

K11 NIGHT reveals the title and theme for its annual celebration of artistic expression and creativity

***A Memory Palace* will celebrate art and life and present an internationally known work by Korakrit Arunanondchai, a highly sought-after and rising Thai artist of his generation**

17 December 2023 to 14 January 2024



Installation view of *Painting with history in a room filled with people with funny names 3*, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, 2015.
Courtesy of Korakrit Arunanondchai, C L E A R I N G (New York, Brussels) & Carlos/Ishikawa (London).
Bangkok CityCity Gallery (Bangkok), Kukje Gallery (Seoul, Busan).
Photo: Aurélien Mole.

Hong Kong, 23 November 2023 The K11 Art Foundation is delighted to unveil the title and theme for this year's K11 NIGHT: **A Memory Palace**, an expansive celebration of art and life, fantasy and reality, science, and spirituality. An annual celebration dedicated to artistic expression and creativity, the title sponsor for this year's event is UBS, with additional support from Visa, BMW, Dior Parfums, Perrier-Jouët, and SUPREME, a premium brand of Hutchison Telecom Hong Kong. From 17 December 2023 to 14 January 2024, internationally known rising Thai artist Korakrit Arunanondchai's immersive video installation *Painting with history in a room filled with people with funny names 3* will be on view at K11 MUSEA. Presented by K11 MUSEA and curated by the K11 Art Foundation, the video installation is adapted specially for the exhibition space at K11 MUSEA in close collaboration with the artist, and it will include "The Body" with an oversized pond resembling an outline of a figure – which was seen in its first public appearance in 2015.

Painting with history (...) is the fourth instalment in a series of video installations that Arunanondchai began creating in 2012. Encompassing sculpture, film, performance and painting, the installation explores the togetherness of humans, machines, and spirits in 21st-century Bangkok, a city where animistic tendencies and the desire for modernisation co-exist in everyday life.

The art of Arunanondchai, who lives and works between Bangkok and New York, is a form of hybrid storytelling. *Painting with history (...)* is the artist's ode to *Sans Soleil*, an experimental film by director Chris Marker. Using the idea of film as a constructed medium as a starting point, Arunanondchai imagines a conversation between a character called "Chantri", embodied as both a spirit and a drone camera, and the "Denim Painter", a fictionalised version of the artist.

Anchored by a consistent cast of characters and drawing inspiration from Buddhism and Animist beliefs, Arunanondchai's installation attempts to build something that feels like a living thing, breathing out inanimate objects and discarded memories.

Across the exhibition space, viewers will find denim canvases covered with handprints and gestural marks in primary colours, created by the artist using his body as a paintbrush. The central form in the canvases, as well as the oversized pond, resembles the outline of a yellow figure, a shape that was drawn by a go-go dancer in her body painting performance on the reality television show "Thailand's Got Talent", which sparked media outrage in Thailand in 2012. Public opinions that split between with Buddhist moralistic values versus Thailand's reputation for sex tourism became a binary which the artist tries to break down and take on as a mythic origin point. This painted manifestation, as a landscape and a stage which the viewer is free to explore, is also replete with "performers"— mannequins and fabric characters adorned in costumes and coated in paint. The installation constitutes one vast painting that is meant to be seen by Chantri from the perspective of a drone looking down from the sky.

"As a firm supporter of the Hong Kong's art scene, UBS is delighted to be sponsoring K11 NIGHT and the immersive artistic experience that it will bring to the city for the third year," said Amy Lo, Chairman of Global Wealth Management Asia, Co-Head Wealth Management Asia Pacific, UBS Global Wealth Management Head and Chief Executive, UBS Hong Kong. "This year's exhibition not only celebrates creativity and connections, but also showcases a captivating expression of different cultures, which reflects the unique convergence of cultures in our beloved city."

Painting with history in a room filled with people with funny name 3 is Arunanondchai's attempt at a *gesamtkunstwerk* or "total work of art", where the past and the future, the spiritual and the profane, and tradition and modernisation collapse into a single organism that can be felt and experienced as a whole.

- Editor's Notes -

**K11 Collection Show: Painting with history in a room filled with people with funny names 3—
A Video Installation by Korakrit Arunanondchai**

Date 17 December 2023 to 14 January 2024
Venue 6F, Kunsthalle, K11 Art & Cultural Centre, K11 MUSEA
Address Victoria Dockside, 18 Salisbury Road, Tsim Sha Tsui
Website www.k11artfoundation.org
Ticketing www.k11experience.com

Social Media

Please join the conversation on Instagram (@k11artfoundation), and Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/K11ArtFoundation/>), with hashtags #K11ArtFoundation #K11MUSEA #contemporaryart #K11Collection #KorakritArunanondchai #VideoInstallation

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Korakrit Arunanondchai

The work of Korakrit Arunanondchai (b. 1986, Bangkok, Thailand) focuses on the transformative potential of storytelling. With each project, the artist expands his cosmos of interconnected stories through expansive video installations, paintings, objects, and performative works. In his videos, he processes experiences in his personal environment just as he does with political events, history and questions in our crisis-ridden present. Born in Bangkok and working primarily in Bangkok and New York, Arunanondchai often draws upon the cultural contexts in his life as well as spaces with postcolonial trauma. Using essayistic and experimental approaches, the artist works with multiple collaborators to assemble audio and visual materials from various sources. With references to philosophy and myth, his narratives weave together questions about consciousness, empathy, and community.

ABOUT K11 MUSEA

Hong Kong's Silicon Valley of Culture, K11 MUSEA, is the latest cultural-retail destination in Victoria Dockside located on the harbourfront of Tsim Sha Tsui. Inspired by 'A Muse by the Sea', K11 MUSEA is designed to enrich new consumers' daily lives through the power of creativity, culture and innovation. A destination 10 years in the making, K11 MUSEA opened its doors in August 2019 to usher in a new era of cultural-retail which speaks to the growing consumer demand for immersive experiences in art, culture, nature and commerce.

About K11 Art Foundation

Founded by Dr. Adrian Cheng in 2010, the K11 Art Foundation is a non-profit organisation in Hong Kong dedicated to nurturing emerging Asian artists on the international art scene while fostering the development of contemporary art.

In pursuing its mission, the K11 Art Foundation organises a diverse range of art projects, including exhibitions, artist residencies, and educational programmes, providing platforms for artists to showcase their talents, embark on new endeavours, and engage in exchanging ideas. Many of these projects are presented in partnership with leading art and cultural institutions around the globe, which enables meaningful cross-cultural collaborations among emerging and established artists, esteemed curators, and other industry specialists. Through its efforts, the K11 Art Foundation also contributes to broadening audiences' creative horizons, strengthening the connections among different art communities.

Over the years, the K11 Art Foundation has collaborated with the Royal Academy of Arts, Serpentine Galleries, the Institute of Contemporary Arts, and international contemporary art magazine ArtReview in London; Centre Pompidou, Palais de Tokyo, and Musée Marmottan Monet in Paris; Fundació Gala-Salvador Dalí in Figueres; The Metropolitan Museum of Art, the New Museum, and The Museum of Modern Art, and MoMA PS1 in New York; The Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles; UCCA Center for Contemporary Art in Beijing; Videotage, British Council Hong Kong, Design Trust, and Asia Art Archive in Hong Kong, among others.
www.k11artfoundation.org



Immediate Release

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