

SILVERLENS NEW YORK



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mit Inn

Silverlens New York is pleased to present the first US solo exhibition by leading Thai contemporary artist Mit Jai Inn (b. 1960, Thailand). Featuring many of the polychromatic, modular and multiperspectival serial forms established over his four decade career, the exhibition celebrates Mit's expanded painting as social practice.

The vibrant, sensate and interactive exhibition mimics the studio environment in Chiang Mai where distinctively colored and shaped canvases hang from beams, overlay floors and tables, entangle and unfurl from walls, coil in standing spirals, and so on. A sense of physical, meditative, and even playful rigor is impressed through scale, traces of repetitive mark making by fingers, palms, feet, and palette knives, and in the dense layers of carefully crafted paintings unseen below the surfaces presented to us - layers that carry time and enable the sculptural pliability of the canvas. The enchanting and healing medicine of light's energy is also impressed by vibrating monochromes and riotous color interactions. Many works are scored and slit open, creating gaps and moveable flaps whose exposed edges, like all surfaces, are treated to obsessive touches of color.

Surface engagement and adventures in perception are Mit's charming, luring, festive invitations to gather. For at the center of his relational practice is the ritual delineation of sovereign space drawn from both anti-hierarchical aspirations in Buddhism and anti-governable practices of Indigenous highland or Zomian cultures to which he belongs. While he commingles homage and irreverence for painting's histories - from the cave to the baroque to the grid - he eschews conceptualizing his works as paintings or even art. Invoking forms and color from life, Mit draws from the temple (boundary stones, scrolls, banners, robes); the political protest (the flier, the placard, the wall, the flag, the stage); the village (rice fields, textiles) and market life (tables, signage). In this way, Mit's painterly abstraction as a choice language is contrary to colonial canons in that it acknowledges its materiality and elements of color and form as inherited aesthetics with social functions responsive to ways of being in relation.

An intimate area of the gallery is filled with *Marking Stones* (2022) and *Marking Lights* (2022), a market-like installation of canvascovered iron objects, paper machéd in bright and pastel colors, playfully secularizes a practice across Buddhist Southeast Asia called bai sema, or boundary marking stones. Found at both ancient and contemporary temples, bai sema - through ritual imagination of the sangha, or community of monks and lay people - are imbued with agential qualities to define territory. Once consecrated as such, the territory becomes sovereign for the sangha and effectively protects it from hegemonic feudal or capitalist agricultural production and royal consumption. Bai sema creates a merit-field, or a space in which good intentions and offerings can be exchanged with merit, or good karma, for this and next lives.

In many sects of Buddhism, the rice-field is considered the original merit-field, where seeds offered to fertile ground create abundant harvest. Mit's Patch Works (1999 -) translates social structures built on such karmic reciprocity. Early works in the series such as Untitled (2004) mimic lowland paddy's varied rectilinear plots framed by dykes. These guilt-like patterns reflect cyclic and seasonal relations with land and water through social cooperation of a village community. At the same time, they refer to Buddhist monk's robes which, historically made from donated fabric remnants, were sewn in a rectilinear pattern to mimic the rice field's geo-social aesthetics. As Patch Works iterates over decades, Mit considers merit fields built on new kinship structures, such as the internet - a powerful space to share and mobilize resistance. Patch Works' Untitled (2022) comprises variegated canvas segments that are woven, anchored by bold selvages and snagged into anarchic compositions that fugitively glitch instructions and leave coded loopholes.

The oppositional two-sidedness of Tunnel (2023) speaks to how social ensembles can ritually abstract value and power for all kinds of means, from enabling to disguising to restricting freedom. Thailand has experienced more official coup d'etats than any nation and its over 800 year old absolute monarchy-turned-constitutional monarchy is known for the longest single-family rule, now over 240 years. Most recently between 2014-2019 and arguably today, there is military rule, and enduring, strict lèse-majesté law. Such conditions have created timespaces in which metaphor, code-switching, new language and platforms emerge, and how people gather in public space is potent. Tunnel boldly cuts across the back gallery space. The exterior of its eight-meter long panel folded over a high armature is painted a foreboding matte black flecked and smudged with gold. Slit into ribbon-like warps hanging loose without wefts, this royalist barricade is also a farcical wall. Its porous ends glow with a parade of color from an interior power source - a colorfulness Mit calls antibourgeois, sourced from The People and our coexisting multitudes. This most recent iteration of Mit's ongoing Wall Works series (1986 -), Tunnels are navigational devices that invite release from the everyday effects of polarization.

The entrance and exit of the exhibition Mit Jai Inn is grounded with three large neon-colored Scrolls (2002 -). The primordial form of the spiral conjures notions of deep time's memories and referents. Dressed in strict and smooth horizontal stripes or rough, vertical patches of paint. Scrolls are as much the artist's mother's woven paa sin skirt as they are urban seas of electricity and psychedelic or genomic visualizations. Referring to Scrolls as carriers and technology for early forms of writing and imaging, Mit has called them Buddha figures, for their function in creating sangha through dharma, or teachings. Representational or iconographic ceremonial paintings in rolled, modular form once made the Buddha image accessible to wide publics by nomadic teachers. Yet Mit's Scrolls, like all of his illegible surfaces, maintain an abstracting, aniconic practice that evades singularity and narrative binding, both in their circumambulatory hypervisibility and what is overpainted and coiled-from-view. In this unrestricted scope, Mit's vibrating present expands relations through and beyond our conditioned reaches.

Words by Erin Robideaux Gleeson





Planes (Electric), Scroll 1, 2019 oil on canvas 179.7h x 1000w cm (flat) • 70.75h x 393.7w in (flat)





Planes (Electric), Scroll 4, 2019 oil on canvas 124.46h x 1000.0w cm (flat) • 49h x 394w in (flat)





Untitled, 2021

oil on canvas 149 x 65 cm (diameter) • 58.66 x 25.29 in (diameter)



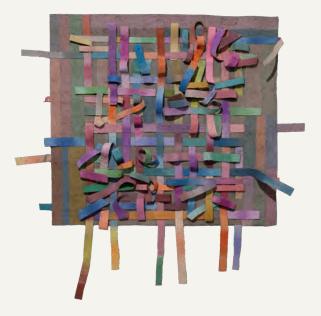












Untitled, 2023

oil on canvas 200h x 100w cm • 78.74h x 39.37w in \$15,000







Untitled, 2004 oil on canvas 109h x 90w cm • 42.91h x 35.43w in SPI_MJI312





Untitled, 2004

oil on canvas 109h x 90w cm • 42.91h x 35.43w in SPI_MJI313







Untitled, 2004

oil on canvas 109h x 90w cm • 42.91h x 35.43w in SPI_MJI315





Untitled, 2022 oil on canvas on plywood board 201h x 136w x 7.5d cm • 79.13h x 53.54w x 2.95d in \$40,000







Untitled, 2023 oil on canvas on plywood board with metal structure $122h \times 122w \ cm \cdot 48h \times 48w \ in$







Untitled, 2015

oil on canvas 105h x 90w x 7.5d cm • 41.34h x 35.43w x 2.95d in







Tunnel, 2023 oil on canvas 400h x 120w x 750d cm ⋅ 157h x 47w x 295d in







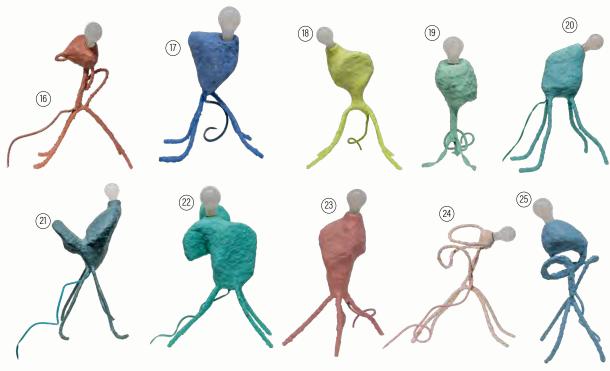


Marking Stone, 2022 Acrylic on papier-mâché Dimensions variable

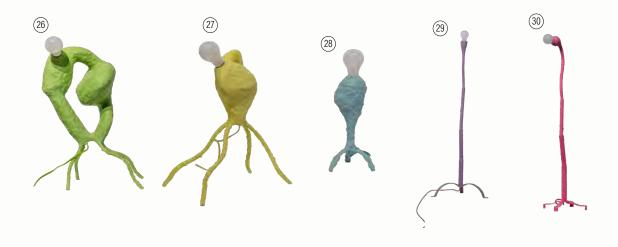








Marking Light, 2022 lamp with acrylic on papier-mâché Dimensions variable



Marking Light, 2022 lamp with acrylic on papier-mâché Dimensions variable





Marking Stone, 2022 Stool with acrylic on papier-mâché and steel Dimensions variable



Marking Stone, 2022 Stool with acrylic on papier-mâché and steel Dimensions variable



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MIT JAI INN

Mit Jai Inn's (b. 1960, Buak Khang; lives and works in Chiang Mai, Thailand) paintings come into being in his outdoor Chiang Mai studio, where he gives turns to the vibrating spectrum of sun and moonlight, with nocturnal interludes white fluorescent. His under colour-based, layered defies conventional densely work boundaries of painting, while variously enacting its multiple histories and treatments.

Mit's practice is, on the one hand, rooted in a rigorous physicality of both manual and optical labour. His studios' multiple workstations show evidence of crushing and mixing colour of his own making, of plotting, pulling and pushing, overlaying, and scraping pigment. Canvases, often treated on both sides, stretch across floors, drape from tables and hang from metal beams. In place of brushes, mark makers are palette knives, hands, and fingers.

While this corporeality of colour is embedded and perceptible in Mit's painted forms, it is also his way of actively channelling, resisting, or responding to particular aesthetic, social and political histories. These can include divisions between so-called 'Western' and 'Eastern' canonical painting to shifting political states in Thailand. Within each new body of work are offerings inspired by and made for the nations, spaces, hosts and publics of his often site-specific work. This accounts for evolutions in colour, scale, and topographical variation, from sombre amorphous blotches, bright grids, crafted pastel stripes, all-over dots in neon, and more.

First studying at Silpakorn University, Bangkok, Mit moved to Vienna's Academy of Arts from 1986-1992 while working as an assistant to the artist Franz West. During these years in Vienna and Berlin, Mit began a vocabulary of serial forms with relational intentions, seeking to counter aspects of formal painting and its market and exhibitionary frameworks of that time. His paintings were unstretched and unframed, brightly colored, mostly two-sided, touchable works that populated galleries but also public spaces, taxis, private apartments, and which he often used as a trading currency.

Anearlyseries, Free Flyers, was created as give a ways, with reference to the popular pre-internet free information sharing system. Wall Works became

a series of one or two-sided color fields on canvas that are variably installed, sometimes acting as optical screens or partitions, other times as carpets that can be walked on. Sticks first appeared as pink ladders in Vienna apartments, as animal feeders planted in the earth at an early edition of Chiang Mai Social Installation, then as obsessively painted wand-like works in a Bangkok gallery. The small, intimate two-sided panels of bright partitioned color in the series Dream Works are carefully slit, allowing air and energy to pass through their gaps, flaps, and openings. The same is true of the series Patch Works, yet in closer reference to ideas of modularity in family and societal structures. Scrolls was first developed in 2002 and extended Mit's interest in communal ritual forms, such as rolled iconographic or ceremonial painting, which are intended to gather publics, to be an invitation, an opening. More recent forms, Tables and Pools, plot mounds of pigment fresh with linseed oil, facilitating performativity of the medium itself.

Since returning to Thailand in 1992, Mit has been involved in socially and politically engaged art initiatives. He was a co-founder of Chiang Mai Social Installation (1992-), and was involved in the Midnight University and The Land Foundation - three non-institutional initiatives central to Thai art practice and discourse. In 2015, Mit founded Cartel Artspace in Bangkok, a gallery that gives free space to artists reflecting on the country and region's political history and current context. In 2017, he co-initiated the independent Bangkok Biennale.

Mit Jai Inn was born in 1960 in Buak Khang, Thailand. His recent exhibitions include: Dreamday, Jim Thompson Art Center, Bangkok (2022); Dreamworld, Ikon Gallery, Birmingham (2021); Actants, Silverlens, Manila (2019); Encounters, Art Basel Hong Kong (2019); SUNSHOWER: Contemporary Art in Southeast Asia from 1980s to Today, Kaohsiung Museum of Fine Arts, Taiwan (2019) and Mori Art Museum, Tokyo (2018); and SUPERPOSITION: Equilibrium and Engagement, The 21st Biennale of Sydney (2018).



b. 1960, Buak Khang



SL-272 WV26, 2022

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2023	Solo Exhibition, Silverlens, New York
	Underground, Ver Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand
	Dreamworld #dreammantra, MAIIAM Contemporary Art
	Museum, Chiang Mai, Thailand
	Mit Jai Inn: Ocular Vocabulary, Silverlens, Manila
2022	Dreamday, MAIIAM, Jim Thompson Art Center,
	Chiang Mai, Thailand
	Still Alive, Aichi Triennale 2022, Nagoya, Aichi, Japan
	Mit Jai Inn: Paphonsak La - or's Prospects, 39+Art Space,
	Singapore.
	Mit Jai Inn, APSARA Studio, London, England
2021	Dreamworld, Ikon Gallery, Birmingham, England
2020	Royal Marketplace, Rossi & Rossi, Hong Kong
	T he King And I, TKG+, Taipei
	Junta Monochromes, Online Viewing Room,
	Silverlens, Manila
	Psychedelic Void, Silverlens, Manila, Philippines
2019	Art on Farm, Jim Thompson Farm, Nakhon Ratchasima
	Province, Thailand
	Color in Cave, Museum MACAN, Jakarta, Indonesia
	Actants, Silverlens, Manila
	Art Basel Encounters, Silverlens and TKG+, Hong Kong
2018	Light, Dark, Other, TKG+, Taipei, Taiwan
	The good, the bad and the ugly (part 2.2), Gesso,
	Vienna, Austria
	Beautiful Futures, H Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand
	Mit Jai Inn, Chauffeur, Sydney, Australia
2016	Pastorale, H Gallery Bangkok / Eat Me Restaurant,
	Bangkok, Thailand
	Wett, Gallery VER, Bangkok, Thailand
2015	Patchworlds, Yavuz Gallery, Singapore
	AN-TI-TLE, Lyla Gallery, Chiang Mai, Thailand
	Gesso Art Space, Vienna, Austria



2014	Postpositive: Freaky You Are Always, SA SA BASSAC,
	Phnom Penh, Cambodia
2012	<i>Untitled,</i> H Gallery Chiang Mai, Thailand
2011	Duckocrasy, Toot Yung Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand.
2009	11:11 Freedom from the Known, Angitgallery, Chiang Rai,
	Thailand.
	The Social Mandala and other Mit-ologies, Valentine Willie
	Fine Art, Malaysia.
2008	Six Hours of Suffering, Chiang Mai University Art Museum
	Chiang Mai, Thailand
2007	Don't be Happy. Do be Worried, 15th anniversary of
	worrying about global climate change, shifting world
	views, societal collapse, the cult of bourgeois rectitude,
	Chiang Mai Social Installation Project and "art is over",
	Ver Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand.
2003	Kaminattawatupatan, Numtong Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand
1994	Pain on Paint, Art Forum Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand
1992	Magic Set, Visual Dhamma Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand
SELEC	CTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS
2023	Art Collaboration Kyoto (ACK), Kyoto, Japan
	Jogja Biennale, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
	Art Fair Philippines, Silverlens, Manila
	The Museum is Dead, For the House; Against the House:
	<i>is Dead,</i> Singapore
	LUMA, Curated by Jenn Ellis, APSARA Studio,
	London, England
	ART SG, TKG+, Singapore
2022	Aichi Triennale, Aichi Prefecture, Japan
	The Armory Show, New York
	Art Fair Philippines, Silverlens, Manila
	Art Dubai, Madinat Jumeirah Conference & Events Centre,
	Dubai, UAE
	AORA V, Aora Gallery



2021 *"Dismantle"* (verb); Deconstruct or Release, Joyman Gallery,

Bangkok, Thailand

Dreamworld, Ikon Gallery, Birmingham, U.K.

Art Fair Philippines, Silverlens, Manila

2020 *1210,* Joyman Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand

Status in Statu, WTF Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand

Anticipating the Day, Silverlens, Manila

Art Fair Philippines, Silverlens, Manila

S.E.A. Focus, Silverlens, Singapore

2019 *PLUS X*, TKG+, Taipei, Taiwan

West Bund Art & Design, West Bund Art Center,

Shanghai, China

Jim Thompson Farm Tour, Jim Thompson Art Center,

Bangkok, Thailand

Fracture/Fiction: Selections from the ILHAM collection,

ILHAM Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

SUNSHOWER: Contemporary Art from Southeast Asia

1980s to Now, Kaohsiung Museum of Fine Arts, Taiwan,

Kaohsiung, Taiwan

Art Basel, Silverlens, Hong Kong

2018 The Thick Lines Between Here and There, Owen James

Gallery, New York City, USA

Painting, Differently, Silverlens, Manila

Wild West, De 11 Lijnen, Oudenburg, Belgium

Field Recordings, Rua Red, Dublin, Ireland

These Painter's Painters, Roh Projects, Jakarta, Indonesia

The 21st Biennale of Sydney, Cockatoo Island, Sydney,

Australia

Other People Think: Auckland's Contemporary

International Collection, Auckland Art Gallery, New Zealand



2017	neads of Tails? Officertainties and Tensions in
	Contemporary Thailand, Sundaram Tagore Gallery, NYC, USA
	Abstraction of the World, Duddell's x Biennale of Sydney, Hong Kong
	Totem: Sacred Beings and Spirit Objects, Mehta Bell Projects, Saatchi Gallery, London, UK
	SUNSHOWER: Contemporary Art from Southeast Asia 1980s to Now, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan
	Terra Incognita, ARNDT, Vienna
	Death in the Afternoon, KS Room, Vienna
	BlissFullness (At Death's Door), Esplanade, Sinagpore
2015	REV ACTION: Contemporary Art From Southeast Asia, Sudaram Tagore Gallery, New York, USA
	Mad in Austria, Galerie Konzett, Vienna, Austria
2014	<i>HISO LOSO</i> , SNO111.SNO Contemporary Art Project, Sydney, NSW, Australia
	The Good, The Bad and The Ugly, Gesso, Vienna, Austria
	Traitor and Tradition, ARNDT, Berlin, Germany.
	Medium At Large, Singapore Art Museum, Singapore.
2013	Summer Exhibition: Paintings and Photographs by Gallery Artists, H Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand
	Light Space Project - Rituals of Exhibition II, H Gallery, Chiang Mai, Thailand
2012	333 Oida Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand
	All Our Relations, 18th Biennale of Sydney, Sydney, Australia
	Northern Lights, Art Month Sydney, Artereal Gallery, Sydney Australia
	Quiet Noise, H Gallery, Chiang Mai, Thailand
	Retro VER-Spective, Gallery VER, Bangkok, Thailand



2011	Somewhere in the Distance, H Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand	
	Museum Serve Project, Motorcycle Station at Bangkok Art and Culture Centre (BACC), Bangkok, Thailand	
	Dialogues, Bangkok Art and Culture Centre (BACC), Bangkok, Thailand	
	SNO 75, SNO Contemporary Art Project, Sydney, Australia	
2008	Nim Kruasaeng and a Friend, Stone Gallery, Dublin, Ireland of Salon, Studio 6, Temple Bar Galleries, Dublin, Ireland	
2007	Eternal Flame: Imagining a Future at the End of the World, Gallery at REDCAT, Los Angeles, USA	
	Art / Not Art, Fix 07 Catalyst Arts Gallery, Belfast, Ireland	
2006	Dong-Na, Singapore Biennale, Singapore	
	Tropical Nights - Lost in Paradise, Palais de Tokyo, Paris	
2005	AK in AKA, AKA Gallery, Chiang Mai, Thailand	
	<i>Le Invasioni Barbariche</i> , curated by Pier Luigi Tazzi, Galleria Contiuna, San Cimignano, Italy	
	Representation, GareGaron, Chiang Rai, Thailand	
	Soi Project, Yokohama Triennale, Yokohama, Japan	
2004	Archetype, Akko Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand	
	Spirit of Art, Hof Art Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand	
	Collection Mantrini, Chiang Rai, Thailand	
2003	Umong Sippadhamma, Chiang Mai, Thailand	
1993	Magic 2, Bangkok National Museum, Bangkok, Thailand	
1992	Magic Set Visual, Dhamma Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand	
1992 - 1996 <i>Chiang Mai Social Installation</i> , Chiang Mai, Thailand		

COLLECTIONS

Singapore Art Museum MAIIAM Contemporary Art Museum Auckland Art Gallery



EDUCATION

1988 - 1992 University of Applied Arts Vienna, Vienna, Austria

1982 - 1986 Silpakorn University, Bangkok, Thailand

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2019 "Meet the artists exhibiting at Encounters, Art Basel Hong Kong", Financial Times by Gareth Harris, 22 March 2019 https://www.ft.com/content/01566e6a-4969-11e9-bde6-79eaea5acb64

2018 "Where I Work", Art Asia Pacific, Anniversary Issue, by Elaine Ng

"Cockatoo Island Exhibits Miss the Boat", The Sydney Morning Herald by John McDonald, 23 March, 2018 / https://www.smh.com.au/entertainment/art-and-design/biennale-of-sydney2018-review-cockatoo-island-exhibits-miss-the-boat-20180319-h0xngw.html

"Review: The 21st Biennale of Sydney", Artist Profile by Artist Profile, 20 March, 2018 http://www.artistprofile.com.au/21st-biennale-sydney/

"What to see at the Sydney Biennale", The Design Files by Sally Tabart, 16 March, 2018 http://thedesignfiles.net/2018/03/what-to-see-at-the-sydney-biennale/

"Sydney Biennale: Reflecting A Changing Society", Aljazeera by Andrew Thomas, 15 March, https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2018/03/sydney-biennale-reflecting-changing-society-180315080904620.html

"A New Significance: Mami Kataoka on the 21st Biennale of Sydney", 14 March, 2018 https://museumnetwork.sothebys.com/article/a-new-significance-curator-mami-kataoka-on-the-21st-biennale-of-sydney

"Critic's Guide / Looking Forward 2018: Asia and Australia", Frieze, 4 January, 2018 https://frieze.com/article/looking-forward-2018-asia-and-australia



"Review: Beautiful Futures by Mit Jai Inn", Art Asia Pacific by Rathsaran Sireekan, March http://artasiapacific.com/ Magazine/WebExclusives/BeautifulFutures

"Moran Maze of Modern Thailand" by Ariane Kupferman-Sutthavong, Bangkok Post, 7 February, 2018 / https:// www.bangkokpost.com/archive/moral-maze-of-modernthailand/1408882

"News: Beautiful Futures by Mit Jai Inn", http://www.blouinartinfo.com/news/story/2835984/beautiful-futures-by-mit-jai-inn-at-h-gallery-bangkok

Review, "Problems of the Present, Forces of the Past", The Nation, 2 February, 2018. http://www.nationmultimedia.com/detail/art/30337804

"Other People Think: Auckland's Contemporary International Collection", Auckland Art Gallery, New Zealand, 10 March - 10 June, 2018 https://www.aucklandartgallery.com/whats-on/exhibition/other-people-think

Review, Group Exhibition, "Duddlell's x Biennale of Sydney: Abstraction of the World", Duddells, Hong Kong, Art Radar Asia by Valencia Tong, 23 March, 2017 http://artradarjournal.com/2017/05/23/duddells-x-biennale-of-sydney-abstraction-of-the-world-at-duddells-hong-kong/

"Heads or Tails", Exhibition Catalog, Sundaram Tagore Gallery, NYC, USA: https://issuu.com/sundaramtagoregallery/docs/headsortailscatalogue

2017 Review, Patchworlds by Mitt Jai Inn, Yavuz, Singapore, by Maryanne Stock, Art Asia Pacific (Print). http://artasiapacific.com/Magazine/WebExclusives/MitJailnnPatchworlds

"Hanging Politics on the Wall", by Ariane Kupferman-Sutthavong, Bangkok Post, 31 May, 2017 https://www. bangkokpost.com/lifestyle/art/1259630/hanging-politics-onthe-wall



2016 "Research Thailand: Chiang Mai, SEA Project / http://seaproject.asia/en/research/thailand_01/

2015 "Rev/Action: Contemporary Art from Southeast Asia", 2
October 2015, Wall Street International Magazine / https://
wsimag.com/art/17639-rev-action-contemporary-art-fromsoutheast-asia

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ERIN ROBEDEAUX GLEESON

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SILVERLENS

505 W 24th Street New York, NY, USA 10011 T+1 (646) 449-9400

www.silverlensgalleries.com infony@silverlensgalleries.com

