



BUFFALO'S HEART

Maitree Siriboon

BUFFALO'S HEART

Solo Exhibition by

Maitree Siriboon

15 June – 13 July, 2013



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FOREWORD

Jørn Middelborg

Thavibu Gallery

Thavibu Gallery has the pleasure of presenting the current catalogue and exhibition, **BUFFALO'S HEART**, by the Thai artist Maitree Siriboon. The exhibition takes place in Bangkok, Thailand, on 15 June – 13 July 2013.

Thavibu Gallery is pleased to present the art exhibition **Buffalo's Heart** — showcasing photos and mosaics by Maitree Siriboon as well as a performance on the opening day. The performance includes a video screening, as well as live Isan music and dances.

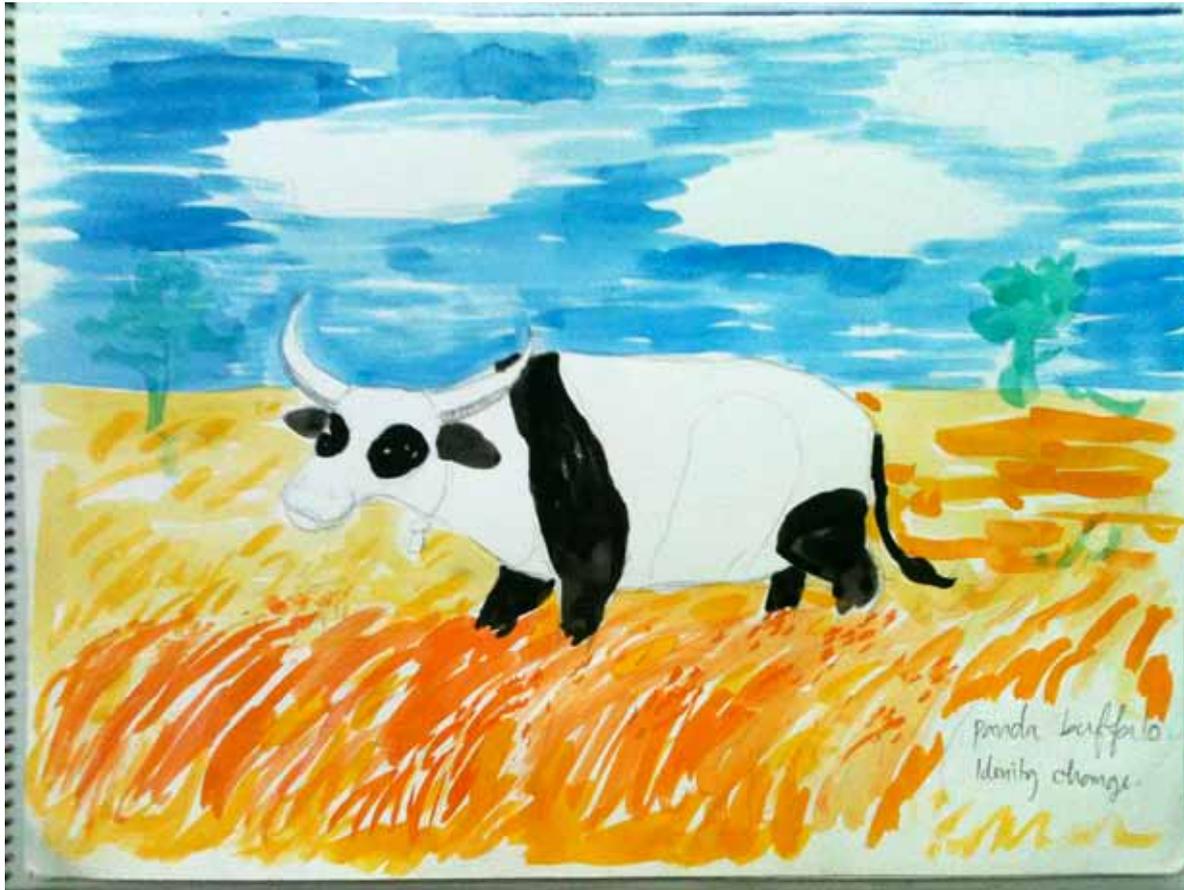
Maitree Siriboon is one of Thailand's leading young artists whose works have been shown extensively in an international context. As a young man hailing from Isan (North-East of Thailand), his focus in this exhibition is to pay tribute to and use the imagery of the buffalo as a symbol from a cultural and historical perspective.

It was the buffalo through its hard work that helped build Thailand into a rice farming nation and then into the modern nation it is today. The artist says: 'Today however, we hardly see buffaloes working in the rice fields, and yet they remain one of the most respected animals in Thailand. Their numbers are decreasing rapidly, and they now have assumed new roles as a decorative item, a family pet, a source of food, and as a cultural icon for tourism purposes'. The buffalo has had lasting influences over Thai culture and beliefs and historically has represented positive attributes. However, in recent times, the buffalo has become a metaphor for many negative attitudes toward people. The word "buffalo" ("kwai" in Thai) is often applied to describe someone who is less educated, foolish, stupid, or who is difficult to train. The dichotomy of attitudes towards this important animal is a symbol of changes in Thai society.

Maitree sometimes work with reflective mosaics of coloured glass, the same kind as being used on the outdoor surface of many Thai temples. It is a labour-intensive process since the glass sheets need to be cut into small mosaic pieces and fitted together.

Maitree Siriboon, 30, graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Silpakorn University in 2006. He is a multi-talented artist who does photography, mosaic collages, installations and performances. Maitree often combines his inner childhood memories with contemporary dreams, creating a new imaginary world of beauty using the traditional "mirror collage technique". Apart from Thai exhibitions he has also been widely exhibited - in Laos, Singapore, France, China, United Kingdom, Cambodia, Korea, USA, Brazil, Japan, Italy, Malaysia, and the Netherlands. He has also been represented at the Biennale in France and the Triennale in China.

I take this opportunity to thank Maitree Siriboon for his collaboration.



Maitree pays tribute to the buffalo and also uses it as a metaphor. Lin Ping is a panda at the Chiang Mai Zoo and according to Wikipedia: "Like her parents, Lin Ping is considered the property of China. Therefore, Lin Ping is scheduled to be sent to China after she turns two years old. The news of her birth and subsequent publicity have attracted many more tourists to the zoo, influencing the organisation's decision to build a 60 million baht (approximately \$1.5 million) worth dome for residing the cub. The care of the panda is undertaken by Thai become scientists and veterinarians specially trained by China's giant panda specialists." Thus, suddenly the panda has become important and famous, while the buffalo, the villagers' traditionally important animal, has been mostly discarded. By transforming the buffalo into a panda - the artist hopes to again make it a loved animal.



The Panda Buffalo, 2013 | Digital print (Lambda or Giclée) | 120 x 80 cm (edition of 3) & 90 x 60 cm (edition of 3)



Buffalo's Heart (1), 2013 | Reflective mosaic of coloured glass | 80 x 100 cm



Buffalo's Heart (2), 2013 | Reflective mosaic of coloured glass | 80 x 100 cm



The Universe Series-Rebirth of the Blue Dinosaur (1), 2011 | Reflective mosaic of coloured glass | 150 cm in diameter



The Universe Series-Rebirth of the Blue Dinosaur (3), 2011 | Reflective mosaic of coloured glass | 150 cm in diameter



Buffalo Boy (2), 2013 | Digital print (Lambda or Giclée) | 120 x 80 cm (edition of 3) & 90 x 60 cm (edition of 3)



Buffalo Boy (1), 2013 | Digital print (Lambda or Giclée) | 120 x 80 cm (edition of 3) & 90 x 60 cm (edition of 3)



A View From The Top, 2013 | Digital print (Lambda or Giclée) | 120 x 80 cm (edition of 3) & 90 x 60 cm (edition of 3)



Buffalo Boy and His MacBook, 2013 | Digital print (Lambda or Giclée) | 120 x 80 cm (edition of 3) & 90 x 60 cm (edition of 3)



The Mondrian Buffalo, 2013 | Digital print (Lambda or Giclée) | 120 x 80 cm (edition of 3) & 90 x 60 cm (edition of 3)

CHRONOLOGY

MAITREE SIRIBOON

Born 1983 in Ubon Ratchatani
2007: Bachelor of Fine Arts from
Silpakorn University, Bangkok



Selected Art Exhibitions Solo Exhibitions

- 2013 *Buffalo's Heart* at Thavibu Gallery, Bangkok
– Rice is Art at Art Stage Singapore (Project Stage), **Singapore**
- 2012 *The Tree of Life* at Project Space Luangprabang, **Lao**
– *Inside Out* at Art Stage Singapore 2012 (Project Stage), **Singapore**
- 2009 *Isarn Boy Soi 4* at Whitespace Gallery, Bangkok
- 2006 *Dream of Liberation* at Whitespace Gallery, Bangkok

Group Exhibitions

- 2012 *Origin - Originality : A New Wave of Thai Art* at Forty 7 Gallery, **London**
The Cambodia Gay Pride Week 2012 (visual art), Meta House, **Cambodia**
On the Threshold of Senses : New Art From South East Asia, Tally Beck Contemporary, **NYC**
- 2011 *Young Artist Project* (YAP 2011), Daegu Metropolitan City, **South Korea**
Across the Mekong, Project Space Luangprabang, **Lao**
Thai Sensational, Contemporary Art Party, **Brazil**
Idols and Icons: New photography from Southeast Asia and the Middle East, Yavuz Fine Art, **Singapore**

- 2010 *Different* at Tang Contemporary Art, Bangkok
I Giovanni Isan, Cappella Dei Caduti, Via Sant's Andrea, Pelago, **Italy**
GFEST - Gaywise FESTival 2010, The Atrium, London, **UK**
Month of Photography Tokyo, Richo Building Hall, Tokyo, **Japan**
- 2009 *The God of Small Things*, Casa Masaccio Arte Contemporanea, **Italy**
Rites de Passage at the Shunck Contemporary Museum, **Netherlands**
CUT-09; Figure New South East Asia Photography, Valentine Willie Fine Art, **Malaysia**
- 2008 *Sensational Salves*, Chula Art Centre, Bangkok
- 2007 *Collage & Color*, Lalanta Fine Art Gallery, Bangkok
- 2006 Selected Participation 23rd Young Thai Artists, the National Gallery, Bangkok
- 2005 *Eaksilp Thai*, Silpakorn University Art Gallery, Bangkok
Selected Participation 2nd *Amata Art Award*, The National Gallery, Bangkok
- 2004 Selected Participation 20th PTT Art Award, The National Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand
- 2003 Selected Participation College of Fine Arts, Bangkok, Thailand

Triennials and Biennials

- 2011 4th Guangzhou Triennial Inauguration Exhibition: Back to Basics, Guangdong Museum of Art, **China**
- 2011 3rd Biennial of the World Images, The Museum Du Quai Branly, Paris, **France**



B1G1 - Thavibu Gallery has partnered with Buy 1 Give 1 Free, which implies that when you buy an artwork from Thavibu Gallery you will automatically give a donation to a charity in the B1G1 network. Donation from one painting purchased provides one blind person with accommodation and shelter for one month. www.b1g1.com



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