



Imagining ACQUA ALTA

Miti Ruangkritya

Thai photographer

SOLO EXHIBITION

During the Venice Biennale

1 June - 24 November 2013

Magazzino del Caffè' - Dietro la porta

Rio Marin - Santa Croce 923 - Venezia



Istituto Culturale Internazionale
Institut Culturel International
International Cultural Institute

www.icivenice.com

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For the Venice Biennale 2013, under the title Imagining ACQUA ALTA, the curators of ICI - Magazzino del Caffè' Chi Phan and Olivier Perpoint, wish to present a photos selection of the emerging Thai photographer Miti Ruangkritya as his first outbound solo exhibition.

His photographic study of the 2011 mega floods in Bangkok, captures the foreboding and surreal nature of the event by presenting the flood in a dreamlike, otherworldly way.

Bangkok is at many points similar to Venice concerning the reasons to flood: canals alteration, new buildings, global warming, soil texture, tides.

With the aim of cross culture encounters and questioning, Miti Ruangkritya's photographic work around water element at night enlightens these two similar surreal aspects of Venice and Bangkok.

🎯 Miti Ruangkritya

Bangkok - 1981

Miti Ruangkritya an emerging artist who has won many international photographic competitions, was born in Bangkok in 1981. He graduated with an MA in photojournalism from University of Westminster, London, in 2008.

🎯 About Miti's photographic study of flood

From Katmandu Gallery - Bangkok - Thailand

When news first broke that Bangkok would be affected, panic spread and all manner of preparations unfolded. Though the centre remained dry, the sense of dread that hung over the city deepened, as Bangkok became an island encircled by waterlogged houses, streets and motorways. "It is this sense of fearful waiting that first drew me to the project," says Miti Ruangkritya. "Whether the floods have been experienced firsthand or through news reports, conjuring a mental image of the event can't be avoided. This influenced me to shoot these scenes as if they've been developed from the subconscious, in contrast to the media's urgent, frenetic reportage."

Each scene takes place at night or in the early hours, creating a dreamlike atmosphere. The series is deliberately shot at these light-challenged times using a tripod and slow shutter speed, in order to capture the stillness, the dread-filled suspense of waiting for the floods to come.

🎯 Curators

Chi Phan and Olivier Perpoint

Curators - ICI

ICI – Istituto Culturale Internazionale, created by Olivier Perpoint and Chi Phan in 2012, empowers cross culture projects and promotes local heritage by giving keys to visitors and tourists.

ICI is therefore running the Magazzino del Caffè' exhibition hall in Venice, producing its own exhibitions or promoting others. With DIETRO LA PORTA concept, the entrance of Magazzino del Caffè' turns into a separate exhibition hall, to be watched though the glass doors.

ICI is also managing Anne and Ludovic Segarra archives until the hand over by a french governmental institution.

🎯 Interview of Miti Ruangkritya

by Chi Phan, curator

ICI – Was it made on purpose that most of your photos from Imagining flood are free of human representation?

Miti – To an extent yes, though I never set out with specific parameters when developing this work. My intention was to capture a sense of stillness within the dread that had been brought about by the floods during the event, in contrast to the frenetic images that were being presented within the media. I wanted to create a dream like atmosphere within the imagery – as if they had been conjured in the mind of the viewer – which does not lend itself as easily had the images featured a stronger presence of ‘human representation’.

ICI – Is the reporting aspect is essential in your photographic work?

Miti – It is less reportage in scope and more to do with a study of psychology of fear amongst the people of Bangkok including myself. There was a constant fear from the media regarding the possibility of the flood reaching within inner Bangkok. Discussions with friends and families of the city’s people heightened the sense of danger surrounding the flood. In some way or another you cannot escape the fact that someone you know, is being affected by this event. During this period I took an assignment with Le Monde that put me directly in touch with people who were being affected. It is the combination of these factors that led me to start the project.

ICI – What would you like the international audience from the Venice Biennale 2013 to understand or get through Imagining AQUA ALTA exhibition?

Miti – ‘Imagining Flood’ deals with the psychology of fear amongst city people towards the engulfing flood. I hope it will make the audience think about how our modern world lives goes very much against nature and the natural order – this project looks at that duality and tension within this situation.

ICI – Do you think that Bangkokian and Venician can be compared in their relation with water element? That art can help each culture to learn from the other in their respective behaviour toward nature?

Miti – I have not visited Venice so it may be a little difficult for me to answer this. Perhaps in the past Bangkok and Venice could have been compared in relation to the fact that in both cities, daily life revolved around water. However, the water element is disappearing in present day Bangkok as canals have been replaced by roads and motorways. For most of the people living here, the only the remnants remain in postcards and tourist water markets. The situation in Bangkok is probably more extreme in this sense – that everything that has been developed goes against the geographical nature of the city – even our airport is built on a swamp ! I hope that as a work of art it will remind us about our living and struggling relationship with nature.

ICI – One of your ongoing works is titled “after Imagining flood”. Is it a way to ward off bad luck with flooding threats over Bangkok?

Miti – I am still questioning whether to go ahead with this project. Although visually interesting as it might seem, the new project may lessen the visual impact and the mystique of the original work. I think it is a common process that we as a photographer/artist has to go through – learning to know when the work is complete.

🎯 Art book : Imagining Flood

Limited edition of 100 copies

The art book Imagining Flood, printed in a limited edition of 100 copies, will be on sale at the next door concept store Nero di Sepia and in the ICI Online Shop www.icivenice.com



**Grazie ! Merci ! Thanks you !
Ka pun Krap !!**

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Conception ICI