

Biagiotti Progetto Arte

BANGKOK DENSITY

Pattara Chanruechachai

Kornkrit Jianpinidnan

Arin Rungjang

Curated by Pier Luigi Tazzi

Opening Wednesday June 23, 6 pm

From June 27 to September 15, 2011

With BANGKOK DENSITY Biagiotti Arte Contemporanea aims to provide a survey of the Thai art scene through the works of three artists, whose art has been developing since the last decade.

A new generation which, unlike the previous one, that imposed itself on the global art scene since the mid Nineties - from Rirkrit Tiravanija to Surasi Kusolwong, from Navin Rawanchaikul to Manit Sriwanichpoom, just to name some of its leading figures - does not establish its oeuvre on the difference and specificity of the Thai *thing* compared to the rest of the world, but draws instead from many influences and imaginaries, which characterize the current Thai cultural situation, in particular the Bangkok one, in its diversity.

In this scene, the visual culture of mass consumerism, fashion, film, stardom, pop music, the economic development of Thailand and the local political situation together with the flow of information through the internet and the more or less temporary presence of Western and Asian people, Japanese and Indians in particular, has become of relevant importance.

The title of the show is an explicit reference to the first three titles of the four novels by John Burdett set in Bangkok and helps to introduce the new artistic scene that has emerged in the Thai capital during the last years.

The "density" evoked by the title, qualified as a dominant feature of the city to which it refers, moves from the current social and political situation in Bangkok, where tourism, cultural exchanges and products of globalization mix with the local cultural context, giving rise to a sort of "magmatic material": density is to be conceived more as thickness than heaviness, a sort of fullness that resists any attempt of adaptation and definition.

The three artists on show, **Pattara Chanruechachai**, **Arin Rungjang** and **Kornkrit Jainpinidnan**, have set up their work on the current reality of the "substance" of Thailand through rendering a private and collective memory, proposing personal experience of places and situations and, mostly, producing images meant as narrative and discursive component.

For BANGKOK DENSITY **Pattara Chanruechachai** (Bangkok 1971, lives in Bretagne) presents a continuation of the project *One Day Another* (2009-2011), a work in which the process of photo printing is developed on sheets of recycled paper. In this case the artist's interest aims to the understanding and representation of a "current time" through the composition and decomposition of images and messages, that in their juxtaposition reconstruct urban environments, emptied of human presence, whose traces, however, are reinserted through the use of tools of mass communication, such as the photographic image and the recycling of printed pages of newspapers.

Arin Rungjang (Bangkok 1975, lives in Bangkok), develops a research that moves from the transposition of personal events and a conscious political and cultural elaboration. In the spaces of Biagiotti Arte Contemporanea he presents *The Scars of Your Love, They Leave Me Breathless* (2011), an installation where sculpture, photographs and audio materials interact with each other, staging a personal memory that, in the act of its revival, brings back to a narrative of shared cultural signs and symbols.

In **Kornkrit Jainpinidnan's** (ChangRai 1975, lives in Bangkok) photographic work the image is captured not in its aesthetic significance, but in the possibility of creating an opposition between reality and its indefinable and un-analyzable substrate. In *Worry and Love* (2006-2011), as well as in the series *The Strange Story Night Part. 1* (2006-2011) and in *I Wish, Bangkok Version* (2011), the artist highlights the contrast between the narrative and descriptive elements scanned by photography as a medium and "the shock with the real", causing a friction of the image in relation to the substance it spreads from, and offering an internal and external look at the environment which is the object of his work.

Mixing personal and collective ideas and feelings, memory and desire, the opposite positions of the outsider and the insider, the three artists intend to outline and share a vision of what is now the urban context of the global metropolis through the cultural specificity of the city of Bangkok, where density, drama and inconsistency are inextricably joined.

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