

## PERFORMANCE ART

## Last bow for Asiatopia?

Having arrived at its 6th anniversary, Asiatopia is planning this year to assess the state of performance art in Thailand. Has this annual festival been able to sufficiently stir creativity by providing an open platform for this mode of expression?

As a result, performance-art lovers will be pained to learn that this might be the end of a six-year effort to bring this art form to the fore. The organisers will be spending two to three months after Asiatopia winds up looking back on past successes and failures, as well as analysing the festival's effectiveness in Thailand and the region. From there, like a phoenix, it is hoped that a new event will rise from the ashes, enriched by this assessment of past experiences.

On the list of guest artists at Asiatopia this year is a group from Austria whose participation was made possible by a grant from the Austrian government. Led by Rolf Hinterecker, the group also comprises Gertrude Moser-Wagner, who will present a lecture on performance in Austria from the Vienna Actionism movement until today, and Sabine Marte, who will present a karaoke project she has collaborated on with a Thai art student.

Pioneer performance artist and teacher Adina Bar-on, who hails from Israel and is receiving support from the Jerusalem Foundation for Visual Arts, will relate the theme of motherhood in times of war through "Something about Love". Bar-on works with body, dislocation and space.

Other participants in the festival will include Chinese experimental performance artist Zhu Ming, Iwan Wijono, an Indonesian cultural activist, performer and writer about performance arts and the socio-political situation, and Medio Cruz from the Philippines.

Thailand will be represented by Vasan Sittiket, whose shadow-puppet project is relevant to the present situation in Asia, and ML Saksin Kasemsun, who uses story-telling as an art form.

### ASIATOPIA 6/2004 PROGRAMME

November 18 from 10am to 5pm at the Concrete House, Tiwanont Road (near Big C Tiwanont):  
 10am: ASIATOPIA slide show  
 10:30am: Performance Art in Indonesia: Iwan Wijono  
 1pm: Performance Art in the Philippines: New World Disorder: Mideo Cruz  
 3pm: Introduction to artists' works with video: "Performance and Science", Austrian Artists, Zhu Ming, Khairuddin Hori.

November 19 from 4 to 9pm at the Bangkok Art Centre Site, Pathumwan Intersection:  
 4pm: Iwan Wijono: Intervention; Gertrude Moser-Wagner: Intervention  
 6:30pm: Bangladesh Band on-stage in the park  
 8pm: Vasan Sittiket: Contemporary Shadow Play, Act 1

November 20 from 6 to 9pm at the Bangkok Art Centre Site, Pathumwan Intersection:  
 6pm: Mideo Cruz  
 6:40pm: Valerian Marte & Kally  
 7:20pm: Adina Bar-On; Julie Andree T. & Dominic Gagnon  
 8pm: Vasan Sittiket: Contemporary Shadow Play, Acts 2, 3

November 21 from 3 to 8pm at the Concrete House on Tiwanont Rd:  
 4pm: Karl Bruckschwaier  
 4:30pm: Adina Bar-On  
 5pm: Zhu Ming  
 5:30pm: Khairuddin Hori  
 6pm: Rolf Hinterecker  
 7pm: Sabine Marte

For more information, contact Noppawan (phone 06-506-6417 or email madcap\_aor@yahoo.com) or Kwan (phone 06-537-2993 or email kapisuk@hotmail.com).

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