



Today, Southeast Asia is experiencing rapid economic and urban development, varying and diversifying its lifestyles. At the same time, its history and landscapes, beliefs rooted in the land, and relationships with nature also exist as a foundation of society. They sometimes merge and conflict, creating new realities, lifestyles, and worldviews.

The exhibition, named "Liquidscapes", alludes to Southeast Asia's fluid cultural and social landscape and aims to introduce this state of flux with 12 groups of artists. The participating artists consist of the younger generation, including seven artists born after the 1980s. They have experienced global events such as the end of the Cold War and the advent of technology, including the emergence of the internet, iPhone, and social media, as well as significant changes to the world's framework and the rise of Asia. Four female artists aim to add new perspectives to existing values by rethinking the female body and the social position of women. Through these experiences and visions, they reflect on Southeast Asia, a region filled with diversity and fluidity.

The commonality found in all works is the artists' forward-looking attitudes, which seek to answer the question of where we came from and where we are heading in this liquidscapes. Through their works, we can learn not only about an aspect of the multifaceted world that is Southeast Asia, but also about the contradictions, chaos, hopes, and new possibilities of contemporary society that exist everywhere worldwide.

### **【Key Highlights】**

#### **1. Encounter contemporary Southeast Asia captured by 12 groups of artists**

Arts Maebashi is proud to present 22 works by 12 groups, a lineup that includes internationally acclaimed artists such as Ho Tzu Nyen and Korakrit Arunanongchai. The young artists making their debut in Japan are equally exciting, offering fresh perspectives on contemporary Southeast Asia. Their works, along with those of the established artists, aim to capture the region's contemporary society, lifestyle, and culture from innovative angles, challenging current normative values.

#### **2. Learn the attitudes of living in the flux**

Southeast Asia is a dynamic society where diverse cultures and histories intersect and are constantly changing. Examining such a complex region can help us understand the current world and learn how to live in today's increasingly diversified and fluid society. In contrast to current exhibitions in Japan regarding the region, this exhibition mainly features artists of a younger generation and their new works.

#### **3. Dive into the image of the liquidscapes through immersive works**

Through many immersive works with sounds and films, the exhibition will take you into the world of the liquidscapes, which is multilayered, polysemic, and endlessly shapeshifting, impossible to seize and only able to be experienced.

**【Event Outline】**

Title	Liquidscape: Southeast Asia Today
Date	Sep 21 — Dec 24, 2024
Venue	Arts Maebashi 5-1-16 Chiyoda-machi, Maebashi, Gunma 371-0022
Hours	10:00 a.m. — 6:00 p.m. (Admission until 5:30 p.m.)
Closed	Wednesdays
Admissions	¥ 1,000 : General ¥ 800 : Students, 65+ years old, and groups (10+ people) Free : High school students and under

※Free admission for disability certificate holders plus one caregiver.

※Free admission for Prefecture Citizens Day on October 28<sup>th</sup> [Mon], Culture Day on November 3<sup>rd</sup> [Sun], and Human Rights Day on December 10<sup>th</sup> [Tues].

Participating artists	12 groups
Exhibition artworks	22
Director	Fumio Nanjo (Executive Director of Arts Maebashi)
Curator	Yuka Takahashi
Organizer	Arts Maebashi
Cooperation	Singapore Art Museum, Aura Contemporary Art Foundation 100 Tonson Foundation, Project11 Foundation
Sponsored by	THE JOMO SHINBUN, Gunma TV, FM GUNMA, Maebashi City FM, Maebashi Chamber of Commerce and Industry

**【Press Tour】**

Date/Venue	September 20, 2024 at Arts Maebashi
Time	2:00 p.m. — 3:30 p.m. (Reception starts from 1:30 p.m.)
Participating artists	Ho Tzu Nyen, Wit Pimkanchanapong, Nawin Nuthong, Gegerboyo, Jakkai Siributr

The director and participating artists will give a tour on exhibition artworks.

To attend, please email at: [press@artsmaebashi.jp](mailto:press@artsmaebashi.jp)

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## 【Participating Artists】

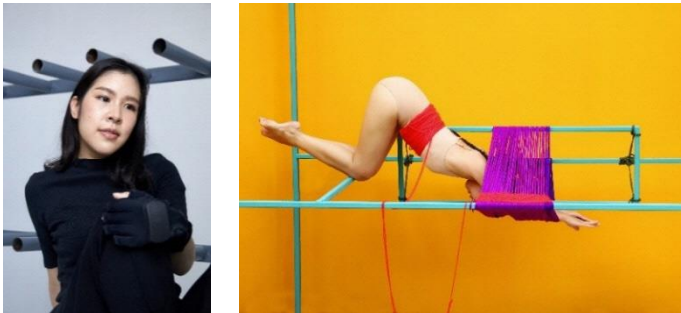
### Wit Pimkanchanapong (Thailand)



*Planetary Seed, 2024* Courtesy of 100 Tonson Foundation

Wit Pimkanchanapong began his studies in architecture at Chulalongkorn University. With a passion for creation, his work merges architecture and sculpture, integrating modern technology. Beyond his artistic pursuits, Pimkanchanapong is an avid cyclist and long-distance paddler. In 2014, he founded Audax Randonneurs Thailand, a long-distance cycling network, marking the beginning of his journey to explore rural areas outside of urban centers in all regions of Thailand without the use of motor vehicles. This approach to understanding pre-modern landscapes, societies, and cultures has shaped his perspective on the landscapes of Thailand, influencing the content and dimensions of his current artistic practice.

### Kawita Vatanajyankur (Thailand)



*Shuttle, 2018* Courtesy of the artist and Nova Contemporary

In her performance videos, Kawita Vatanajyankur uses her body to interrogate and challenge the intersections of womanhood, labour, and consumerism. Assuming the repetitive and strenuous tasks of domestic objects and mechanical tools, she hybridises human and machine and embodies the role of a cyborg. Drawing from a globalized and digitally networked visual language of consumption and instant gratification, her alluring videos bear semblance to bold and colourful commercial advertisements. Yet, her arduous works are difficult to witness, forming a testament to human capability and female resilience.

**Khadim Ali + Mumtaz Khan Chopan + Ali Froghi + Hassan Ati**



*Voice and Noise, 2023*

**Khadim Ali (Pakistan)** Born in 1978 in Pakistan. Currently lives and works in Sydney, Australia and Kabul, Afghanistan. Khadim was trained in classical miniature painting at the National College of Arts in Lahore and in mural painting and calligraphy in Tehran. His work traces the history of his ethnicity and other minorities who have been subjected to discrimination, persecution and ethnic cleansing.

**Mumtaz Khan Chopan (Afghanistan)** Born in 1990 in Afghanistan. In 2013, Chopan was forced to flee his home country of Afghanistan due to war and discrimination. He is based in the city of Yogyakarta where he continues his art practices. His works come from deep personal experiences and collective memories of displacement, uncertainty, and virtual life.

**Ali Froghi (Afghanistan)** Born in 1995 in Afghanistan. Froghi is a Hazara self-taught photographer and filmmaker. For the last 10 years, he lived in Indonesia as a refugee. His works showcase the daily lives of refugees in Indonesia.

**Hassan Ati (Afghanistan)** Born in 1995 in Afghanistan. Ati is a Hazara self-taught photographer. For the last 8 years, he lived in Pekanbaru Riau, Indonesia, as a refugee. His works showcase the daily lives of refugees in Indonesia.

**Korakrit Arunanondchai (Thailand)**



Photo by Harit Srikhao



*Songs for dying (still), 2021* Co-commissioned by the 13th Gwangju Biennale, Han Nefkens Foundation and Kunsthall Trondheim. Courtesy of the artist, BANGKOK CITYCITY GALLERY, Bangkok, Carlos/Ishikawa, London, C L E A R I N G, New York/Brussels, Kukje Gallery, South Korea

Born in 1986. Lives and works in New York, USA and Bangkok, Thailand. A visual artist, filmmaker and storyteller, Korakrit Arunanondchai employs his versatile practice to tell stories embedded in cultural transplantation and hybridity. His body of work merges fiction with poetry and offers synesthetic experiences engaged in a multitude of subjects primarily based on lives of family, friends, and colleagues as much as local myths.

### Citra Sasmita (Indonesia)



Courtesy of the Artist. Photo by Gus Agung, Niskala Studio



*Timur Merah Project; Ode to the Sun, 2020*

Courtesy of Yeo Workshop. Photo by Ahmad Iskandar.

Citra Sasmita is a contemporary artist from Bali whose work focuses on unravelling the myths and misconceptions of Balinese art and culture. She is also deeply invested in questioning a woman's place in the social hierarchy and seeks to upend the normative construct of gender.

### Charles Lim (Singapore)



Courtesy of STPL. Photo by Toni Cuhadi. *SEASTATE6: Phase I, 2015* Courtesy of the artist.

Charles Lim Yi Yong (b 1973, Singapore) studied Fine Art at Central Saint Martins School of Art and Design, London. A former competitive sailor, Lim's practice stems from his bodily engagement with the natural world, mediated and informed by field research and experimentation in various media.

### Nawin Nuthong (Thailand)



*Empty Tomb, 2024* Courtesy of the Artist and BANGKOK CITYCITY GALLERY.

Nawin Nuthong is a Thai contemporary artist and curator exploring the connections between history and cultural media through a wide range of mediums. Melding myths and legends with pop-cultural references from video games, comics, and film, he examines how the role technology has to play in reconfiguring the learning and understanding of history. He is a graduate from King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang with a major in film studies and digital media.

### Natasha Tontey (Indonesia)



Photo by Leandro Quintero



*Garden Amidst the Flame, 2022*

Natasha Tontey is an artist based between Yogyakarta and Jakarta. Her artistic practice predominantly explores the fictional accounts of the history and myths surrounding 'manufactured fear.' In her practice, she observes any possibilities of other futures that are projected not from the perspective of major and established institutions, but a subtle and personal struggle of the outcast entities and beings.

## Ho Tzu Nyen (Singapore)



Courtesy of Singapore Art Museum



Ho Tzu Nyen *《CDOSEA (The Critical Dictionary of Southeast Asia)》* 2017–ongoing  
In collaboration with Sebastian Lütgert and Jan Gerber (programming), and Bani Haykal (vocals). Screen capture of website courtesy of the artist and Kiang Malingue.

Born in 1976 in Singapore, where he lives and works. Steeped in numerous Eastern and Western cultural references ranging from art history to theatre, and from cinema to music to philosophy, Ho Tzu Nyen's works blend mythical narratives and historical facts to mobilise different understandings of history, its writing and its transmission. The central theme of his oeuvre is a long-term investigation of the plurality of cultural identities in Southeast Asia, a region so multifaceted in terms of its languages, religions, cultures and influences that it is impossible to reduce it to a simple geographical area or some fundamental historical base.

## Mech Choulay + Mech Sereyrath (Cambodia)



*Mother of River*, 2022

A Cambodian sister artist group. Choulay, the older sister, is a filmmaker and journalist focusing on environmental and animal rights. Sereyrath, the younger sister, is an emerging visual storyteller, whose short film *The Expired* was screened in the Busan Film Festival in 2023.



### Gegerboyo (Indonesia)



*Bloom in Agony, 2022*

Established in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, in 2017 with five artists, GEGERBOYO is currently on a run by Enka Komariah, Prihatmoko Moki and Anjali Nayenggita. Gegerboyo takes much inspiration from contemporary urban culture, street art, politics, and social and traditional culture. The name is taken from the hill on Mount Merapi. This hill protects the community around Mount Merapi from eruptions and hot clouds. Geger Boyo is Javanese; GEGER means back, and BOYO means crocodile, so Geger Boyo means “the back of the crocodile”.

### Jakkai Siributr (Thailand)



*Airborne (Phra Nakorn)* Courtesy of CHAT (Centre for Heritage Arts & Textiles, Hong Kong)

Jakkai Siributr is known primarily for his textile and embroidery works, and his installations increasingly offer an element of audience participation. Siributr is concerned with the unofficial histories that have been written out of Thai account as well as intersections between personal and regional histories. He creates a delicate tension between his subject matter — ongoing conflict driven by nationalistic discrimination against minorities — and the visual sensuality of his chosen form and materials.

### 【Related Programs】



#### Gallery talk by Fumio Nanjo (Executive Director)

Date Sep 29<sup>th</sup>, Dec 21<sup>st</sup> 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
Venue Gallery space, Arts Maebashi  
Price Free \*Admission ticket required  
Capacity 30 people (Pre-registration required. First-come-first-served basis)  
\*Registration starts from August 26<sup>th</sup> [Mon] on the Arts Maebashi website

#### Curator's talk on exhibiting artworks

Date Oct 14<sup>th</sup>, Nov 17<sup>th</sup>, Dec 7<sup>th</sup> 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
Venue Archive, Arts Maebashi  
Price Free \*Admission ticket required  
\*Register on the Arts Maebashi website

### 【PR Images】

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#### Requests Regarding Article Publication

\*Please indicate the name of the exhibition and the period of the exhibition when publishing.

\*When publishing images, please add accurate captions and credits near the images.

\*Please send articles and VTRs to Arts Maebashi for archival purposes.

\*Please be sure to contact us in advance for any interviews or recordings.

\*Images are to be used only for publicity purposes related to this exhibition. Personal use for social media and blogs is not allowed.

Number	Credit and Caption
【 1 】	Korakrit Arunanondchai, <i>Songs for dying</i> (still), 2021 Co-commissioned by the 13th Gwangju Biennale, Han Nefkens Foundation and Kunsthall Trondheim. Courtesy of the artist, BANGKOK CITYCITY GALLERY, Bangkok, Carlos/Ishikawa, London, C L E A R I N G, New York/Brussels, Kukje Gallery, South Korea.
【 2 】	Korakrit Arunanondchai & Alex Gvojjic, <i>Songs for living</i> (still), 2021 Commissioned by Migros Museum and Kunstverein Hamburg with support from FACT Liverpool. Courtesy of the artist, BANGKOK CITYCITY GALLERY, Bangkok, Carlos/Ishikawa, London, C L E A R I N G, New York/Brussels, Kukje Gallery, South Korea.
【 3 】	Kawita Vatanajyankur, <i>My Mother and I (Vacuum III)</i> , 2021 Courtesy of the artist and Nova Contemporary.
【 4 】	Kawita Vatanajyankur, <i>Shuttle</i> , 2018 Courtesy of the artist and Nova Contemporary.
【 5 】	Ho Tzu Nyen 《CDOSEA (The Critical Dictionary of Southeast Asia)》 2017–ongoing In collaboration with Sebastian Lütgert and Jan Gerber (programming), and Bani Haykal (vocals). Screen capture of website courtesy of the artist and Kiang Malingue.
【 6 】	Citra Sasmita, <i>Timur Merah Project III ; Ode to the Sun</i> , 2020 Photo by Ahmad Iskandar, courtesy of Yeo Workshop.
【 7 】	Nawin Nuthong, <i>Empty Tomb</i> , 2024 Courtesy of the artist and BANGKOK CITYCITY GALLERY.
【 8 】	Liquidscape: Southeast Asia Today Poster Artwork: Nawin Nuthong 2 sec before revolution in a leaf, Flux, Empty Tomb, Paper Wing Courtesy of the artist and BANGKOK CITYCITY GALLERY

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PR Images

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