

Adiwit Ansathammarat

Curated by Kay Rosen

September 10 – October 31, 2009

(Opening reception Thursday, September 10, 6:00 – 8:00pm)

“Adi’s feet are planted not so much in the past versus present, or Asia versus North America, but rather in a zone somewhere in between where memory, dreams and fantasy bleed together. Filtered through the fine mesh of his personal sensibility, a *diary* emerges in the form of painting or sculpture about loss, time, distance, and even humor.”

—Kay Rosen

She left me for L.A. [detail], 2009
Acrylic on cut canvas
120” x 240”



Pangs of longing and the bleat of raw memory reverberate across the canvasses and sculptural surfaces of artist, Adiwit Ansathammarat. Born and raised in Thailand and educated in Scotland and Chicago, Ansathammarat is well versed in the painful and arduous process of leaving one’s home, culture and family. It is through these experiences that his work examines the altered emotional terrain of one’s personal relationships when physicality, comfort and proximity are removed. His paintings employ repeated abstract forms that bend, rip, tear and fall. His sculptural work, assembled with humble materials, emphasize aspects of distance, time and weight. These large canvasses, small watercolors and sculptural works form a personal narrative: a visual, abstracted confession of pains felt by the artist.

She left me for L.A. (detail, above) is a large, unstretched canvas measuring 120” x 240.” The monumental surface is saturated with deep colors and covered with repetitive forms that resemble falling leaves in a pouring rain. Along the bottom of the canvas, Ansathammarat has torn away triangular shapes that emphasize the act of cutting and mirror the leaf-like forms in the canvase above. Both the repetition of the painted forms and the cutting of the canvas evokes a sense of angst – a heart beating rapidly or the pounding of a drum. They are also regimented like a calendar, not only parsing out time, but underlining it. *I wish you could come home with me tonight* (right) employs simple materials and shares in the formal simplicity of his two-dimensional work. Through the repetition of triangular and circular shapes, a highly abstracted human form is perceived. Within the frame of the body hangs a weighted form – a collection of conical and orb-like objects suspended from rope. The contrast of the colorful objects and the bleach-white outer surfaces of the piece draws the viewer to focus on this inner suspension and the sense of inertia and heaviness created by the hanging objects and tripod-like frame. Both of these pieces, and much of Ansathammarat’s other work, enlist sentimental titles that, while referencing a very personal account, underscore the more general and universal themes apparent in the work. While so much of the work may initially seem melancholic, the artist’s sense of playfulness and humor emerges through the humble materials used and the almost whimsical images utilized.

On view at CUE Art Foundation, Ansathammarat’s first solo show in New York, will be a collection of large to medium-scale paintings and medium to small-scale floor-standing assemblages, all created during the artist’s temporary return to Thailand in 2009. Through the incorporation of all planes within the gallery space, the artist effectively creates a formal and conceptual “diary” – one in which we all share at least one entry.



I wish you could come home with me tonight, 2009
Metal, plastic, wood, rope and paint
23” x 39”

(More, over)

For additional information, please contact Ryan Thomas, Programs Coordinator, CUE Art Foundation, 212-206-3583, or email ryan.thomas@cueartfoundation.org

Free catalogues available.

ARTIST’S BIO:

Adiwit Ansathammarat was born in Bangkok, Thailand. He left Bangkok at the age of thirteen to study in Edinburgh, Scotland for four years. Then he returned home to Bangkok to resume his studies and received a BFA in Fine and Applied Arts with second-class honors from Chulalongkorn University, the oldest and one of the leading universities in Thailand. He received both post baccalaureate degree and MFA degrees from the Department of Drawing and Painting at The School of The Art Institute of Chicago. He has received many awards from the school and was nominated for a Joan Mitchell M.F.A. grant in 2007. His work has been exhibited widely in Thailand, Korea and the United States. Ansathammarat’s exhibition at the CUE marks his first solo show in New York.

About CUE:

CUE Art Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit forum for contemporary art and cultural exchange that provides opportunities and resources for under-recognized artists. We value the astonishing diversity of creativity that artists provide and the importance of their activity in the social context of the city.

CUE provides artists, students, scholars and art professionals resources at many stages of their careers and creative lives. Our programs include exhibitions, studio residencies, publications, professional development seminars, educational outreach, symposia, readings, concerts and performances. Since 2002, we have operated from our 4,500 square foot storefront venue in the heart of New York’s Chelsea Arts District.

CUE exhibiting artists are chosen by their peers and a rotating group of advisors and curators from across the country. This pluralistic process ensures that CUE consistently offers diverse viewpoints from multiple disciplines of artistic practice.

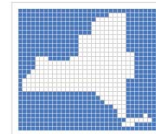
Simply put, we give artists their CUE to take center stage in the challenging world of art.

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NYSCA
New York State Council on the Arts