

FUTURE PERFECT



Apichatpong Weerasethakul, *Power Boy (Mekong)*, 2011; giclée print, 225cm x 150cm

Apichatpong Weerasethakul: FICTION

Future Perfect, Singapore, 18 January - 24 February 2013 *

Special screening and Q&A with the artist: Friday 25th January, 1 - 2 pm

Art Stage, Marina Bay Sands Seminar Rooms 3D-F, Level 3

Free Admission [see below for more info]

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Future Perfect is delighted to present 'FICTION', Apichatpong Weerasethakul's first ever solo exhibition in Singapore. 'FICTION' features a careful selection of video and photographic works drawn from the last decade of the artist's career, exploring the blurred lines between truth and fiction, an enduring theme in his oeuvre.

After ten years pushing the boundaries of film and video practice, Apichatpong's status as a moving image pioneer was cemented in 2010 when he took out the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival, perhaps the cinema's most coveted prize. But with the industry under pressure from new streams of entertainment and changing technological paradigms,

the world's most innovative filmmakers have been turning to galleries and museums for both economic and creative latitude. Apichatpong is no exception, and his groundbreaking *Primitive* project (2009) – co-commissioned by leading institutions in France, Germany, and the UK – took him to the forefront of this global trend. Yet 'FICTION' proves that far from being an exile from the cinema, Apichatpong is just as much a native of the gallery. Spanning a full decade of his practice, the exhibition highlights the importance of video, photography and installation in the inspiration and development of his work. In particular, the show draws out the artist's often playful experiments with genre, and the capacity of today's media to channel the stories, memories, and personalities of other times.

'FICTION' includes photographic pieces from Apichatpong's most recent gallery project, *For Tomorrow, For Tonight* (2011), held at the Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin. Featuring the regular actors the artist refers to as his 'family', and set in Thailand's far northeast on the banks of the Mekong River, the project absorbs the unhurried spirit of the place, with a sometimes whimsical reflection upon ageing, healing and the evolution of the human form. The theme of the body and technology is also explored in the 2-channel video installation, 'FAITH' (2006), to be shown in Singapore for the first time. Perhaps the artist's most stylized work to date, 'FAITH' is a discrete homage to the science fiction genre, a virtuoso study in frictionless motion and wordless duration. The piece was commissioned by FACT Liverpool for the Liverpool Biennale in 2006. These projects will be juxtaposed with one of Apichatpong's early single-channel video works, 'Haunted Houses', a commission for the 2001 Istanbul Biennale exhibited here for the first time ever in the region. In this participatory 'village video' set in his home province of Khon Kaen, the artist remediates the soap operas made popular by army-dominated broadcasting in the Cold War era, and still a staple of Thai television today.

Spanning the range of Apichatpong's stylistic and formal experiments, 'FICTION' offers a selective review of an extraordinary decade for Thailand's preeminent moving image artist. The show illuminates his unique approach to narrative and his trademark, effortless crossings between everyday reality and the life of the imagination. Timed to coincide with Art Stage Singapore, 'FICTION' reflects Apichatpong's inventive engagement with images circulating globally, from a standpoint that is both distinctively Thai and recognizably Southeast Asian.

* Please note that the gallery will be closed for Chinese New Year from 10 to 18 February. Viewing during this period will be by appointment only.

Apichatpong Weerasethakul - Special screening and Q&A at Art Stage

Future Perfect is proud to be a supporter of The Short Forum, a programme of screenings and talks presented at Art Stage by the new Centre for Contemporary Art, set to open later this year at Gillman Barracks. As part of the inaugural series, Apichatpong will present two new short films, and participate in a public Q&A session with Singapore-based film critic, Ben Slater. The session will take place at the Marina Bay Sands Seminar Rooms 3D-F (Level 3) on 25 January, 1 - 2 pm.

About the artist

Born in Bangkok in 1970, Apichatpong Weerasethakul studied architecture at Khon Kaen University and filmmaking at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. His seven feature films to date have won him worldwide acclaim and a string of major awards including the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival, for his 2010 film "Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall

His Past Lives". Alongside his feature filmmaking, Apichatpong has produced a wealth of photographic, video and installation work for museums, galleries and biennales including those in Istanbul (2001), Busan (2004), Taipei (2005), Liverpool and Singapore (2006), as well as Australia's Asia-Pacific Triennial (2006) and dOCUMENTA (13) in Kassel, Germany (2012). His multi-platform *Primitive* project (2009) was commissioned by Haus der Kunst, Munich, FACT Liverpool and the Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, and has since toured to New York's New Museum. In 2008, Apichatpong was honoured with the medal of Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the French Minister of Culture and Communications. In 2010, he was a finalist of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum's Hugo Boss Awards and the recipient of the inaugural Fine Prize from the 55th Carnegie International. In his native Thailand, Apichatpong has been a tireless advocate for artistic freedom and an avid supporter of younger artists and filmmakers through Kick the Machine Films, the Bangkok-based production company he founded in 1999. He currently lives and works in Chiang Mai.

About Future Perfect

Future Perfect is a contemporary art gallery located in Singapore's new art precinct, Gillman Barracks. Working with an international roster of artists, the gallery also provides research and advice for institutions and collectors, drawing on its directors' extensive experience and expertise in contemporary art from Asia, Australia and beyond. For more information or to make an appointment, contact Viviana Mejía on +65 9835 8271 or email viviana@futureperfect.asia

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Contact:
Viviana Mejía, Gallery Manager

Future Perfect
Block 47, Malan Road #01-22
Singapore 109444
H Tue to Sat 12 - 7pm; Sun 12 - 6pm
W www.futureperfect.asia
E viviana@futureperfect.asia
T +65 9835 8271

Getting There:
Nearest MRT Station: Labrador Park
Public buses: 51, 57, 61, 93, 97, 97e,
100, 166, 175, 408, 963, 963E

