

# THE NEW YORKER



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**ART**

## **ARAYA RASDJARMREARNSOOK**

One of Thailand's foremost artists makes perplexing, meditative videos and sculptures in which life is a mystery, understanding is always partial, and death, though inevitable, is nothing to fear. This superb and weighty retrospective, her first in the United States, includes three videos in which Rasdjarmrearnsook lectures on the meaning of death to a class of jaundiced corpses, which seem more introspective than macabre; distressing monologues from mental patients; and glass jars full of hair from her beloved dogs, who sit beside her as she watches Thai soap operas and footage of Bangkok protests. Always thoughtful, often ghostly, her art can also turn wickedly humorous: in a rural temple, a monk lectures children on dharma and right livelihood by showing a huge image of Jeff Koons in the company of two bikini-clad models next to a reproduction of Artemisia Gentileschi's "Judith Beheading Holofernes"—suggesting that the students should not commit adultery or they could lose their head. Through March 30.

January 25 - March 30

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