



Alternative Art Schools

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In Asia, educational institutions have had a history of incorporating concepts of Western painting and academic art education. For example, the Silpakorn University of Thailand was founded in 1943 by art professor Silpa Bhirasri, who was originally from Italy, and the Tokyo School of Fine Arts (currently Tokyo University of the Arts) founded in 1887 established the Western Painting Department in 1896. However, since the 1990s, and particularly after the 2000s, the change in the needs of artists and criticism towards skill-based education and the gadan (art circles) have led to the diversification of places for “study.” Today we are seeing the birth of places to examine experimental practices on the streets led by artists, places to critically discuss relationships between society/politics and art, and art schools that are deeply rooted in dialogue with local and diversified communities, which helps to explore new forms of expression from within the relationships with “others.” These include the GUDSKUL initiated by ruangrupa, the Indonesian art collective appointed as Artistic Director of Documenta 15 in 2022; the KUNCHI Cultural Studies Center; the Chiang Mai Art Conversation of Thailand; and The Factory Contemporary Arts Centre of Vietnam. By generating places of dialogue among diverse participants, artists and curators are becoming more active in their ways of rethinking history and linking their ways of thought with current and increasingly complex social issues.



Building where ruangrupa and GUDSKUL: Contemporary Art Collective and Ecosystem Studies is located.

Photo: Panji Purnama Putra



GUDSKUL class, 2019

Photo: Panji Purnama Putra



External view of Chiang Mai Art Conversation's new space

Photo: Atikom Mukdaprakorn



Talk event organized by Chiang Mai Art Conversation
Photo: Peasadet Compiranont

Related Links

- Chiang Mai Art Conversation <http://www.cac-art.info/>
- GUDSKUL <http://ruru.ruangrupa.org/index.php/gudskul/>
- KUNCI Study Forum & Collective <http://kunci.or.id/>
- The Factory Contemporary Art Center <https://factoryartscentre.com/>