



## Apinan Poshyananda

### Vipash Purichanont

Apinan Poshyananda (b. 1956, Bangkok) is a prominent Thai curator. In his early career as an artist in the 1980s, he played a major role in introducing video art and installation to Thailand. Apinan Poshyananda reestablished himself as an art historian and a curator after obtaining a PhD from Cornell University in 1990, his dissertation subject being modern art in Thailand. He is noted for curating the exhibition "Contemporary Art from Asia: Traditions/Tensions" (1996) at The Asia Society, New York, which promoted contemporary art from Asian countries to Western audiences. He was also an initiator of international projects such as the first Thailand Pavilion at the 50th Venice Biennale (2003) and Bangkok Art Biennale (2018-ongoing).

Apinan Poshyananda is a leading figure in promoting contemporary art in Thailand and promoting Thai art abroad. Although he is frequently criticized as presenting only an official version of Thai contemporary art and neglecting alternative scenes, his writing and curatorial vision remains essential to the study of contemporary art in Thailand.



Apinan Poshyananda, 1999

## Related Links

### Books & Articles

- Apinan Poshyananda, " 'Con Art' Seen from the Edge: The Meaning of Conceptual Art in Southeast Asia," *The Japan Foundation Asia Center Art Studies 03: Anthology "Shaping the History of Art in Southeast Asia,"* (Tokyo: The Japan Foundation Asia Center, 2017)47-52.  
[https://www.jpff.go.jp/e/publish/asia\\_exhibition\\_history/42\\_14\\_artstudies.html](https://www.jpff.go.jp/e/publish/asia_exhibition_history/42_14_artstudies.html).
- Apinan Poshyananda, "Asian Art in the Posthegemonic World," *Contemporary Art Symposium 1994: The Potential of Asian Thought* (Tokyo: The Japan Foundation ASEAN Culture Center1994) 112-123.  
[https://www.jpff.go.jp/e/publish/asia\\_exhibition\\_history/15\\_94\\_potential.html](https://www.jpff.go.jp/e/publish/asia_exhibition_history/15_94_potential.html).

### Exhibition Review

- Artforum, "Contemporary Art in Asia: Traditions/Tensions".  
<https://www.artforum.com/print/reviews/199704/contemporary-art-in-asia-traditions-tensions-32841>.
- Vipash Purichanont, In search for 'Thainess',  
<https://www.bangkokpost.com/life/arts-and-entertainment/789133/in-search-of-thainess>.
- Thanavi Chotpradit, The Silence in Thai Contemporary Art,  
<https://artreview.com/ara-winter-16-feature-the-silence-in-thai-contemporary-art/>.

### Interview

- Ocula, "Dr Apian Poshyananda".  
<https://ocula.com/magazine/conversations/dr-apian-poshyananda/>.