

From the Shadows

June 2 - August 14, 2015

Twilight is a time in which our vision is shrouded, the landscape softened with gloom. A liminal zone in which perceptions of time and space are distorted. As physical forms and the boundaries between them appear to blur, so also our sense of time seems to alter. The shadowy present merges with fantastical visions and memories of former times; some believe that the supernatural world draws closer.

The current exhibition brings together ten artworks that, while disparate in medium, form, and theme, take inspiration from the shadows. Some find their visual cues in the vastness of the night sky or the patterns of shadows on the ground, while others call up the somber shades of bygone conflicts and traumas. Ghosts from the past, the specter of death, and voices from the obscure margins of history: all find their place as they emerge into the flickering light of the imagination.



Yee I-Lann

Born 1971 in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia; lives and works in Kuala Lumpur.

Horizon Series: Flat, 2003

black and white digital print on Kodak Endura Paper
18 x 72 in. (46 x 183 cm)

This photocollage, with its superimposed images of ominous housing blocks and mysterious origami figures, is part of the artist's *Horizon Series*, organized around the horizon line as a metaphor of both freedom and of the restrictive power of ideological constructs. Many of the artist's works reflect on narratives of "progress" and the disjunctions between indigenous cultures and "modernizing" coercive systems.



Sopheap Pich

Born 1971 in Battambang, Cambodia; lives and works in Phnom Penh.

Red Echoes, 2015

bamboo, rattan, burlap, wire, damar resin, beeswax, natural pigment, oil paint
63 x 48 x 4 in. (160 x 121 x 10 cm)

This is a work from the *Wall Reliefs* series, this work reflects the artist's interest in abstraction and his focus on natural materials. The regularity of the bamboo and rattan grids is overlaid with strips of burlap taken from used rice bags that had been patched by previous owners with old fabrics and colorful bits of plastic twine, coated with encaustic mixed with charcoal.



Pinaree Sanpitak

Born 1961 in Bangkok, Thailand; lives and works in Bangkok.

Dark and Sweet, 2008

acrylic on canvas
78 x 78 in. (198 x 198 cm)

This work is from the *Quietly Floating* series of paintings which feature the artist's characteristic breast-cloud form, shown here hovering below a cloud shape. A central focus of her work is the female breast, which she relates to imagery of the natural world and to the iconic form of the Buddhist shrine or offering bowl.



Patricia Perez Eustaquio

Born 1977 in the Philippines; lives and works in Manila.

Untitled I, 2013
oil on shaped canvas
94 ½ x 79 in. (240 x 200.5 cm)

This work, with its shadows of trees on the forest floor, patterned like animal skin, is from an ongoing series of shaped canvases cut in the form of tropical flowers and often painted with imagery of dead birds and farm animals or bloody meat, suggestive of a kind of memento mori in which the fragile delicacy of life is contrasted with the raw physicality of death.



Manuel Ocampo

Born 1965 in Quezon City, the Philippines, lives and works in Manila.

Todos Caeran, 2014
silkscreen and oil on canvas
72 x 48 in. (183 x 122 cm)

Ocampo's work from the early 1990s, which this painting references, often features iconography derived from Spanish Catholicism and incorporates images of ethnic conflict. The title of this work, in English "All Will Fall," meaning all will fall into sin, recalls a well known, similarly titled etching by Goya that evokes political intrigue and corruption. Here, Ocampo manipulates a silkscreen of one of his own iconic paintings from 1991, even adding his own footprints.



Tiffany Chung

Born 1969 in Danang, Vietnam, lives and works in Saigon.

finding one's shadow in ruins and rubble, 2014
hand crafted mahogany boxes, found photographs printed on plexiglass, LED lights, electrical wire
dimensions of 31 wooden boxes variable (ranging from 18 x 18 x 9 to 41 x 18 x 9 cm)
edition of 3 + 1 AP

This "cityscape" of small mahogany light boxes containing photographs of buildings damaged in the current conflict in Homs, Syria, is part of the artist's *Syria Project* currently featured in the Venice Biennale. Inspired by Victorian keepsake boxes, the work contains images that appear to come from a long-gone past. Devoid of the normal signs of urban life, these haunting images convey a sense of the devastation of war, and of the sudden acceleration of the natural processes of decay whereby the modern city comes to resemble an ancient ruin.



Jakkai Siributr

Born 1969 in Bangkok, Thailand, lives and works in Bangkok.

Somdej VII, 2015
amulets and thread (beige and metallic silver, red and gold)
47 ¼ x 63 in. (120 x 160 cm)

Jakkai is noted for producing meticulously handmade tapestry and installation works that make powerful statements about religious, social, and political issues in contemporary Thailand. A main preoccupation of his art is the interaction of Buddhism and materialism in modern life, and the everyday popular culture of Thailand. This work is made from Somdej amulets, a particular type of Thai protective amulet stamped with a meditating Buddha image.



Agus Suwage

Born 1959 in Purworejo, Central Java, Indonesia; lives and works in Yogyakarta.

Tolerance #1, 2012
oil, acrylic and bitumen on canvas
59 x 79 in. (150 x 200 cm)

This work relates to Suwage's *Tolerance Wall* installation, made of "bricks" crafted from recycled tin, the colored labels of which form an iconic self-portrait of the artist with his large hat, while speakers broadcast prayers from the major religions of Indonesia. In this related painting, the wall has merged with the night sky and a cosmic vision of the music of the spheres.

IN THE VIDEO ROOM:



Arahmaiani

Born 1961 in Bandung, Indonesia; lives and works in Yogyakarta.

I Don't Want to Be a Part of Your Legend, 2004

single channel video

11:34 min.

edition of 5

One of the artist's most iconic videos, this work was inspired by the most basic form of shadow puppetry, using cut-out leaves and firelight. Often viewed as a feminist commentary, it retells the story of Sita, Rama's wife from the Indian epic, the *Ramayana*, one of the main sources of traditional Javanese performance. Here, the subordinate role of the woman is called into question.



Araya Rasdjarmrearnsook

Born 1957 in Trad, Thailand; lives and works in Chiang Mai.

Some unexpected events sometimes bring momentary happiness, 2009

single channel video

20:03 min.

Themes of death, the decay of the body, and the interrelationship between life and death, are omnipresent in Araya's work. She has adopted many sick and abandoned dogs, and this video focuses on one dog who had been paralyzed but was suddenly and inexplicably able to walk for a few hours before collapsing again. It is a poignant meditation on the cycle of life and death, imbued with a sense of compassion and mystery.