

secession

Vereinigung bildender KünstlerInnen Wiener Secession
Friedrichstraße 12, A-1010 Wien
T. +43-1-587 53 07, F. +43-1-587 53 07-34
office@secession.at, www.secession.at

Press release

Korakrit Arunanondchai

September 13 – November 10, 2019

Grafisches Kabinett

Press conference: Thursday, September 12, 2019, 10 a.m.

Opening: Thursday, September 12, 2019, 7 p.m.

The artist and filmmaker Korakrit Arunanondchai works on one large body of work that focuses on the idea of a “living archive.” He is interested in relationships that pass through time and mutate with bodies of people, something that parallels the development of recorded history but sidesteps its linearity and single point of perspective in storytelling. As its recurring central character, his ongoing video series *together with history in a room filled with people with funny names* (2012—) features a fictional painter who paints on denim using it as a connecting fabric amongst different worlds and contexts. Being a material that originated in the west, and earned itself the significance of a working class fabric, denim itself, then traveling to the rest of the world thanks to globalization, bares parallel trajectory to what raw canvas is for Western Abstract painting. Denim is used as a foundation, both as ground for pictures that result from performative body painting actions and as an underlying narrative in the videos whose protagonists are dressed in this cloth. These are, alongside long-time collaborators and friends, the artist’s family members – most notably his grandparents.

Around every two years, when a new episode is added, the video series is updated and thus becomes an archive of thoughts and feelings on important events and people around Arunanondchai’s life. In the series *together with history in a room filled with people with funny names*, the protagonists perform in a variety of surroundings and situations that reflect upon the natural environment in the Anthropocene, technological evolution, politics, traditional beliefs and culture in transition. Watching the videos one starts to feel the texture that binds different emotional states and different geographical contexts together.

Korakrit Arunanondchai frequently combines film, performance, painting, and sculpture to form lush, immersive installations. He is interested in relationships that pass through time and mutate with bodies of people, something that parallels the development of recorded history but sidesteps its linearity and single point of perspective in storytelling. Recently, he has used the method of overlaying the structural relationships that form animistic beliefs with those of the global information network. The story of the near future becomes a version of a narrative from a far imagined past, and the dichotomy between spirituality and technology increasingly seems to fall apart into a spectrum of greyness that produces a multiple “shared present.”

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While Korakrit Arunanondchai turns Secession's Grafisches Kabinett into a black box to present the three videos *2556* (2013), *Painting with history in a room filled with people with funny names 3* (2015), and *with history in a room filled with people with funny names 4* (2017), he uses the staircase leading up to the screening room for a floral wallpaper, using pressed wild flowers and weeds collected in Vienna as an ode to the golden dome on the top of the Secession building. Hung on the floral wallpaper is a series of new paintings, each referencing a still from one of Arunanondchai's videos.

Korakrit Arunanondchai was born in Bangkok (Thailand) in 1986 and lives and works in New York and Bangkok.

The exhibition program is conceived by the board of the Secession.

Curator: Jeanette Pacher

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Artist's book

Korakrit Arunanondchai

Format: 169×300 mm

Details: Denim softcover, thread binding, 120 pages

Concept: Korakrit Arunanondchai

Texts & film stills: Korakrit Arunanondchai

Secession 2019

Distribution: Revolver Publishing

€ 26,40

“A collection of texts that form the backbone to my long-running video series, *together with history in a room filled with people with funny names.*” (Korakrit Arunanondchai)

Curators' guided tour

Friday, September 20, 2019, 4:30 p.m.

Curators Bettina Spörr, Annette Südbeck and Jeanette Pacher give a tour through the exhibitions by Tillman Kaiser, Alexandra Bircken and Korakrit Arunanondchai.

Press contact

Karin Jaschke

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Press images

Installation views are available for download at www.secession.at/en/presstype/aktuell

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Exhibitions

Hauptraum
Galerie
Grafisches Kabinett

Tillman Kaiser. *Im Dom*
Alexandra Bircken. *Unruhe*
Korakrit Arunanondchai

Exhibition dates

September 13 – November 10, 2019

Edition

Tillman Kaiser, *DAS GLEICHE, NUR ANDERS*, 2019,
Limited edition of 150 pieces (plus 5 AP), € 250,-

Artist's books

Alexandra Bircken. *1986*, 216 pages, € 26,40
Korakrit Arunanondchai, 120 pages, € 26,40

Opening hours

Tuesday – Sunday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Permanent Presentation

Gustav Klimt, *Beethoven Frieze*

Admission

Adults € 9,50, Pupils, students and senior citizens € 6,-

Curator's guided tour

Friday, September 20, 2019, 4:30 p.m.

Guided tours

Every Saturday at 11 a.m. in English and 2 p.m. in German
€ 3,- per person plus admission (without registration)

Art Information

Every Saturday, 1 – 2 p.m.
(while exhibitions of contemporary art are on view), free of charge

Press contact

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Press images

download at <https://www.secession.at/en/presstype/aktuell>

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Biografie / Biography Korakrit Arunanondchai

Korakrit Arunanondchai, 1986 geboren in / born in Thailand, lebt und arbeitet in / lives and works in New York and Bangkok.

Einzelausstellungen (Auswahl) / Solo exhibitions (selection)

- 2019 *with history in a room filled with people with funny names 4*, Carlos / Ishikawa hosted by Galeria Jaqueline Martins, Sao Paolo
No history in a room filled with people with funny names 5, in collaboration with Alex Gvojic (with boychild), Bangkok CityCity Gallery, Bangkok
with history in a room filled with people with funny names 4, Kaleidoscope Spazio Maiocchi, Mailand / Milano
- 2018 *No history in a room filled with people with funny names 5*, Carlos/Ishikawa, London
with history in a room filled with people with funny names 4, J1, Marseille
- 2017 *with history in a room filled with people with funny names 4*, Kiasma, Helsinki
with history in a room filled with people with funny names 4, CLEARING New York
- 2016 *Painting with history 3 or two thousand five hundred and fifty nine years to figure stuff out*, Museion, Bozen / Bolzano
2012-2555, 2556, 2557, The Jim Thompson Art Center, Bangkok
Painting with history in a room filled with people with funny names 3, Bangkok CityCity Gallery
Gift Korakrit Arunanondchai | Letters to Chantri #1, S.M.A.K., Ghent
- 2015 2558, UCCA, Ullens Center for Contemporary Art, Peking / Beijing
Painting with history in a room filled with people with funny names 3, Palais de Tokyo, Paris
- 2013 Korakrit Arunanondchai, MoMA PS1, New York

Gruppenausstellungen (Auswahl) / Group exhibitions (selection)

- 2019 Whitney Biennial 2019, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York
58. Biennale di Venezia, *May You Live in Interesting Times*, Venedig / Venice
16. Istanbul Biennial, Istanbul
- 2018 ANTI, Athens Biennale 2018, Athens
Baltic Triennial XIII, The Contemporary Art Centre, Vilnius
Absurdity in Paradise, Kasseler Kunstverein, Kassel
Robot Love, Eindhoven, Netherlands
- 2017 SUNSHOWER: Contemporary Art from Southeast Asia 1980s to Now, The National Art Center, Tokyo, Mori Art Museum
Mode of Liaisons, Bangkok Art and Cultural Center, Bangkok
- 2016 *iwillmedievalfutureyou5*, Kunsthall Aarhus, Aarhus
There's a word I'm trying to remember, for a feeling I'm about to have (a distracted path toward extinction), 9th Berlin Biennale, Berlin
20th Biennale of Sydney, Sydney
- 2014 *Beware Wet Paint*, ICA, London