

Annex B – Biographies of artists

Sirintorn Haribhitak (Thailand)

Sirintorn Haribhitak trained at Kalabhavan Institute of Fine Art, Visva-bharati University in Santiniketan, West Bengal, India. She also studied Buddhism and taught Buddhist art at Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University in Chiang mai. In 2017, she worked on a publication, *Fua Haribhitak's Works*, which focused on the late artist's concept of creation and conservation. She is presently enrolled in the Master of Arts in Cultural Management Programme at Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand. Haribhitak's artworks are inspired by memories of India, illustrating a diverse array of colours, distinctly outlined and semi-abstract forms of people, animals, and scenery to convey the rich cultural milieu of the country.

Warapan Wongtongdee (Thailand)

Born in 1990, Warapan Wongtongdee is an up and coming Thai artist. She graduated from Rajamangala University of Technology Rattanakosin (Poh-chang) with a Bachelor Degree in painting in 2012 and is currently enrolled in the Master of Arts in Cultural Management programme at Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand. Wongtongdee has exhibited her works at various exhibitions in Bangkok, including *Fantasy Dreams*, Bangkok Hospital Pattaya in 2014 and *Poh-chang 96*”, Venice Art Space, Bangkok in 2018. Her whimsical and dream-like creations in mixed media contain imagery of birds, cats, starry skies, and rollicking waves in explosions of colour. The lonesome faceless figure appears to be transported to another dimension, her back turned towards the viewer, lost in solitude and melancholy.

Phonepaseth Keosomsak (Laos)

Originally from Laos, Phonepaseth Keosomsak graduated from the Department of Architecture at Souphanouvong University in Luang Prabang and is currently enrolled in the Master of Arts in Cultural Management programme at Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand. He has worked on numerous projects as an architecture student, including the *ASEAN University Culture Exchange* in 2010, the *Luang Prabang- Khonkaen Traditional Urban Workshop* in 2011, and *ASEAN Architectural Plus* held in 2012. As an assistant of Tiao David Somsanith, a French artist living in Luang Prabang, he has been involved in preserving, promoting and transmitting local cultural heritage. Together with friends, he founded a group of young artists called *Nor Phao Troup* in 2009, whose purpose is to promote and to support the traditional practices and conservation processes of local cultural heritage. Kesomsak's collection of sketches and photographs reflect the simplicity of local life in Tai Lue village of Ban Nayangnue, Ban Nayangtai, Ban Houyhid, Ban Phoungjong, and Ban Namai, which is 120 kilometers from Luang Prabang. The drawings employ the stippling technique to illustrate the artist's memorable experiences of the place, while the photographs provide a vision of the physical realities of village life. Side by side, they convey a sense of place and the artist's meaningful connection to his roots and heritage.