



Art in Southeast Asia 1997 : Glimpses into the Future

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Organized by the Japan Foundation Asia Center, the Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, and the Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art, the exhibition included approximately 80 works of 17 artists/artist groups from 5 countries: Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. The exhibition aimed to identify the current state of Southeast Asian art and foresee the future role of art in society by introducing works that reflect the artists' aspiration to engage with and respond to the current state of their own societies and communities through art. The exhibition placed importance on engaging with the audience and included works that called for audience participation, site-specific performances, as well as artist-led workshops. Compared to other Southeast Asian art exhibitions previously held in Japan, this exhibition presented more female artists (6 artists/artist groups out of 17, including Sanggawa which had 2 female members) and introduced works that raise sociocultural issues from the female perspective.

Many of the artists of this exhibition had experiences of studying or working abroad, and had previously taken part in exhibitions such as the Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art (1993-); the Chiang Mai Social Installation Project (1992-1998) in which Montien Boonma, a participating artist of this exhibition, took a central role; "Contemporary Art in Asia: Traditions/Tensions" (1996) organized by the Asia Society in New York, which are all known to have contributed to the development of international networks within Asia and beyond. The practices of these artists were also greatly impacted by the tensions between the local and the global, as well as by the competitive formation of discourse within the expanding field of contemporary art in Asia.



Dadang Christanto, *Mereka Memberi Kesaksian (They Give Evidence)*, 1996-1997, fiberglass, brick powder, clothes approx. 200 x 136 x 85 (20 pieces)

Photo: Ueno Norihiro, Courtesy of Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo



Pinaree Sanpitak, *Breast Work: Untitled*, 1994, monoprints on paper, saafiber sculpture 105 x 450 (prints), 30 x 450 x 125 (sculptures)

Photo: Ueno Norihiro, Courtesy of Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo

- The Japan Foundation Asian Art Archive “Art in Southeast Asia 1997”
https://www.jpf.go.jp/e/publish/asia_exhibition_history/19_97_southeast.html