

Anthropos: Thai and Singapore Artists Get Physical

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Courtesy Sundaram Tagore

Ana Prvacki's reverses the act of a gentleman laying down his coat for a lady to tread on in "Do It Yourself Chivalry."

by Adeline Chia

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Nino Sarabutra, "What Will You Leave Behind?"

SINGAPORE — The human body is given a thorough examination at the ongoing "Anthropos," an exhibition featuring Thai and Singaporean artists at **Sundaram Tagore Gallery**.

Curated by **Loredana Pazzini-Paracciani**, an independent curator and part-time lecturer at Lasalle College of the Arts, the show borrows the Greek word for "man" and "human body" for its title. The diverse exhibition explores the corporeal in different ways: the body as a performing subject, as frail mortal vassal, a product of social conditioning, or as part of a collective consciousness.

Pazzini-Paracciani tells **BLOUIN ARTINFO** that "the human body is a universal theme that can

expand into many directions."

"Appropriating the body as a visual and intellectual motif, the works in the show display a common



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thread — the artists' interest in collective social concerns by tackling themes of cultural belonging, social rituals and the body as archetype of aesthetic perfection," she adds.



Seven of the artists in the show come from Thailand. **Nino Sarabutra's** "What Will You Leave Behind?" is a *memento mori* installation made up of tens of thousands of miniature ceramic human skulls. As visitors crunch through this sea of skulls, they are invited to meditate on mortality and death. (*Read a review of her previous show in Bangkok [here](#).*)

Haritorn Akarapat has a more subtle approach with his sculptural installation "Lapse of Memory." These half-busts, which are reminiscent of human figures, have a minimal, haunting quality. Another striking work is the half-woman, half-bird sculpture "Kinnaree" by **Prasert Yodkaew**. The mythological being is yoked to a rusty old bicycle, raising questions about hybridity and the relationship between humans and machines.



Haritorn Akarapat, "Lapse of Memory"

From Singapore, four artists grapple with the idea of the human form. **Jason Wee** interrogates the idea of the human body as the archetype of perfection in an ongoing watercolor series called "Self-Portrait," while **Jeremy Hiah's** "RAW/WAR," a photo series featuring portraits of people wearing balaclava masks, tackles themes of cultural identity, fetishism and otherness.

Graffiti artist **TraseOne** created "Parkour," site-specific street art that explores the concept of freedom of the human being — A figure is painted crawling along a beam near the ceiling, for instance.

Lastly, multidisciplinary artist **Ana Prvacki** explores gendered behaviours in "Do It Yourself Chivalry." In the video, she takes off her clothes one by one in order to cover a series of "puddles" so that she can step over the dirt. This reverses the act of a gentleman laying down his coat for a lady to tread on. The idea of the chivalrous act is thus appropriated and subverted by a female performing body, turning into what she calls a "spiritual striptease."

"Anthropos" runs from September 13 to October 13 at Sundaram Tagore Gallery.

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