

4 THE SAKE OF ARTS

To get to know Bangkok better, we would like to introduce to you the 4 legendary artists who create great impact on Thai Arts. 'Impact' here means 'future', as their works are the result of hard contribution and perseverance. More importantly, it's their 'souls' that counts.

The borderline between Thai being and the changing world become the contemporary charms that subtly blends in their art works. Take a deeper look and you will realize that those arts are internationally recognized that we local cannot just overlook.



'Professor Pong' - Narongrit Tosa-nga (aka 'Khun-In')

The Musician

Look through the lens of shades and you will see the determined eyes of the famous Thai xylophonist. Narongrit Tosa-nga is the eldest son of Supoj Tosa-nga, Traditional Thai Music Maestro and xylophonist. He was raised amidst the sound of Thai musical instrument since he was born. The musician blood enables him to quickly learn and recognize notes, even though he hadn't learnt to play any instrument. Thai xylophone was the first instrument he could play without being taught. He then started to seriously learn to play and finally become one of the most contemporary traditional Thai musicians.

Narongrit was once invited as one of the musicians of Asia Beat band (2005), of which the 12 members were selected from Asian countries. That's why he had a chance to perform in many countries like Italy, Switzerland, France, US, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan, Japan, China, Russia and most recently at Thai @ Trafalgar Square in England.

Throughout his artist life, he had been produced, arranged and composed several contemporary Thai songs. His talent is well recognized in music industry. These are more than enough reasons for him to be selected to feature an important role in 'The Overture' (2004), a successful Thai film that made him being known as 'Khun-In' until present.

Works:

- Solo album 'Khun-In Off Beat Siam' (2008), a contemporary Thai music featuring Khun-In's xylophone in Latin, Pop, Jazz, Classic, Hip-Hop and Rock style
- A series of 5 comic books namely 'Khun-In, The God of Xylophone'
- A TV program 'Assajan Kan Tap' on Thai PBS Channel

Get to know Narongrit better at www.khun-in.com. In the near future, a music download from his albums; Khun-In off Beat Siam, Bangkok Acoustic and Khun-In Jazz Band will be available on his website.



Surat Osathanugrah

Photographer (11 May, 1930 – 8 May, 2008)

Surat Osathanugrah is Thai foremost photographer, who had been having passion in photography since the age of 12 and never given up on that affection. It took him a while, till the age of 70, to be recognized. His photography road occurred after his successful political and business life.

The quality of works cannot be judged by age, but the skill and perseverance. Surat had many exhibitions both locally and internationally like "Vanishing Bangkok" at Deyun, Guiyang, PR, China(2004), Leica Shop Gallery, Vienna, Austria(2005), Auditorium Parco Della Musica, Rome, Italy(2005), and 9 Days in the Kingdom at Zen Event Gallery (2007).

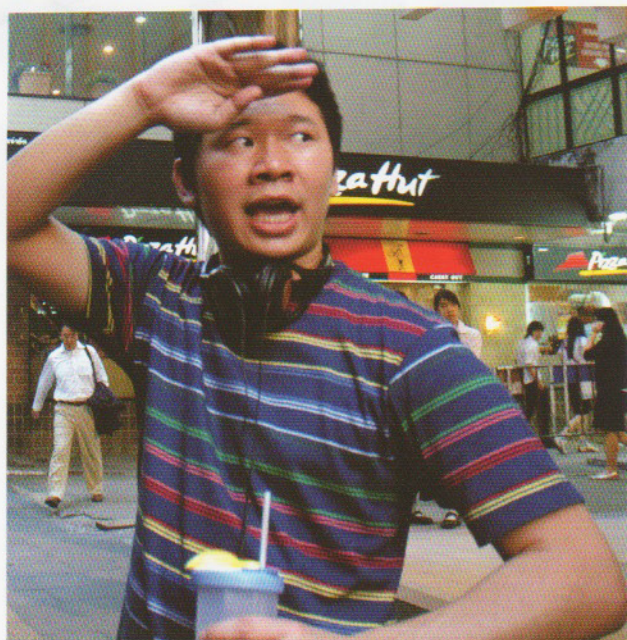
He received Thai Artist in Photography Award (2002) from Thailand Federation of Photographic, The XI Triennale-India Award from Lalit Kala Akademi (Photography Award) (2005) and The Photo City Sagami-hara Asia Prize from the 6th General Photography Festival, Sagami-hara, Japan (2006). He was once the president of Photographic Society of Thailand, too.

His photos reflect the truth of life in different aspects; from human beings, animals, substances and places. Those pictures deeply touch the emotion of the audiences, and that's why photography brought to him the happiness in life. His cameras and more than 300 pieces of accessories, including his works, become heritage to the next generation even when his days had gone.

Books:

- Vanishing Bangkok (2002)
- Luang Prabang: Heart and Soul (2007)

Marvel Surat Osathanugrah's photography at Surat Osathanugrah Library, Bangkok University – Rangsit Campus.



'Ma Deaow' - Chookiat Sakveerakul

The Director

Ma Deaow becomes one of the most outstanding film directors during this past 4 years. His career has started from his college years' short film project. His documentary short film '2003' (2003) won the White Elephant Award from Thai Movie Foundation. After that, he was sponsored to write the script and direct the movie 'Pisaj' (2004) right after his graduation.

His 2nd movie, '13 Beloved' (2006) won many national awards and was shown in many countries. It also won 'Best Asian Film: The Golden Prize Fantasia International Film Festival in Canada', 'Best Asian Film Award' from European Fantastic Film Festival Federation Asian Award (EFFFF) and 'Best of Puchon', which is the highest recognized award in Korean Puchon International Fantastic Film Festival (PIFan). This movie attracted Weinstein Company to buy the license and remake into an international film. Then the following year, 'The Love of Siam' (2007) won almost all the Thai film awards, and also selected to show in many Asian countries and the US.

Given the fact that he has directed few films comparing to other Thai film directors, his perspective shown in each movies of his make us laying our eyes on him.

Works:

- 'Pisaj' (2004) - script-writing and directing
- '13 Beloved' (2006) - directing
- 'The Love of Siam' (2007) - script-writing and directing
- 'Body' (2007) - script-writing (co-wrote with Akeasit Thairat)
- 'Chocolate' (2008) - script-writing



Jirawatn Chavanatit

Artist

The eye-catching "Spectrum: Color Party", a 45-meter-tall glass wall at Got Tower on Ratchadapisek Road, is one of the proud works of Jirawatn Chavanatit.

Jirawatn graduated from Fine Art Faculty, Poh-Chang School. His first job started at Cotto Tiles and lasted for 12 years. It was when he had a chance to take a business trip to Italy and encountered many glass architecture in Murano, that his route has changed. His great impression in glasswork inspired him to learn the techniques from glasswork specialists in Murano. He also applied his design skills into his artwork that he could develop his unique works that are internationally recognized.

He is the first Thai artist who applies the technique of Fusion Glass, Casting Glass and Stacked Glass onto the architectures, wall arts and other artworks in Thai art society. It has been 23 years that Jirawatn's works are well known even in overseas like Japan, India, UK and France. For Thailand, his works might be considered as a new field of arts, that's why we would see them more in the hotels, residences and office buildings.

Today, he established "Jirawatn Art Glass Studio" in Saraburi to showcase his beloved arts, and also produce the tailor-made artworks for those interested customers.

Works:

- Ice water fountain at V-one Hotel Korat
- Ice water drop wall at Grand Millennium Spa Asoke Bangkok



see more works of Jirawatn's at www.jirawatnglassstudio.com

*Special Thanks : Grand Millennium Sukhumvit