



Art & The City: 5 Bangkok art exhibitions to see in February

CULTURE FEB 15 2016



BY ELLEN BOONSTRA

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This month's cultural scene is once again a hive of activity. For those who have a hard time choosing, we bring you our edit of the top five events of exhibitions and installations you simply don't want to miss.

Magic Realism at La Lanta Fine Art



The artist's painted portrait of a love lost is so detailed, it resembles a photograph.

On offer at La Lanta Fine Art is young Thai artist Guang Tung's debut exhibition. Titled "Magic Realism", it features a series of hyper-realistic figurative paintings of young women who are fragments of the artist's imagination. He pays tribute to the women who've walked away from his life and have become a distant memory. As the term "hyper-realism" suggests, his highly detailed oil-on-canvas works demonstrate his superior skill in creating paintings that resemble high-resolution photographs.

The 28-year-old artist earned a master's degree in visual arts from King Mongkut Institute of Technology Ladkrabang and a bachelor's degree from the Faculty of Fine Arts, Chulalongkorn University.

"Magic Realism" is currently on display until 17 March.

La Lanta Fine Art, 245/14 Sukhumvit Soi 31, Bangkok, www.lalanta.com

Toto Art at Chomp Cafe



The artist's use of intensely vibrant colours, sometimes even with added faux gems, beads and ready-made fabrics and patches, is reminiscent of pop art in its early days.

At the "Toto Art" exhibition at Chomp Café, artist Katika "Toto" Krachaisri is showcasing 16 works, both new and old, in mix media on canvas, as part of the evolution of her artistic research into the meaning of life and death. The works are a juxtaposition of several different quasi-aboriginal primitive visual languages and bring to life symbolism and concepts from around the globe.

The works at first sometimes seem naive and childlike, until we start diving into them and the exposure to the artful messages almost hidden in the canvases tell a completely different kind of story, a touching happy/sad story that leaves most spectators speechless.

"Toto Art" ends 29 February.

Chomp Café, 63-65, Soi 1, Samsen Road, Phra Nakhon, Bangkok, chompcafe.wordpress.com

We Begin Within: An Art Exhibition Led by Corry MacDonald



Art made from the "inside out", with palpable rawness and honesty, is on exhibit at the Neilson Hays Library Galleries.

Corry MacDonald's artwork reflects her journey inward and her longing to connect with nature. While elements of the outer natural world are featured in her work, she also directs her intention towards her inner creative nature. This call to nature, both outer and inner, threads through and reflects out from her artwork.

For this exhibition, MacDonald has invited her students to exhibit along with her, asking them to show and share their stories behind their work. The diverse array of artwork, coupled with each artist's personal written response, aims to give the viewer a chance to enter into part of the creative experience of each artist.

The group exhibition runs for the full month of February.

Neilson Hays Library Galleries, 195 Suriwongse Road, Bangkok, www.neilsonhayslibrary.com

Line To Skyler by Rossalin Garst



Ode to the artist's beloved dog.

Pet lovers know the bond between animal and human can be as strong as the one between mother and child. Artist and Chiang Mai University professor Rossalin Garst expresses her love for her deceased pooch Skyler through a series of artworks created on fabric. With messages, stickers and photos she imagines how Skyler would have reacted had he been alive. A therapeutic exhibition, it can help heal anyone feeling the sadness of losing of loved one while at the same time representing the joy and beauty of giving.

On display until February 27, Kamol Tassananchalee, Decha Warachoon, Preecha Taotong and Tawatchai Somkong.

Numthong Gallery at Aree, 72/3 Aree 5 (North) Phahonyothin 7, Phahonyothin Road, Bangkok, www.gallerynumthong.com

The Luxe Art Exhibition: Asian Fascination



Anurak Namaphai draws inspiration from the scenes of everyday life that he observed in Isaan, treating them with a palette of ochre yellow and gold.

Under the theme of "Asian Fascination", the Novotel at Suvarnabhumi Airport is showcasing fine artworks from different periods by nine famous Thai artists. Held annually in the lobby of the hotel, this year's line-up features Wattana Poolcharoen, Samrong Chanthong, Silawit Poolsawat, Anurak Namaphai, Praiya Ketkool, Rakyong Khyrn, Warawut Intorn, Narongrit Galajit and Jakkapong Thapkoa.

The exhibitions runs from 16 February to 15 March.

Lobby level, Novotel Bangkok Suvarnabhumi Airport Hotel, www.novotel.com

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