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Article: The Currency of Diaspora: Border , Home and Return in Southeast Asian fast changing societies.

Abstract

What is a border and how does it define itself to contain? While in current literature on migration the paradigms of borders and diaspora “bleed into one another” (James Clifford: *Diasporas in Cultural Anthropology* Vol. 9, No. 3, 1994), the concept of borderland presumes a geopolitical divide between two sides of distinct jurisdiction that may be legally or illegally crossed. It is the border in its multifaceted interpretations that is unpacked in this exhibition by looking at the artworks of selected Southeast Asian contemporary artists to evaluate the ‘currency of diaspora’, that is, the language of diaspora shared by the people that in the past as in the present move across the countries of Southeast Asia for political or economic reasons. To unpack these concerns, the works selected for this exhibition focus primarily on two key elements related to transnational migration: the border, that is, the geographical crossing location as the site for legal and illegal communication; the notion of home away from home combined with the effort to reconstruct and preserve the cultural heritage of the original homeland.

Personal Information

Loredana Pazzini-Paracciani is an independent art curator, writer and lecturer of Southeast Asian contemporary art. She is based between London and Bangkok. Loredana works extensively with commercial spaces and art institutions in Singapore, Bangkok, London and New York to champion critical issues of Southeast Asian contemporary art and culture through the works of emerging and established artists from the region. Her curatorial practice is based on rigorous research and consistent dialogue with artists. Recent curated exhibitions include *The Game | Viet Nam* by LE Brothers at Jim Thomposn Ar Center , Bangkok (2016-2017) *INTERLACE: Three Artists in the Cambodian Diaspora*, in Cube Arts, New York, United States (2016); *Asylum Seeker: The Pond and the Fireflies | A solo show by Prapat Jiwarangsana*, The Jam Factory, Bangkok, Thailand (2016); *RE\ACTION: Contemporary Art from Southeast Asia*, Sundaram Tagore Gallery, New York, United States (2015); and *Architectural Landscapes: SEA in the Forefront* at the Queens Museum, Queens, New York, part of *inToAsia Time-Based Art Festival (2015)*. Loredana is currently working on *INTERLACED JOURNEYS: Diaspora and the Contemporary in Southeast Asian Art*, to be published in 2017, a debut compilation of essays that explore the connections between diasporic movements and contemporary art in Southeast Asia.