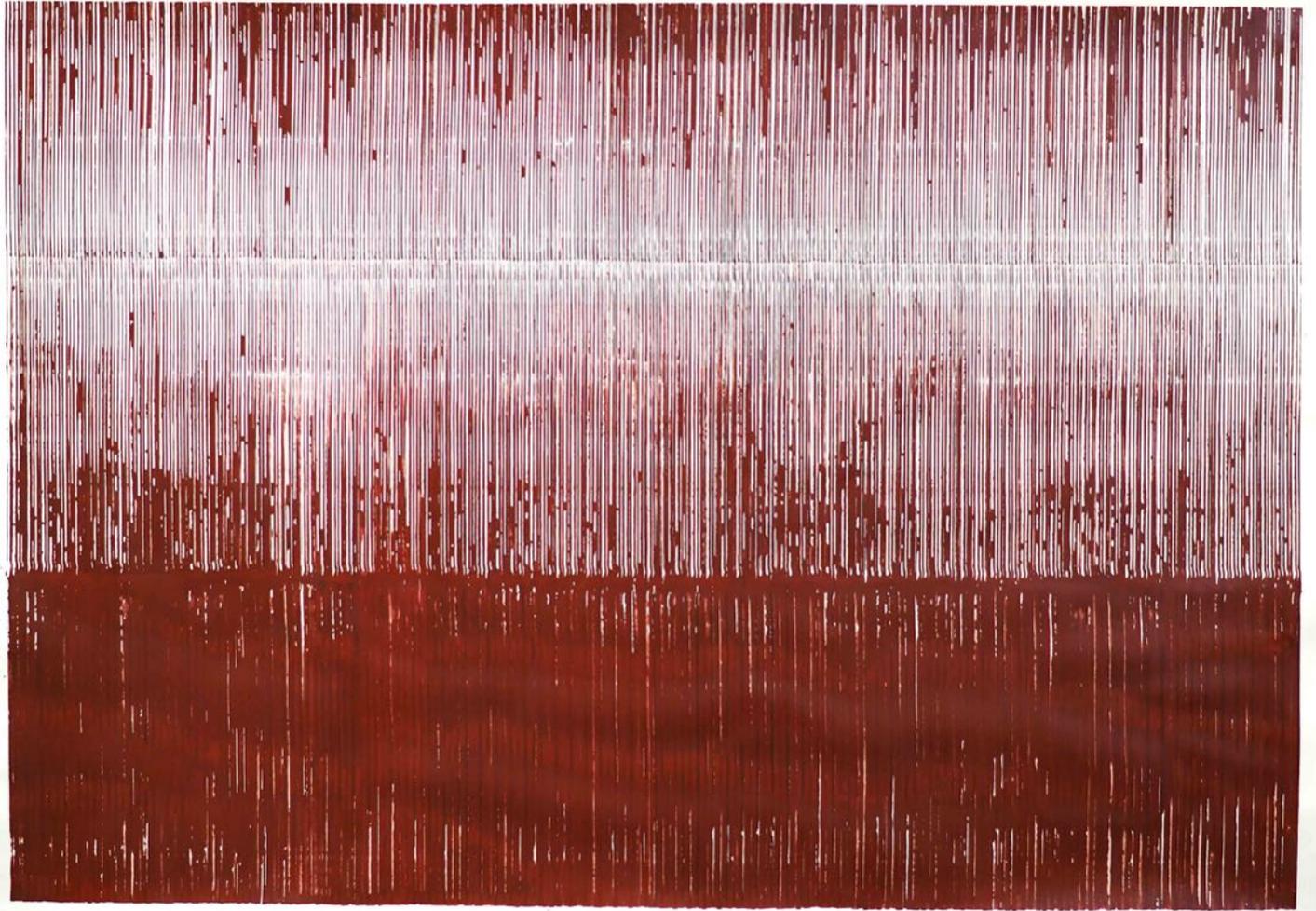
95 x 176 x 204 inches (241 x 447 x 518 cm)



**PULSE NO.5**

2018

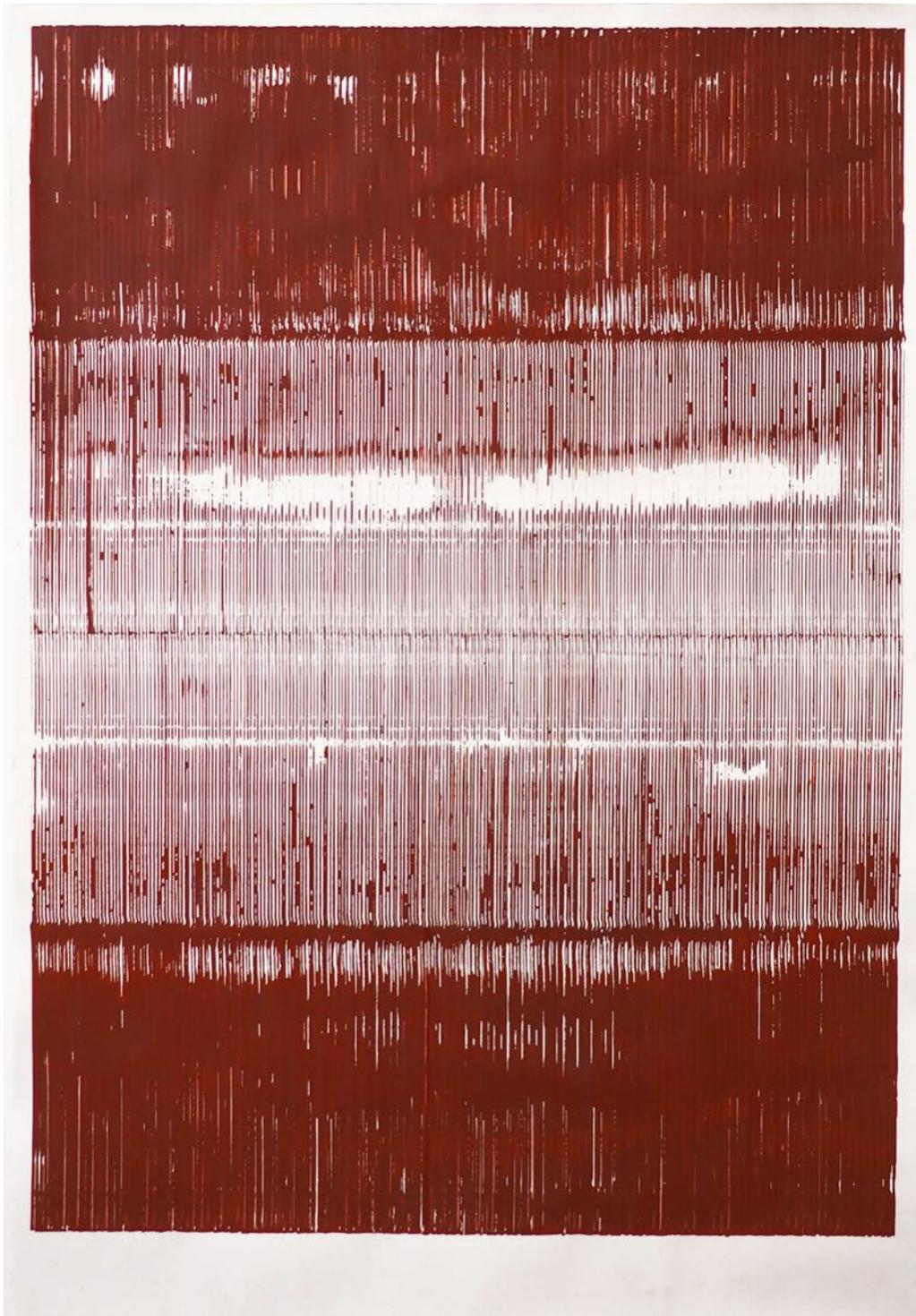
red iron oxide and gum arabic on Arches watercolor paper  
51 ½ x 57 inches (131 x 145 cm)



PULSE NO.6

2018

red iron oxide and gum arabic on Arches watercolor paper  
51 ½ x 71 inches (131 x 180 cm)



PULSE NO.7

2018

red iron oxide and gum arabic on Arches watercolor paper  
72 ½ x 51 ½ inches (184 x 131 cm)



**PULSE NO.8**

2018

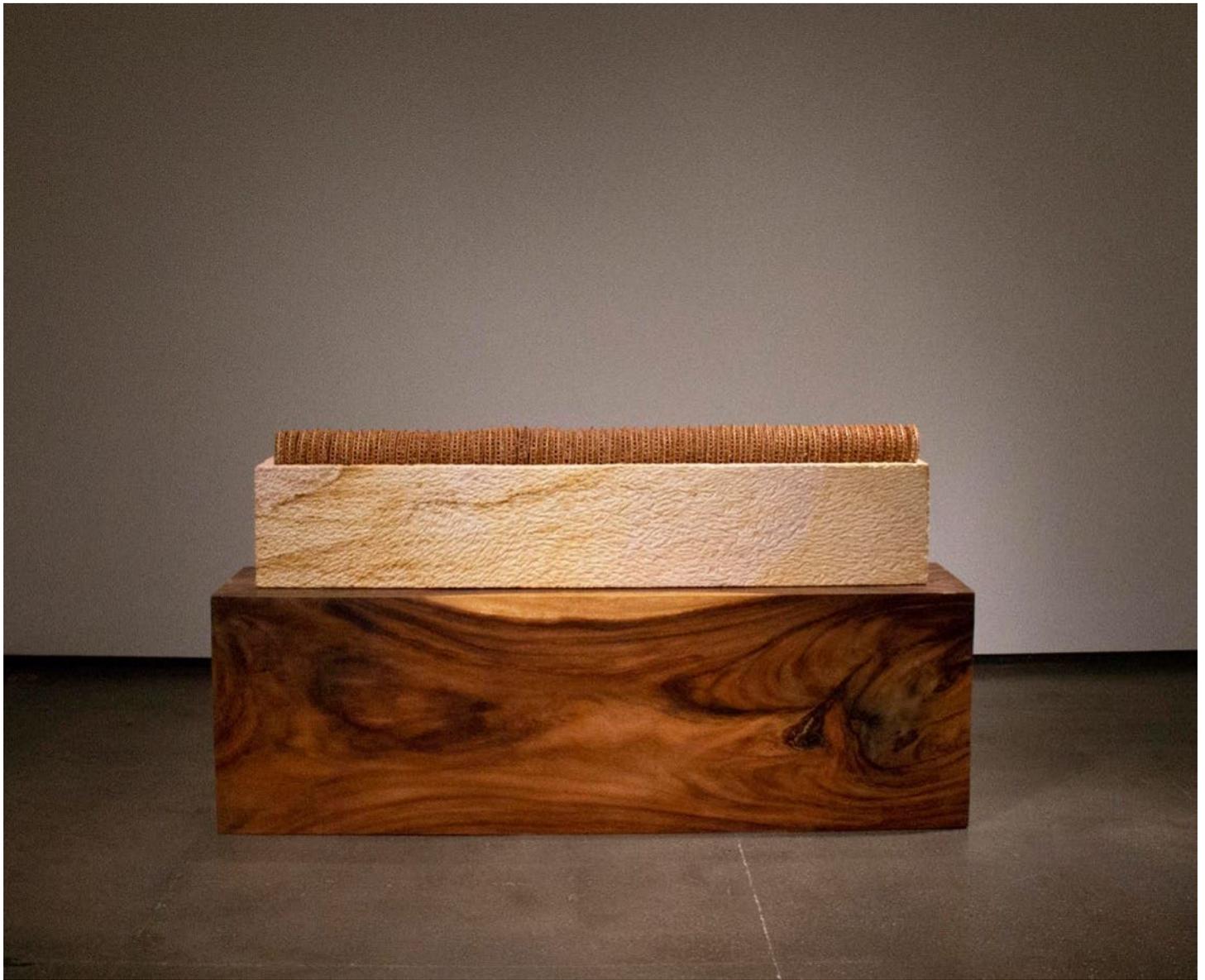
red iron oxide and gum arabic on Arches watercolor paper  
72 ½ x 51 ½ inches (184 x 131 cm)



**MONUMENT 1**

2015

sandstone, rattan, copper wire, rain tree wood  
38 ½ x 55 x 15 inches (98 x 140 x 38 cm)



**MONUMENT 2**

2016

rattan, copper wire, Pursat yellow sandstone, rain tree wood  
39 x 72 x 15 ¾ inches (98.5 x 182.5 x 40 cm)

# SOPHEAP PICH

## SELECTED BIOGRAPHY

Born 1971 in Battambang, Cambodia. Lives and works in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

### EDUCATION

1999 MFA in painting: The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, IL, USA.  
 1995 BFA in painting: The University of Massachusetts at Amherst, MA, USA.

### SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2018 *Expanses*, Tyler Rollins Fine Art, New York, NY, USA.  
 2017 *Hidden Nature: Sopheap Pich*, The Crow Collection, Dallas, TX, USA.  
*Sopheap Pich: from studio to fine art*, Institut francais du Cambodge, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.  
 2016 *Rang Phnom Flower*, Tyler Rollins Fine Art, New York, NY, USA.  
 2015 *Structures*, Tyler Rollins Fine Art, New York, NY, USA.  
 2014 *Sopheap Pich: A Room*, Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis, IN, USA.  
 2013 *Cambodian Rattan: The Sculptures of Sopheap Pich*, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY, USA.  
*Reliefs*, Tyler Rollins Fine Art, New York, NY, USA.  
*Compound*, Brookfield Place Winter Garden, New York, NY, USA.  
*Collection+ Sopheap Pich*, Sherman Contemporary Art Foundation, Sydney, Australia.  
 2011 *Morning Glory*, Tyler Rollins Fine Art, New York, NY, USA.  
*Compound*, Henry Art Gallery, Seattle, WA, USA.  
 2010 *Fragile*, French Cultural Center, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.  
 2009 *The Pulse Within*, Tyler Rollins Fine Art, New York, NY, USA.  
 2008 *Strands*, The Esplanade, Singapore.  
 2007 *Recent Works From Kunming*, TCG/Nordica, Kunming, China.  
 2006 *Moha Saen Anett*, Gallery Dong Xi, Vestfossen, Norway.  
 2005 *Chomlak, sculptures and drawings*, The Arts Lounge of Hotel de la Paix, Siem Reap, Cambodia.  
*Sculptures and Drawings*, Amansara Resort, Siem Reap, Cambodia.  
 2004 *Pdao*, French Cultural Center Phnom Penh, Cambodia.  
 2003 *Excavating the Vessels*, Java Café and Gallery, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.  
 2002 *Recent Works*, The Brewery Studio, Boston, MA, USA.  
 1997 *Empty Wooden Cigarette Boxes From Cambodia*, the Augusta Savage Gallery, Amherst, MA, USA.

### SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2018 *Minimalism: Space. Light. Object*, National Gallery Singapore, Singapore.  
*Angkor: Exploring Cambodia's Sacred City*, Asian Civilisations Museum, Singapore.  
*Trees of Life – Knowledge in Material*, NTU Centre for Contemporary Art Singapore, Singapore.  
*Two houses: Politics and histories in the contemporary art collections of John Chia and Yeap Lam Yang*, Institute of Contemporary Arts Singapore, Singapore.  
*We the People: New Art from the Collection*, Albright-Knox Art

Gallery, Buffalo, NY.  
*In Search of Southeast Asia through the M+ Collections*, M+ Pavilion, West Kowloon, Hong Kong.  
*Sopheap Pich – Khvay Samnang – Shooshie Sulaiman*, Tomio Koyama Gallery, Tokyo, Japan.

2017 *Viva Arte Viva*, Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy.  
*Drawing: The Beginning of Everything*, Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY, USA.  
*Buddha's Smile*, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia.  
*SUNSHOWER: Contemporary Art from Southeast Asia 1980s to Now*, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan.  
*Flora and Fauna*, Ackland Art Museum, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC, USA.  
 2016 *For the Love of Things: Still Life*, Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY, USA.  
*Histories of the Future*, National Museum, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.  
 2015 *Drawn from Nature*, Asia Society Texas Center, Houston, TX, USA.  
*Renaissance*, Lille3000, Lille, France.  
*First Look: Collecting Contemporary at the Asian*, The Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, CA, USA.  
*"I Want Justice," United States Holocaust Memorial Museum*, Washington, DC, USA.  
 Selected works on exhibition, Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minneapolis, MN, USA.  
 2014 *The Art of Our Time: Masterpieces from the Guggenheim Collections*, Guggenheim Museum Bilbao, Bilbao, Spain.  
*No Country: Contemporary Art for South and Southeast Asia*, Centre for Contemporary Art, Singapore.  
*Re: Collection*, Museum of Arts and Design, New York, NY, USA.  
*Medium at Large*, Singapore Art Museum, Singapore.  
*TRANSMISSION*, Jim Thompson Art Center, Bangkok, Thailand.  
 2013 Moscow Biennale, Moscow, Russia.  
 Dojima River Biennale, Dojima River Forum, Osaka, Japan.  
*Collecting Art of Asia*, Smith College Museum of Art, Northampton, MA, USA.  
 2012 *Encounter: The Royal Academy in Asia*, Asia Institute of Contemporary Art, Lasalle College of the Arts, Singapore.  
*Invisible Cities*, MASS MoCA, North Adams, MA, USA.  
*DOCUMENTA (13)*, Kassel, Germany.  
 2011 Asian Art Biennial, Taipei, Taiwan.  
 Singapore Biennale, Singapore.  
*Here / Not Here: Buddha Presence in Eight Recent Works*, Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA, USA.  
 2010 *Classic Contemporary: Contemporary Southeast Asian Art from the Singapore Art Museum Collection*, Singapore Art Museum.  
 2009 Asia-Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art, Brisbane, Australia.  
 Fukuoka Asian Art Triennale, Fukuoka, Japan.  
 2008 *Strategies from Within*, Ke Center for the Contemporary Arts, Shanghai, China.  
*The Mekong Project*, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos.  
 2006 *Paint Around the Dog*, with Jack Bauer, Lake Studio, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.  
*2+3+4 Cambodian/Vietnamese Exchange*, Java Cafe and Gallery, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.  
 2005 *Visual Arts Open*, Elsewhere and New Art Gallery, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.  
*Première Vue*, Passage de Retz, Paris, France.  
*Je/Jeu*, French Cultural Center, Yangon, Myanmar.

- 2004 *Guide*, French Cultural Center, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
- 2001 *Subject Picture*, The Optimistic, Chicago, IL, USA.
- 2000 *Just Good Art 2000*, Hyde Park Arts Center, Chicago, IL, USA.  
*Memory: Personal and Social Testimonies*, the Augusta Savage Gallery, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA, USA.
- 1999 *Altered Object*, Hyde Park Arts Center, Chicago, IL, USA.  
*Young Talents II*, Contemporary Arts Workshop, Chicago, IL, USA.  
*MFA Thesis Exhibition, G2*, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago.  
*Yellow/Face*, Gallery Pilson East, Chicago, IL, USA.  
*Cows on Parade*, a collaborative project with J. Zakin and S. Biggers for The Chicago Park District, The Field Museum Campus, Chicago, IL, USA.

## **PUBLIC COLLECTIONS**

M+ Museum of Visual Culture, Hong Kong.  
 Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo, Japan.  
 Singapore Art Museum, Singapore.  
 MAIAM Contemporary Art Museum, Chiang Mai, Thailand.  
 Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY, USA.  
 Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY, USA.  
 Museum of Arts and Design, New York, NY, USA.  
 Smith College Museum of Art, Northampton, MA, USA.  
 Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Seattle, WA, USA.  
 Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY, USA.  
 San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA, USA.  
 United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, DC, USA.  
 The Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, CA, USA.  
 The Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, OH, USA.  
 The Ford Foundation, New York, NY, USA.  
 Ackland Art Museum, Chapel Hill, NC, USA.  
 Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France.  
 Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, Australia.  
 Sherman Contemporary Art Foundation, Sydney, Australia.

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SOPHEAP PICH

NOVEMBER 1 - DECEMBER 21, 2018

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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