

Chronology of A Travelling Baggage 'en route'

1997:

September	Belfast; Ireland to Nonthaburi; Thailand
October	Manila; Philippines
November	Chiangmai; Thailand
December	Auckland; New Zealand Bangkok; Thailand / 5th International Performance Conference

1998:

May-June	Dalat, Ho Chi Minh City, Hue, Hanoi; Vietnam First Exhibition; Dalat 'en route' Photo Project, Fine Arts University, Hanoi; Vietnam
July-August	Geneva; Switzerland
September	Hull; England / Public project, Root'98 Festival, Hull Time Based Art
October	Bangkok; Thailand / Public project, Jaxpa'98 Festival - Asiatopia
November	Tachigawa City; Japan / Exhibition of the project, Tachigawa City Gallery, International Art Exhibition

About the artist:

Chumpon Apisuk, was born in Nan province, north of Thailand, in 1948. Studied art with Tang Chang, a Chinese-Thai expressionist artist and poet, Changsilpa School and Faculty of Painting & Sculpture, Silpakorn University, in Bangkok. He went to the US in 1973 and attended the School of Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Massachusetts, then moved to New York and lived there during 1976-82. In New York he was active in Thai oversea Students' democratic movement.

He started performance art and experimental projects since 1986, in Thailand, while he was an assistant to the director of the now closed Bhirasri Institute of Modern Art, in Bangkok. He also works with his wife, Chantawipa Noi, who founded EMPOWER Foundation, since 1985 in Bangkok. Empower is working in support and provide education programs for women in sex services businesses in Thailand.

In 1990, he helped founded the `Naam Chewit (Name of Life) Project, a resource centre for people living with HIV/AIDS (PHA). His work at the organisation is about the rights of PHA and supporting their networks. While he is also active in performance art and runs an art centre called 'Concrete House', which he co-founded in 1993.

He is now organising a "Joint Asian Artists Exchange on Performance Art (JAXPA'98)", which is a consolidation of five artists groups and projects. The first JAXPA performance festival will take place in Saranrom Park in Bangkok, in October 20-26, 1998.

TRAVALLING BAGGAGE 'en route' PROJECT
SINCE OCTOBER 1997
FIRST DOCUMENT EXHIBITION
INAF TACHIKAWA'98

BY Chumpon Apisuk, Thailand

Synopsis:

Traveling is part of my life today, I always traveling with my favorite luggages and a book to read, a note book to write (or not), a passport, currency and credit card, etc. This particular baggage has its own history, it arrived to me as an art project from Belfast and I've been finding ways to fulfill this initiative.

The traveling document of the baggage is a statement of recognition of the fact that we are not a race but we are culture. Traveling has been part of our history... we are nomad. Our ancestors travel miles and miles and have helped create many civilizations and cultures.