



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

CULTURE MAR 17 2016



BY ELLEN BOONSTRA

UPDATED ON OCTOBER 16 2016

Who says art has to be a serious affair with moody meanings and incomprehensible concepts? This month, pet lovers and the young at heart can rejoice as we spotlight a few whimsical and playful exhibitions, with a couple of photography exhibitions showcasing the darker side of mankind thrown in for good measure.

"Loser Cat" by Niam Mawornkanong

"Loser Cat" (or "Meow Huay") is the name that artist Niam Mawornkanong ironically and lovingly calls his pet as she's useless in catching mice. Niam has always had a cat as a pet since childhood, and it is through the observations and close relationship with the little fragile creature that has inspired him to create his "Loser Cat" works of art. The warmth and encouragement that exudes from his paintings may change the meaning of 'loser' forever.



Niam and his cat.

His collection of potent paintings are even more remarkable given the artist has been medically classified as 'colour blind'.

Niam's new solo exhibition is on show until 27 March. The gallery is open Tuesdays to Saturdays from 10am to 5:30pm and on Sundays from noon until 6pm.

Subhashok The Arts Centre (SAC), 160/3 Sukhumvit Soi 39, Bangkok, sacbangkok.wordpress.com

"Metamorphosis: Black Butterfly" by Olga Volodina

If you only have time for one gallery visit this month, the must-see exhibition is the one at YenakArt Villa by the very talented Olga Volodina. The Russian-born artist who currently resides in Bangkok started her professional career as a fashion art photographer in Moscow.



Haunting image conveying the hypocrisy of today's society.

Her current photo series use symbolism to represent fragile human consciousness influenced by mass media, hypocrisy of the modern society and an average human, who is forced by the system to spend a precious lifetime either on basic survival needs or excessive consumption.

Black and white colours are used to emphasize the edge between good and evil that humanity is balancing on. Bodies in bandages symbolise sick mankind, weakened by prejudices and fears and vulnerable to manipulations.

Opened on 10 March, the exhibition runs for 14 days only until 25 March.

YenakArt Villa, 69 Soi Prasat Suk, Yen Akat Road, Kwaeng Chongnonsee, Bangkok, www.yenakartvilla.com

"The Body You Want" by Krit Ngamsom

The main gallery space of H Gallery is filled out with variously sized works inspired by toy robots. The archetypal boy toy, Ngamsom explores a sense of nostalgia for his early years' play things, acknowledging their charm and simple mechanisms against today's far more complex creatures of fantasy. Moreover, these older childhood accoutrements carry a utopian sense of the future that may now be all but impossible to imagine in our terribly conflicted world.



A symbol of many a boy's childhood, toy robots evoke a sense of nostalgia.

Krit Ngamsom is a graduate in fine art from Bangkok University and King Mongkut's University of Technology Ladkrabaeng, where he currently teaches. His many group exhibitions include the Singapore Biennale (2013); Nuova (Arte) Povera (2012), Osage Gallery, Hong Kong; and Traces of Siamese Smile (2008), Bangkok Art and Culture Center. Solo exhibitions include Brand New (2008) at Tadu Contemporary Art, Bangkok and he was included in Thailand Eye at Saatchi Gallery in London during 2015, which will travel to Bangkok in 2016.

Krit Ngamsom's 'boys' toys' will be featured until the end of March.

H Gallery Bangkok and H Project Space, 201 Sathorn Soi 12, Bangkok, www.hgallerybkk.com

Exodus at Kalwit Studio & Gallery

Inspired by the environment around us, this exhibition showcases the drawings of three artists – Isara Singhatokaew, Maethawee Chiraphong, and Pittawas Euavongkul. Their intricate, complex sketches express their individual interpretations of the relationship between man and nature.



Sketches created by Isara Singhatokaew.

The exhibition at Kalwit Studio&Gallery ends on 27 March.

Kalwit Studio&Gallery, 119/14 Ruamrudee 2, Wireless Road, Bangkok, www.facebook.com/kalwitstudio

"See Saw Seen V" at ARDEL

"See Saw Seen V" is the latest edition of one of the most prominent photography exhibitions in Thailand. The show brings visitors along the journey through the lens, experiencing different aspects of the surroundings that help create the depth of ideas and profound feelings together with 11 artists.



Digital print by renowned photographer by Dow Wasiksiri.

The line-up of artists whose works are featured include Pishnu Supanimit, Dow Wasiksiri, Thavorn Kodomvit, Somchai Songwattana, Kanok Suriyasat, Wasinburee Supanichvoraparch, Vinnarat Sansanakiet, Somsak Pattanapitoon, Tul Hirunyalawan, Urasha Jakkachaphol and Charit Pusiri.

The group exhibition is on show until 24 March at ARDEL's branch in Thong Lor.

ARDEL's Third Place Gallery, Thonglor Soi 10, Bangkok, www.ardelgallery.com

TAGS: ART, ART & THE CITY, ART EXHIBITIONS, ARTISTS, BANGKOK, GALLERIES, THAILAND

BY ELLEN BOONSTRA

SHARE THIS ARTICLE

