

1 August 2005

RE: Invitation to speak

Dear Sen. Kraisaak Choonhawan,

*Southeast Asia Performance Art Symposium  
25 – 28 November 2005*

The first Southeast Asia Performance Art Symposium takes place in Bangkok during 25 – 28 November 2005 and on behalf of the Symposium Working Committee we would be honored if you would kindly agree to participate in a dialogue with Lee Weng Choy, a famous critic from Singapore.

The symposium aims to document developments in performance art practice in the region, as well as to note ideas and areas of debate, with an eye to creating an archive of relevant material.

A three-day meeting, the symposium takes place immediately prior to the 7<sup>th</sup> Asiatopia International Performance Art Festival, an annual event since 1998. The symposium will encourage discussion and exchange, focusing on current practice, historical evolution and the future of performance art in Southeast Asia. Participants include performance artists and critics from Southeast Asia, with other guests.

Performance art in Southeast Asia reveals unique characteristics. In most cases the art form has developed within the democratic and civil movements in each country. It is also rooted in historical factors and conditions which relate to local rituals, feudal systems, inter-continental trade, religious development and especially the influence of colonialism from the west. However, the post-Indochina war period marks an important milestone for the new socio-cultural dimension - when national identity, political independence and democracy have been important agendas for most Southeast Asian nations.

The draft program for the symposium suggests that you might speak about the political situation and policy of countries in S.E Asia, which may effect or influence the artistic practice in the region, as well as roles of artists as popular engagement in social and political changes.

We very much appreciate your support and hope you will be able to participate in this gathering.

In solidarity,

Chumpon Apisuk  
Director  
Southeast Asia Performance Art Symposium

