

## PINAREE SANPITAK



Pinaree Sanpitak (born 1961 in Bangkok, Thailand; lives and works in Bangkok) 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. Her primary inspiration has been the female body, distilled to its most basic forms and imbued with an ethereal spirituality. The quiet, Zen-like abstraction of her work owes something to her training in Japan and sets it apart from the colorful intensity of much Thai art. Often called a feminist or Buddhist artist, she resists such easy categorizations, preferring to let her work speak to each viewer directly, to the heart and soul, with the most basic language of form, color, and texture. Her work is imbued with a subtle conceptual framework informed primarily by a deeply felt spiritual sense rather than by rigid dogmas or ideological constructs.

Pinaree works in a wide variety of media – ranging from works on paper, painting, sculpture, installation, textiles, ceramics, and glass, to performance and culinary arts. For our booth at Art Basel Miami Beach, we present two new paintings from 2019, *Red Alert! My Body My Space III* and *Body of Fragmented Memories VI* that explore the evolution and manifestations of the body and vessel motifs in her oeuvre. These works explore sensory experience and perception through forms that evoke floating bodies. For many years, and certainly since the birth of her son in 1993, a central focus of her work has been the female breast, which she relates both to imagery from the natural world, such as clouds and plants, and to the iconic forms of the Buddhist stupa (shrine) and offering bowl. A *New York Times* review of her 2017 solo exhibition at our gallery praised the “superb works on paper by the Thai artist Pinaree Sanpitak, who uses charcoal, pastel, candle wax and gold leaf to delineate curvaceous forms that could be breasts, bowls or stupas. Some of these dense and alluring drawings recall the best works of Louise Bourgeois — and Ms. Pinaree, like her, also has a strong interest in domesticity.”

Our booth at Art Basel Miami Beach features two new paintings, both of which evoke sensory experience through the floating forms of vessel and abstracted female body motifs that are characteristic of Pinaree's work. Hovering amid the layered geometric shapes of *Red Alert! My Body My Space III*, we see a vessel, made from delicate cross-hatching in pencil, whose form conflates the female breast with a Buddhist stupa, inverted to suggest an offering bowl. The more somber *Body of Fragmented Memories VI* centers on an abstracted torso, elevated to the status of a totem that is both specifically female and a universal symbol of life.

Pinaree's work has been widely exhibited at institutions around the world. In Spring 2020, her major installation *Breast Stupa Topiaries* will inaugurate the new Pavilion at the Asian American Art Museum in San Francisco, while her solo exhibition of new work recently closed at the Singapore Tyler Print Institute. In 2018, her room-sized sculptural installation, *The House Is Crumbling*, was shown at the National Gallery Singapore, while her *Breast Stupa Topiary* outdoor sculptural installation could be seen at ILHAM in Kuala Lumpur. In 2017, her monumentally-scaled hanging installation, *The Roof*, was on view at Brookfield Place Winter Garden, New York City's largest public atrium space. An overview of her work from 1995-2013 was showcased in a solo exhibition, *Collection +: Pinaree Sanpitak*, at the Sherman Contemporary Art Foundation in Sydney, Australia in 2014. In 2013, she presented *Hanging by*

**Art Basel Miami Beach: Booth G27**

# PINAREE SANPITAK

Born 1961 in Bangkok, Thailand. Lives and works in Bangkok.

## EDUCATION

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

## SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2019 *Fragmented Bodies: The Personal and the Public*, STPI Gallery, Singapore.  
2017 *The Roof*, Winter Garden at Brookfield Place, New York, NY, USA.  
*Mats and Pillows and Vessels*, Tyler Rollins Fine Art, New York, NY, USA.  
*The House is Crumbling*, National Gallery Singapore, Singapore.  
2015 *Ma-lai*, Tyler Rollins Fine Art, New York, NY, USA.  
*Anything Can Break*, Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, OH, USA.  
2014 *Collection +: Pinaree Sanpitak*, Sherman Contemporary Art Foundation, Sydney, Australia.  
2013 *Hanging by a Thread*, Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), Los Angeles, CA, USA.  
*Temporary Insanity*, The Contemporary Austin, Austin, TX, USA.  
2012 *Temporary Insanity*, The Chrysler Museum, Norfolk, VA, USA.  
*Hanging by a Thread*, Tyler Rollins Fine Art, New York, NY, USA.  
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, USA.  
2009 *Breasts, Clouds, and Vessels*, Gallerie Alain le Gaillard, Paris, France.  
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.  
2003 *Noon-Nom*, Discovery Center, Bangkok, Thailand.  
*Noon-Nom & Vessels*, Babilonia 1808, Berkeley, CA, USA.  
2001 *Vessels and Mounds*, The National Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand.  
*"Shibui" - Breast Stupas*, Seinan Gakuin University Library, Fukuoka, Japan (on view annually).  
1997 *Eggs, Breasts, Bodies, I, Etcetera*, The Art Center, Centers of Academic Resources, Chulalongkorn University.  
1994 *Breast Works*, Silom Art Space, Bangkok, Thailand.  
1988 *Pinaree Sanpitak: an Exhibition of Photographs, Paintings, and Collages*, Central Plaza Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand.

## SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2019 Seitouchi Triennale 2019, Honjima, Japan.  
2017 Jakarta Biennale 2017, Gudang Sarinah Ekosistem, Jakarta, Indonesia.  
*Problem-Wisdom: Thai Art in the 1990s*, Queensland Art Gallery / Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane, Australia.  
*All Matterings of Mind: Transcendent Imagery from the Contemporary Collection*, Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University, Durham, NC, USA.  
*Converging Voices: Gender and Identity*, Hofstra University Museum, Hempstead, NY, USA.  
*Sugar Spin: You, Me, Art and Everything*, Queensland Art Gallery / Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane, Australia.  
*Mon Art Du Style*, MALLAM, Chang Wat Chiang Mai, Thailand.  
2016 SEA+ Triennale 2016, The National Gallery of Indonesia, Jakarta, Indonesia.  
*Utopias and Heterotopias: Wuzhen International Contemporary Art Exhibition Anything Can Break*, Xiushui Corridor Opera Theater, Wuzhen, China.  
*Farewell: The Art Center's Acknowledgments 1995-2016*, The Art Center, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand.  
2015 *First Look: Collecting Contemporary at the Asian*, The Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, CA, USA.  
*Open Sea*, Musée d'art contemporain de Lyon, Lyon, France.  
*Insight: Contemporary Sensory Works, Anything Can Break*, Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, OH, USA.  
*Sensorium 360°*, Singapore Art Museum, Singapore.  
2013 *Female Power*, Museum voor Moderne Kunst Arnhem, The Netherlands.  
*Cartographies*, Tyler Rollins Fine Art, New York, NY, USA.  
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, USA.  
*Negotiating Home, History, and Nation: Two Decades of Contemporary Art in Southeast Asia, 1991-2011*, Singapore Art Museum.  
2010 *Artists Scarecrows Rice Paddy*, Chiang Mai, Thailand.  
*Roundabout*, City Gallery Wellington, Wellington, New Zealand, and the Tel Aviv Museum of Art, Tel Aviv, Israel.  
2009 *Emotional Drawings*, SOMA Museum of Art, Seoul, Korea.  
Incheon Women Artists' Biennale, Incheon Art Platform, Incheon, Korea.  
2008 *Emotional Drawings*, Museum of Modern Art Tokyo, Museum of Modern Art Kyoto, Japan.  
*"Expenditure"* Busan Biennale 2008, Museum of Modern Art Busan, South 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.  
*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.  
2005 *600 Images / 60 Artists / 6 Curators / 6 Cities*, Bangkok / Berlin / London / Los Angeles / Manila / Saigon.  
*Soi Project / Yokohama Triennale 2005*, Yokohama, Japan.  
2002 *36 Ideas from Asia - Contemporary South-East Asian Art*, Singapore Art Museum European Touring Exhibition.  
The 2nd Fukuoka Asian Art Triennale 2002, Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, Fukuoka, Japan.  
*The 2nd Women's Art Festival*, East Asian Women and Herstories, Women's History Exhibition Hall, Seoul Women's Community Center, Seoul, South Korea.  
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.  
1999 The Third Asia-Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art, Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, Australia.  
1997 *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.

## PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA, USA.  
Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, OH, USA.  
The Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, CA, USA.  
Seattle Art Museum, Seattle, WA, USA.  
Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University, Durham, NC, USA.  
Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Seattle, WA, USA.  
Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, Australia.  
Sherman Contemporary Art Foundation, Sydney, Australia.  
Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo, Japan.  
Seinan Gakuin University, Fukuoka, Japan.  
Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, Fukuoka, Japan.  
Earl Lu Gallery, La Salle - SIA College of the Arts, Singapore.  
Singapore Art Museum, Singapore.  
M+, Hong Kong.  
Bangkok University, Bangkok, Thailand.  
Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand.  
MALLAM Contemporary Art Museum, Chiang Mai, Thailand.  
Misiem Yipintsoi Sculpture Garden, Thailand.  
Ministry of Culture, Thailand.  
The Queen's Sirikit Centre for Breast Cancer, Bangkok, Thailand.  
Vehbi Koc Foundation, Istanbul, Turkey  
ILHAM Art Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.