

Bundit Puangthong

CONTEMPORARY THAI ARTIST



Double Elvis, Bundit Puangthong, March 2006

Bundit Puangthong is a Melbourne-based contemporary Thai artist. His body of work celebrates and expands the rich cross-cultural dialogue taking place in contemporary Melbourne. Over the past few years he has developed an artistic identity that fuses his training in traditional Thai art with a modern western-based arts practice. His paintings incorporate elements of traditional Thai art, American pop art and contemporary street art in attempt to strike a balance between the cultures in which he lives.

Bundit has recently completed a Masters in Visual Arts at the Victorian College of the Arts. In 2004, he completed a Diploma in Visual Arts with Honours at the Australian Academy of Design. He studied traditional Thai art for eight years at Nakkhon Si Tammarat Academy of the Arts and Chang Mai University, where he was mentored by renowned Thai artist Montien Boonma.

His work explores a diversity of themes, from his own understanding(s) of Buddhism and how this fits into life in Australia, through historical stories of Buddha and aspects of Thai culture such as superstition and royalty. Drawing on his traditional Lai Thai Arts Training his paintings are rich in symbology. They play with language, deliberately using it incorrectly or making associations between words, confusing the viewer and asking them to decode the work and question its intended meaning.

His work is presented on canvas and involves a range of mixed media including house paints, acrylics, oil sticks, spraypaint, medium and glues, and utilises a range of techniques from stencils and graffiti art, to detail brushwork. He also enjoys the process of turning found objects and junk found on the street into fine art.

upcoming exhibitions

2008 45 Downstairs, Flinders Lane, Melbourne

solo exhibitions

- 2007 *Tales of Old Siam* at 45 Downstairs, Flinders Lane, Melbourne
- 2007 *Risk at Self Preservation*, Bourke Street, Melbourne
- 2006 *Second Step* at Red Gallery, North Fitzroy, Melbourne
- 2005 *Under the lotus leaf* at Artholes Gallery, Fitzroy, Melbourne
- 2005 Retrospective Exhibition, NMIT Gallery, Preston, Melbourne
- 2004 *Super Model* at Artholes Gallery, Fitzroy, Melbourne
- 2003 *Mai Self* at the Hogan Gallery, Collingwood, Melbourne
- 2002 *Memories* at the Axiom Gallery, Melbourne
- 2001 *Superstition of Gustav Klimt* at the Axiom Gallery, Melbourne
- 2000 *The Lover Collections* at the Oz Frame Gallery, Melbourne

selected group exhibitions

- 2007 Geelong Regional Artists Exhibition, Gordon Gallery, Geelong
- 2007 *Past Present and Future*, Clement Meadmore Gallery, Australian Academy of Design, Melbourne
- 2006 Linden Postcard Show, Melbourne
- 2006 Bid4Freedom, Melbourne
- 2005 *ANZ Visual Arts Fellowship Awards*, Melbourne, Athenaeum Club Visual Art Award
- 2004 *Men's Gallery* – Five Male painters at the Artholes Gallery – Bundit Puangthong, Fred Shou, Vincent Fantoozio, Tony Woolritch, and Miklos Svylagi
- 2004 *A Survey of Time* at Artholes Gallery, Fitzroy – Bundit Puangthong, Darcy McFall, Peter Lee.
- 2003 *New Paintings* at Artholes Gallery – Raden Davis, Peter Lee, Bundit Puangthong
- 2003 *Graduate Awards Exhibition* at A Space, Preston NMIT – Winner, 1st Prize judged by John Cattapan
- 2003 *Love and other Aberrations* at the Hogan Gallery – Peter Lee and Bundit Puangthong
- 2002 Group Book Exhibition, Preston NMIT – Featuring members of the Illustration and Visual Arts Courses from Preston, Greensborough and Epping Campuses
- 2002 *Free Falling #3* at the Axiom Gallery, Melbourne
- 2001 *Free Falling #2* at the Axiom Gallery, Melbourne
- 2001 *Love collection* at the Oz Frame Gallery (now Gallery Hogan) Melbourne
- 2001 *Lost and found in your neighborhood* – (An AMES in the community 50th year celebration), Lonsdale Street, Melbourne
- 1998 *International Art Exhibition*, Bangkok, Thailand
- 1993 *The 10th Norwegian International Print Norway Triennial*, Fredrikstad, Norway
- 1993 *Social Contact*, Visual Dhamma Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand
- 1993 *5th Toshiba Art Competition Exhibition*, Bangkok, Thailand
- 1992 *Young Artist Award Exhibition #10*, Bangkok, Thailand
- 1991 *Young Artist Award Exhibition #9*, Bangkok, Thailand

grants and awards

- 2004 Merit Award, Australian Academy of Design, Melbourne
- 2003 1st Prize (judged by John Cattapan), NMIT, Preston, Melbourne
- 1992 3rd Prize Young Artist Award Bangkok, Thailand
- 1991 3rd Prize Young Artist Award Bangkok, Thailand

education

- 2005 Masters of Visual Arts, Victorian College of the Arts, Melbourne, Australia
- 2004 Visual Arts, Honours, Australian Academy of Design (in assoc. Charles Sturt Uni), Melbourne, Australia
- 2003 Diploma of Visual Arts, NMIT Preston, Melbourne, Australia
- 1995 Bachelor of Fine Arts, Chang Mai University, Thailand
- 1989 Academy of Arts, Nakorn Si Thammarat, Thailand