

## Cutting-Edge Thai Art Makes a Rare Appearance in New York

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A vibrant mix of politically-inflected, abstract and neo-traditional works features in the show.

by Max Crosbie-Jones

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Kamin Lertchaiprasert's "Nature give to us" (2009, acrylic on canvas)

NEW YORK — Falling in the middle of a sweet spot for fans of Southeast Asian art, **Sundaram Tagore Gallery** is currently hosting the first group exhibition to introduce New Yorkers to the latest in Thai contemporary art in over a decade.

Curated by **Gregory Galligan**, director of the **Thai Art Archives** in Bangkok, "Thresholds: Contemporary Thai Art" is an attempt to redress what he sees as outsiders' obscured and unrepresentative view of the nation's thriving art scene.

"Thai artists have participated in virtually all of the world's major biennials,

triennials and art fairs, yet few global observers have had the opportunity to directly engage with contemporary Thai artistic developments in any concentrated context," he says.

"Thresholds' aims to address this void by presenting recent key work by six established Thai artists."

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Among them is accomplished abstract artist **Angrit Ajchariyasophon**, and **Kamin Lertchaiprasert**, a practitioner of Buddhist-inflected drawing, painting, sculpture and participatory site-specific projects, and the co-founder, along with **Rirkrit Tiravanija**, of artists' collective **The Land**. Also featuring are paintings, prints and installations by **Nim Kruasaeng**, **Phaptawan Suwannakudt**, **Sakarin Krue-On** (an artist acclaimed at Documentary XII for his Terraced Rice Fields Project), and **Nipan Oranniwesna**. All the artworks are for sale.

Galligan, who is also working on a show of rare and previously unexhibited **Montien Boonma** works that is due to open in Bangkok in April, says the exhibition offers a tantalizing snapshot not a complete survey. "It's impossible to do justice to the full picture, so I chose progressive, mid-career artists as case-studies in an attempt to shed light on some ways that Thai artists have been working in the early 21st century," he told ARTINFO SEA via email.

He adds: "The show throws into relief the scene's aesthetic and conceptual complexities and ever-topical underpinnings. For example, some of these artists have responded to recent Thailand political unrest of mid 2010 in their work, while others are more abstract or oblique in their approach."

"Thresholds" is not the only showcase of Southeast Asian art now happening in New York. The Guggenheim's "[No Country: Contemporary Art for South and Southeast Asia](#)" runs until May 22; and "[Cambodian Rattan](#)", a display of ten works by **Sopheap Pich**, is on display at the Metropolitan Museum of Art until July 7 as part of the "[Seasons of Cambodia](#)" arts festival.

*"Thresholds: Contemporary Thai Art" runs until April 6 at Sundaram Tagore, 547 West 27th Street, New York.*