

A NOVEL IN NECESSITY'S RHYTHM

ARAYA RASDJARMREARN SOOK

**A NOVEL IN NECESSITY'S
RHYTHM**

ARAYA RASDJARMREARNSOOK

TYLER ROLLINS
FINE ART

FOREWORD

TYLER ROLLINS

Tyler Rollins Fine Art is pleased to present *A Novel in Necessity's Rhythm*, a solo exhibition of new works by Araya Rasdjarmrearnsook, taking place from February 13 through April 4, 2020. Araya is one of Southeast Asia's most respected and internationally active contemporary artists, and for over thirty years her video, installation, and graphic works have been regularly shown in museums and biennials around the world, including the Venice Biennale (2005), Documenta (2012), and a retrospective exhibition at the Sculpture Center in New York City (2015). The North Carolina Museum of Art is presenting a solo exhibition, *Art in Translation: Araya Rasdjarmrearnsook*, running from March 7 through July 26, 2020.

A Novel in Necessity's Rhythm is centered on a novel written by the artist and published in Thailand in 2018, from which she has selected excerpts, submitting them to a process of distortion and transformation in keeping with her wish to decrease being "too human" through the help of what she calls a theater of animals. Presented across multiple media (printing on canvas, video, and installation), the texts are juxtaposed with sculptures of dog heads, a vase of flowers, and other materials, which become a source of both support and disturbance to the artworks. Dogs have been a recurring motif in Araya's work; her installation at Documenta and her 2015 exhibition at Tyler Rollins Fine Art explored the interrelationship between humans and dogs, chronicling the daily routines of life, but also suggesting wider themes about overcoming the binarisms of self and object, life and death, human and animal. Writing has been an integral part of Araya's practice for decades, and she has published extensively in fiction, including novels and short stories, and non-fiction, particularly art criticism, reflective of her longtime role as a lecturer at the Faculty of Fine Arts at Chiang Mai University.

Born in Trad, Thailand, in 1957, Araya received fine art degrees from Silpakorn University in Bangkok in 1986 and from Hochschule für Bildende Künste Braunschweig in 1990 and 1994. Her etchings and aquatints of the late 1980s and early 1990s, with their ghost-like female figures in shadowy environments, set up themes – death, the body, and women's experience – that would endure throughout her career. Feelings of loss and isolation, informed by the early death of her mother, and a heightened sensitivity to the strictures traditionally placed on women within Thai society, would increasingly find their expression in her work through the physicality of the body and the concreteness of sculptural installations, which by the early 1990s had become the primary focus of her work. Often incorporating semi-abstract, totemic female forms, natural materials, and haunting photographic imagery, all marked by a patina of age and wear, these installations confront us with the raw physicality of both life and death, charged with an almost animistic power that seems to channel powerful psychological states. These works were widely shown in such seminal exhibitions as the first Asia-Pacific Triennial in Brisbane, Australia (1993), and *Traditions / Tensions: Contemporary Art in Asia*, at Asia Society and the Queens Museum in New York City (1996).

Living with these often fragile, ephemeral sculptural works in her home, Araya began to examine more closely her relationship with "otherness," with entities that were radically distinct from her, yet intimately linked by a commonality of experience, a participation in the basic cycles of nature, of life and death. By the late 1990s, this led her to bring rituals of the dead into her artistic practice, and to a shift to video work, which has remained one of the primary media of her artistic practice to the present day. Still deeply informed by her earlier sculptural installation work, her videos are imbued with a strong physicality, with a close focus on bodies, often positioned in semi-abstract environments, their aura extending outward into the viewer's own space. These videos typically imply the presence of an audience that is both observing the action and ceremonially participating in it. They reference traditions of village storytelling, which create continuities between the present and the past, the everyday world and the world of spirits and of legend. Her videos have a meditative, ritualistic quality, and, like many of humanity's important rituals, they are often centered on the idea of communication between different realms: between the living and the dead, the insane and "normal" people, humans and animals, the worlds of art and "real life."

A Novel in Necessity's Rhythm is Araya's fourth solo exhibition with Tyler Rollins Fine Art. Other solo exhibitions in the United States have taken place at the Sculpture Center, New York (2015), Denver Art Museum (2013), Walters Art Gallery (2012), and the Bass Museum (2012). Her work is included in numerous museum collections, including: the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; Asia Society, New York; Smith College Museum of Art; Orange County Museum of Art; National Museum, Osaka; Singapore Art Museum; Museum Arnhem, Netherlands; and Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art, Helsinki.



VIEW OF THE EXHIBITION AT TYLER ROLLINS FINE ART



VIEW OF THE EXHIBITION AT TYLER ROLLINS FINE ART



VIEW OF THE EXHIBITION AT TYLER ROLLINS FINE ART



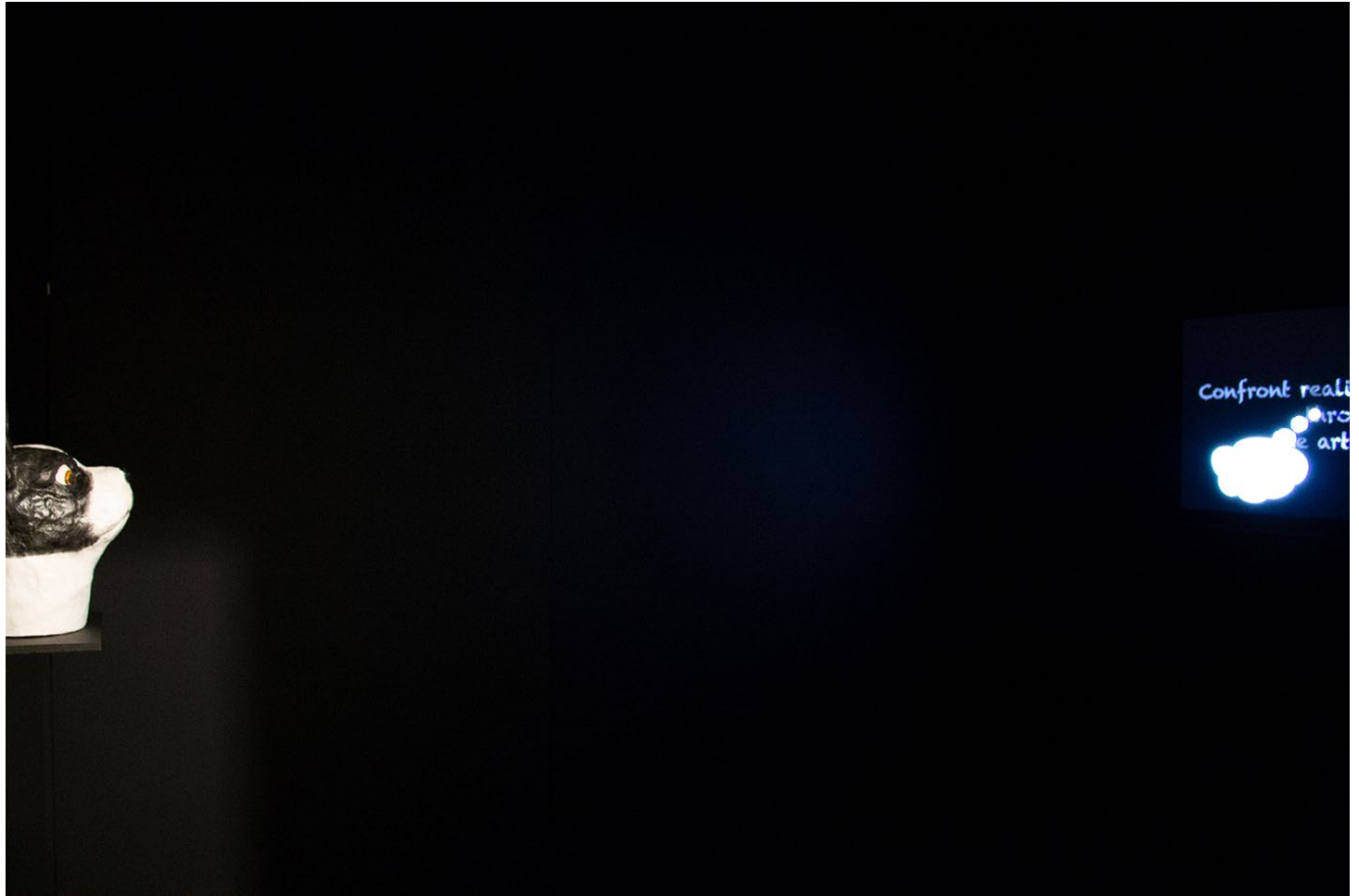
VIEW OF THE EXHIBITION AT TYLER ROLLINS FINE ART



VIEW OF THE EXHIBITION AT TYLER ROLLINS FINE ART



VIEW OF THE EXHIBITION AT TYLER ROLLINS FINE ART



VIEW OF THE EXHIBITION AT TYLER ROLLINS FINE ART



POTPOURRI

2019

digital print on Ilford Omnijet canvas, cotton, human hair, dog hair, stainless steel

132.5 x 88 x 57 inches

337 x 224 x 145 cm



PHILOSOPHICAL THEATER OF ANIMALS (DETAIL)

2019

digital print on Ilford Omnijet canvas, 6 papier mache dog heads

dog group:

67.25 x 84 x 12 inches

171 x 213 x 31 cm

text group:

81 x 150 x 1 inches

206 x 381 x 2 cm



PHILOSOPHICAL THEATER OF ANIMALS (DETAIL)

2019

digital print on Ilford Omnijet canvas, 6 papier mache dog heads

dog group:

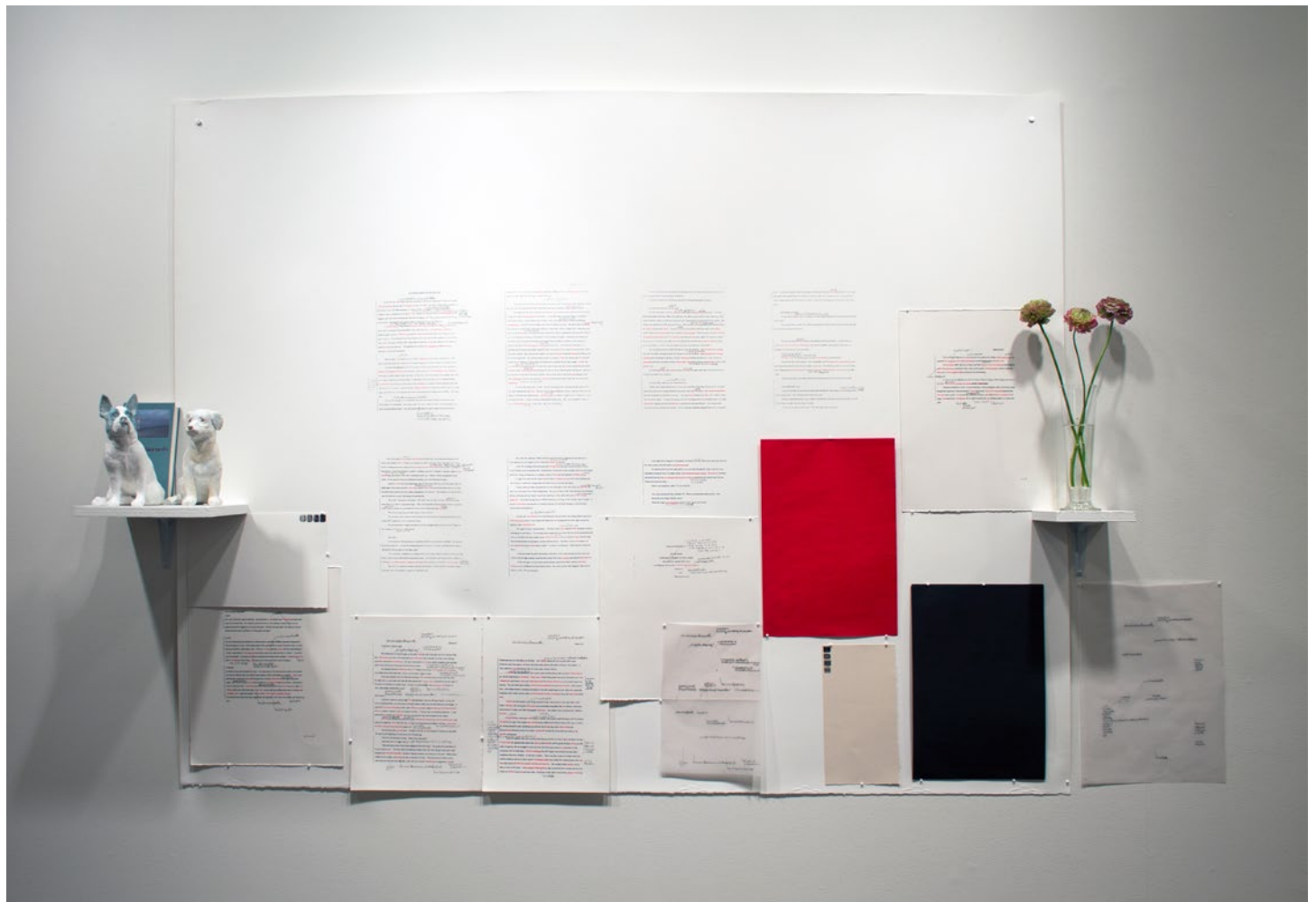
67.25 x 84 x 12 inches

171 x 213 x 31 cm

text group:

81 x 150 x 1 inches

206 x 381 x 2 cm



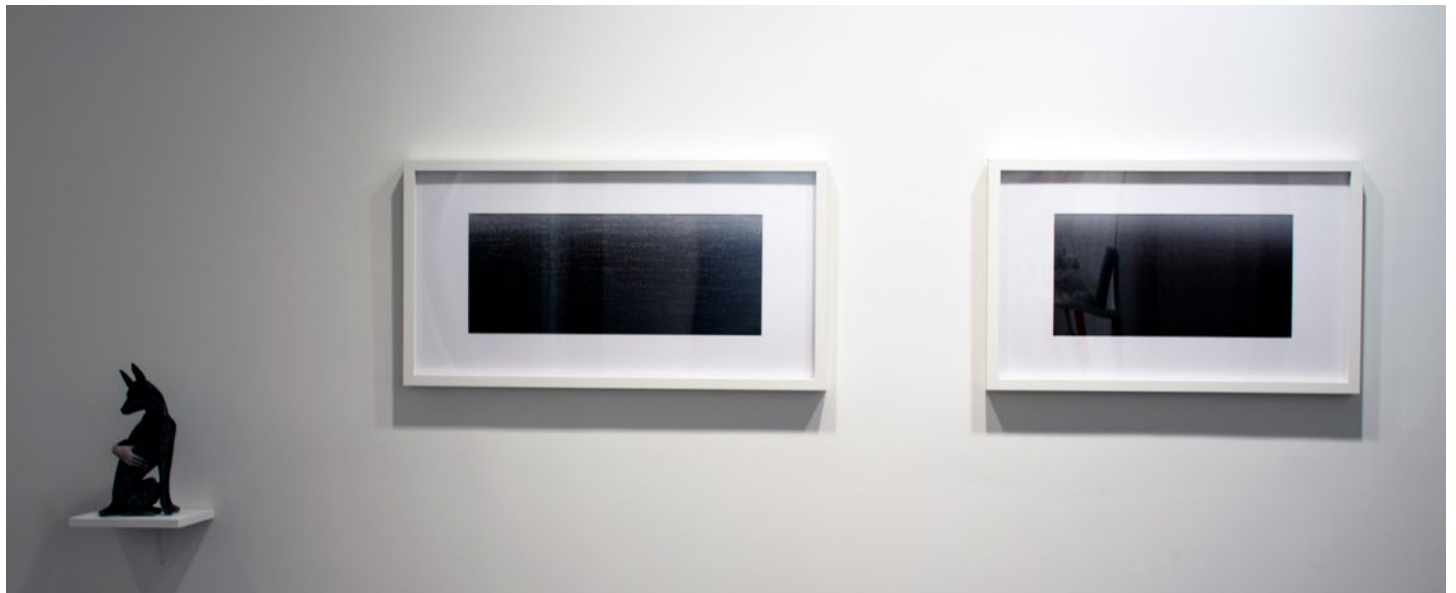
A FLOWERY BIRTH OF DEPARTURE

2019

silkscreen on Fabriano paper, glass vase, book, flowers, 2 papier mache dogs

55 x 82 x 10 inches

140 x 208 x 25 cm



GROUP PHOTO

2019

digital print on Ilford Omnijet canvas, papier mache dog

69.25 x 112.75 x 10 inches

176 x 286 x 25 cm



PENDING-SUSPENDING 'FRUSTRATION'

2019

digital print on Fabriano paper, wooden bench and drying rack

131 x 40 x 45 inches

333 x 102 x 114 cm



DAMNED OBSTETRICS

2019

digital print on ice silk, aluminum tray, papier mache dog, human hair, and lemons

104.75 x 78 x 29.25 inches

266 x 198 x 74 cm



TENDER GLOOM

2019

digital print on Ilford Omnijet canvas

107 x 106.5 x 1.25 inches

272 x 271 x 3 cm



THINGS OF DISORDER

2019

digital print on Ilford Omnijet canvas, wood, headrest, zinc, dog hair, oil paint

70 x 73 x 4.5 inches

178 x 185 x 11 cm



PSYCHOSIS

2019

digital print on Ilford Omnijet canvas

96 x 52 inches

244 x 132 cm



THE FIRST ROAD

2019

digital print on Ilford Omnijet canvas, book, wicker dog, acrylic paint

85 x 133.25 x 18.5 inches

216 x 339 x 47 cm



NECESSITY'S RHYTHM

2019

digital video and papier mache dog head

video:

34:06 min

ARAYA RASDJARMREARNSOOK

SELECTED BIOGRAPHY

Born 1957 in Trad, Thailand. Lives and works in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

EDUCATION

- 1994 Meisterschuelerin, Hochschule Fuer Bildende Kuenste Braunschweig, Germany.
- 1990 Diplom Fuer Bildende Kuenste, Hochschule Fuer Bildende Kuenste Braunschweig, Germany.
- 1986 MFA, Silpakorn University, Bangkok, Thailand.

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2020 *A Novel in Necessity's Rhythm*, Tyler Rollins Fine Art, New York, USA.
Art in Translation: Araya Rasdjarmrearnsook, North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh, North Carolina, USA
- 2017 *Jaonua: The Nothingness & Sanook Dee Museum*, Tyler Rollins Fine Art, New York, NY, USA.
- 2015 *Araya Rasdjarmrearnsook*, Sculpture Center, New York, NY, USA.
Niranam, Tyler Rollins Fine Art, New York, NY, USA.
- 2014 *Araya Rasdjarmrearnsook – The Village and Elsewhere*, University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia.
Storytellers of the Town, 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art, Sydney, Australia.
- 2013 *Araya Rasdjarmrearnsook: Recent Video Works*, Denver Art Museum, Denver, CO, USA.
- 2012 *The Endless Renaissance: Six Solo Artist Projects*, Bass Museum of Art, Miami Beach, FL, USA.
Two Planets, Walters Museum, Baltimore, MD, USA.
Two Planets/Village and Elsewhere, Tyler Rollins Fine Art, New York, NY, USA.
- 2003 *Lament*, Tensta Konsthall, Stockholm, Sweden.
- 2002 *Why Is It Poetry Rather than Awareness?*, National Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand.
- 1999 *At Nightfall Candles Are Lighted*, Contemporary Art Museum, Chiang Mai and Chulalongkorn University Art Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand.
- 1998 *Lament of Desire*, Artpace, San Antonio, Texas, USA, and the Faculty of Fine Art Gallery, Chiang Mai, Thailand.
- 1995 *Lustful Attachment*, National Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand.
- 1994 *Water Is Never Still*, National Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand.
- 1992 *Stories in Room*, National Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand.
- 1990 *Printmaking and Drawing*, Atelier Forsthaus, Gifhorn, Germany.
- 1990 *Printmaking*, Vereins und Westbank, Hanover, Germany.
- 1987 *Small Graphic*, Goethe Institute, Bangkok, Thailand.
Graphic Notes, National Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand.

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2019 *Lost and Found: Imagining New Worlds*, Institute of Contemporary Art, LaSalle College of the Arts, Singapore
- 2018 Kochi-Muziris Biennale, Kerala, India.
- 2017 *Decoration never dies, anyway*, Tokyo Metropolitan TeieArt Museum, Tokyo, Japan.
Problem-Wisdom: Thai Art in the 1990s, Queensland Art Gallery/Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane, Australia.
SUNSHOWER: Contemporary Art from Southeast Asia 1980s to Now, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan.
PyeongChang Biennale, The Five Moons: Return of the Nameless and Unknown, Gangneung Green City Experience Center, South Korea.
- 2016 *In & Out of Context*, Asia Society Museum, New York, NY, USA. Singapore Biennale, *An Atlas of Mirrors*, Singapore Art Museum, Singapore.
- 2015 *East Asia Feminism: FANTasia*, Seoul Museum of Art, Seoul, Korea.
- 2014 *Inside*, Palais de Tokyo, Paris France.

- The Roving Eye*, ARTER Space for Art, Istanbul, Turkey.
- Past Traditions/New Voices in Asian Art*, Hofstra University Museum, Hemstead, NY, USA.
- No Country: Contemporary Art for South and Southeast Asia*, Asia Society Hong Kong Center, Hong Kong.
- Thai Charisma*, Bangkok Art and Culture Center, Bangkok, Thailand.
- DIRGE: Reflections on (Life and) Death*, Museum of Contemporary Art Cleveland, Cleveland, OH, USA.
- No Country: Contemporary Art for South and Southeast Asia*, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY, USA.
- California Pacific Triennial, Orange County Museum of Art, Newport Beach, CA, USA.
- Dojima River Biennial, Dojima River Forum, Osaka, Japan.
- Asian Art Biennial, National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts, Taiwan.
- The Floating Eternity Project*, Para Site, Hong Kong.
- Lunch with Olympia*, Yale University School of Art, New Haven, CT, USA.
- DOCUMENTA (13), Kassel, Germany.
- Thai Transience*, Singapore Art Museum, Singapore.
- Phantoms of Asia: Contemporary Awakens the Past*, Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA, USA.
- Beyond Geography*, Art Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.
- The Global Contemporary. Art Worlds After 1989*, Zentrum fuer Kunst und Medientechnologie, Karlsruhe, Germany.
- MDE11: Teaching and learning: Places of knowledge in art*, Medellin, Colombia.
- Video: An Art: A History 1965 – 2010*, Singapore Art Museum, Singapore.
- Kaza Ana/ Air Hole: Another Form of Conceptualism from Asia*, National Museum of Art, Osaka, Japan.
- Speech Objects*, Musée de l'objet, Blois, France.
- Changwon Asian Art Festival, Gyeongnam, South Korea.
- Roving Eye*, SKMU Sørlandets Kunstmuseum, Kristiansand, Norway.
- 5th International Video Art Biennial in Israel, Center for Contemporary Art, Tel Aviv, Israel.
- 1st Ural Industrial Biennale of Contemporary Art, National Center for Contemporary Arts, Ekaterinburg, Russia.
- AND Writers*, 1st Nanjing Biennial, Jiangsu Provincial Art Museum, Nanjing, China.
- Realism in Asian Art*, The National Art Gallery, Singapore.
- 17th Biennale of Sydney, Australia.
- 2009 *Unreal Asia*, the 55th International Short Film Festival Oberhausen, Germany.
- Incheon Women Artists Biennale South Korea.
- Dreaming/Sleeping*, Passage de Retz gallery, Paris, France and The Petach Tikva Museum of Art, Petach Tikva, Israel.
- 2007 *Six Feet Under: Autopsy of our relation to the dead*, Deutsches Hygiene-Museum Dresden, Dresden, Germany.
- Thermocline of Art*, Zentrum fuer Kunst und Medientechnologie, Karlsruhe, Germany.
- Thresholds of Tolerance*, ANU The Australian National University, Canberra, Australia.
- Wind from the East: Perspectives on Asian Contemporary Art*, Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art, Helsinki, Finland
- Dirty Yoga*, The 2006 Taipei Biennial, Taipei, Taiwan.
- Six Feet Under*, Fine Arts Museum Berne, Berne, Switzerland.
- Trace Root: Unfolding Asian Stories*, 6th Gwangju Biennale, Gwangju, South Korea.
- 2005 51st Venice Biennale, Thai Pavilion. Venice, Italy.
- The Pantagruel Syndrome*, Castello di Rivoli, Turin, Italy.
- Spaces and Shadows*, Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin, Germany.
- 54th Carnegie International*, Pittsburgh, PA, USA.

2003	<i>Insomnia</i> , Institute of Contemporary Arts, London, UK. <i>Poetic Justice</i> , 8th International Istanbul Biennial, Istanbul, Turkey. <i>Time after Time</i> , Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco, CA, USA.
2002	<i>EV+A 2002</i> , Limerick, Ireland.
2001	<i>ARS 01: Unfolding Perspectives</i> , Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art, Helsinki, Finland.
2000	<i>Global Scents of Thailand</i> , Edsvik Museum, Sweden.
1996	<i>Jurassic Technologies Revenant</i> , 10th Biennial of Sydney, Sydney, Australia. <i>Traditions/Tensions: Contemporary Art in Asia</i> , Asia Society and Queens Museum, New York, NY, USA.
1995	1st Johannesburg Biennial, South Africa.
1993	1st Asia-Pacific Triennial, Brisbane, Australia.

SELECTED PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

M+, Hong Kong.
 Asia Society, New York, NY, USA.
 Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY, USA.
 Smith College Museum of Art, Northampton, MA, USA.
 Orange County Museum of Art, Newport Beach, CA, USA.
 Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art, Helsinki, Finland.
 National Museum, Osaka, Japan.
 Singapore Art Museum, Singapore.
 H+F Collection, Rotterdam, the Netherlands.
 Museum Arnhem, Arnhem, Netherlands.
 Thai Farmers Bank PCL, Thailand.
 Mori Art Museum, Roppongi Hills, Japan.

PUBLISHED ON THE OCCASION OF THE EXHIBITION

A NOVEL IN NECESSITY'S RHYTHM

ARAYA RASDJARMREARNSOOK

FEBRUARY 13 – APRIL 4, 2020

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

©2020 TYLER ROLLINS FINE ART, LTD.