

Mae Maha Chamrern: The Great Woman and Her Space

The word 'Mae' in the Thai language, apart from its meaning 'Mother', is also used as a suffix in front of a female name or as a courtesy title to the names of female goddesses, such as 'Mae KhongKha'-The River Goddess; 'Mae Posop'-The Rice Goddess; or 'Mae Thoranee'-The Mother Earth.

'Maha' means 'Great' and 'Chamrern' means 'Growth'.

From the three meanings mentioned above, it seems that the combined word 'Mae Maha Chamrern' should denote an auspicious meaning. However, the word 'Mae Maha Chamrern' is, in reality, usually used as a sarcastic remark to call a woman who 'grows in a way that is not an established, socially acceptable path'.

There are other words that are used to call or refer to Thai women, such as 'Chang Thao Lang', 'Nang Kaew', and 'Mae Sri Ruean'. Those words denote the traditionally desirable qualities in women, while women who are writers and artists are usually called sarcastically as 'Mae Maha Chamrern', since they usually are outspoken and inclined to express their opinions and criticism of the society openly and publicly through their artworks and writings.

It is possible that the video art like <9 Days Pregnancy of a Single, Middle-Aged Associate Professor> is an attempt to look for something new and different on the daily routine life. The 1000 km journey of a bitch in <Feces, Life, Love, Lust> and the spirit soothing chant at a crematorium in <Glome Pee> as well as the teaching of dead students in <The Class> are the Mae Maha Chamrern's activities that help her better understand private and social spaces that she is living in.



<The Class>, 2005

Single Channel Video Projection, 16 min 33 sec

Copyright: The Artist



<Great Times Message: Storytellers of the Town: An Artist>, 2006
Single Channel Video Projection, 21 min
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